

# Public Information Sheet - Full Council

## Changes to how we hold public meetings

Following changes to government rules, public meetings including Cabinet, Full Council, regulatory meetings (where planning and licensing decisions are made) and scrutiny will now be held at City Hall.

## COVID-19 Precautions at City Hall (from July 2021)

When attending a meeting at City Hall, COVID-19 precautions will be taken, and where possible we will:

- Have clear signage inviting you to check in to the venue using the NHS COVID-19 app or record your contact details for track and trace purposes.
- Provide public access that enables social distancing of one metre to be maintained
- Promote and encourage wearing of face coverings when walking to and from the meeting
- Promote good hand hygiene: washing and disinfecting hands frequently
- Maintain an enhanced cleaning regime and continue with good ventilation

## COVID-19 Safety Measures for Attendance at Council Meetings (from July 2021)

To manage the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that any person age 16 or over attending a council meeting should follow the above guidance but also include the following:

- Show certification of a negative NHS COVID-19 lateral flow (rapid) test result: taken in the 48 hours prior to attending. This can be demonstrated via a text message or email from NHS Test and Trace.
- An NHS COVID-19 Pass which confirms double COVID-19 vaccination received at least 2 weeks prior to attending the event via the NHS App. A vaccination card is not sufficient.
- Proof of COVID-19 status through demonstrating natural immunity (a positive NHS PCR test in the last 180 days) via their NHS COVID-19 pass on the NHS App.
- Visitors from outside the UK will need to provide proof of a negative lateral flow (rapid) test taken 48 hours prior to attendance, demonstrated via a text message or email.

Reception staff may ask to see this on the day of the meeting.

No one should attend a Bristol City Council event or venue if they:

- are required to self-isolate from another country
- are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19
- have tested positive for COVID-19 and are requested to self-isolate

Members of the press and public who wish to attend City Hall are advised that you may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room due to the maximum occupancy of the venue.



## Public Forum – Full Council

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at [www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk).

Members of the public who live or own a business in Bristol may present a petition, make a written statement or ask a question at Full Council meetings. Please submit it to [democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk).

Petitions, Statements and Questions must be about a matter the Council has responsibility for or which directly affects the city. For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>

### **Petitions from members of the public**

- Petitions will be presented to the Council first.
- Petitions must include name, address and details for the wording of the petition.
- The person presenting a petition will be asked to read out the objectives of the petition with one minute allowed.
- A written reply will be provided to the lead petitioner within 10 working days of the Full Council meeting.

### **Statements**

- Statements should be received no later than **12.00 noon two working days before the meeting**.
- There can be one statement per person and subject to overall time constraints, a maximum of one minute is allocated for presentation.
- Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper.
- For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

### **Questions**

- Questions should be received no later than **three clear working days before the meeting**.
- A maximum of two written questions per person can be submitted.
- At the meeting, a maximum of one supplementary question per question may be asked, arising directly out of the original question or reply.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated to the Committee and published within the minutes. Your statement or question will also be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website and may be provided upon request in response to Freedom of Information Act requests in the future.

We will try to remove personal and identifiable information. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Committee information on the council's website may be searchable on the internet.

The information contained within public forum submissions are the views of those individuals and do not reflect the views of Bristol City Council





**Process during the meeting:**

- The Lord Mayor will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.
- As part of the drive to reduce single-use plastics in council-owned buildings, please bring your own water bottle in order to fill up from the water dispenser.

**Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment**

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

**Arrangements for Full Council**

The allocated public gallery for Full Council is available for members of the public to observe the Full Council meeting.

The Lord Mayor has determined:

- Attendees should please be quiet and not interrupt proceedings.
- Large bags will be left at reception.
- All loud hailers, banners, and placards must be left at the main entrance and will not be permitted to be brought into the building.
- The Council reserves the right to remove any person who disrupts the proceedings. In appropriate circumstances, the police may be called.

Under our security arrangements, all members of the public (and bags) will be searched. This applies to all members of the public attending the meeting in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending. Visitors' bags are liable to be searched prior to entry, and entry is conditional upon visitors consenting to be searched. Searches are carried out to ensure that no items which may interrupt proceedings are brought into the building. Small notices may be acceptable if they are not obstructive or offensive (no more than A4 size).

The privacy notice for Democratic Services can be viewed at [www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services)

