

PROPOSAL FOR REMOTE ATTENDANCE	
Question	Response
Q2 - Do you agree with the broad principle of granting local authorities powers to allow remote attendance at formal meetings?	Yes
Q3 - Do you think that there should be specific limitations on remote attendance? Please tick all the options below that correspond with your view and use the free text box for any other comments.	
a) Any formal meeting allowing remote attendance should have at least two thirds of members in physical attendance.	
b) Members should only be able to attend council meetings remotely in exceptional circumstances, such as those who are medically or physically unable to attend, or for reasons of local or national emergencies.	
c) There should be no limitations placed upon councils with regard to setting arrangements for remote attendance of council meetings, up	√ - This option would allow Council's to make arrangements which fit with their individual arrangements.

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<p>to and including full remote attendance.</p>	
<p>Q5 - If you are responding to this consultation on behalf of a council as a whole, what proportion of the council's current elected members are likely to seek to attend council meetings remotely over the course of a year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 10% • more than 10% but less than 50% • more than 50% but less than 90% • most of them 90% to 100% 	<p>To be complete with data received from canvassing Councillors views.</p>
<p>Q6 - The government recognises that there may be cases in which it is necessary for councils to hold meetings fully remotely. Do you think there should be limitations placed on the number of fully remote meetings councils should be able to hold?</p>	<p>In line with the answer provided above the Council's view is that full flexibility would allow it to make its own arrangements.</p>
<p>a) Councils should be able to allow full remote attendance at up to half of council meetings within a twelve-month calendar period.</p>	<p>See D below.</p>
<p>b) Councils should only have the flexibility to change a meeting from in-person to online, or vice versa, due to</p>	<p>Yes - this would provide the public with certainty on where and when meetings are taking place but allow for flexibility in the event of unforeseen or exceptional circumstances.</p>

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<p>unforeseen and exceptional circumstances.</p>	
<p>c) Councils should not have the flexibility to conduct fully remote meetings to ensure there is always an in-person presence.</p>	<p>No - as this would not provide for an emergency situation.</p>
<p>d) [Free text box]</p>	<p>In line with the answer provided above the Council's view is that full flexibility would allow it to make its own arrangements.</p>
<p>Q7. Do you think there are there any necessary procedural measures that would help to ensure a remote or hybrid attendance policy is workable and efficient?</p> <p>Please tick all the options that correspond with your view and use the free text box for any other comments.</p>	
<p>a) Councils should be required to publish a list of attendees joining the meeting remotely and give notice if a meeting is being held with full remote attendance.</p>	<p>√</p>
<p>b) Councils should be required to ensure that standard constitutional arrangements are followed for hybrid and fully remote meetings.</p>	<p>√</p>

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<p>c) Councils should be required to make arrangements to ensure restricted items (where a council decision is taken in private to protect confidentiality) are managed appropriately and to require remotely attending members to join from a private location.</p>	√	
<p>d) Other [Free text box]</p>		
<p>Q8. Do you think legislative change to allow councillors to attend local authority meetings remotely should or should not be considered for the following reasons?</p> <p>Tick all the statements below that apply to your point of view.</p>		
	<p>Should be considered because</p>	<p>Should not be considered because</p>
	<p>It is a positive modernising measure. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Councillors should be physically present at all formal meetings.</p>
	<p>It would likely increase the diversity of people willing and able to stand for election in their local area,</p>	<p>It could lead to a significant number of councillors habitually attending remotely and ultimately reduce the effectiveness of councils.</p>

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	<p>making councils more representative of the communities they serve.</p> <p>√</p>	
	<p>Councils would be more resilient in the event of local or national emergencies which prevent in-person attendance.</p> <p>√</p>	<p>It would be more difficult for councillors to build personal working relationships with colleagues, and engage with members of the public in attendance at meetings.</p>
	<p>Free Text</p>	<p><i>Whilst it is possible that it may be more difficult for councillors to building personal working relationships with colleagues and engage with the public, this can be tempered with local arrangements on how meetings will be held and public meetings are of course not the only forum in which this can take place.</i></p>
<p>Q9 - In your view, would allowing councillors to attend formal local authority meetings remotely according to their needs particularly benefit or disadvantage individuals with protected characteristics, for example those with disabilities or caring responsibilities?</p>		
<p>Please tick an option below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it would benefit members 	<p>√</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it would disadvantage members • neither 		
<p>PROXY VOTING</p>		
<p>Q10. In addition to provisions allowing for remote attendance, do you consider that it would be helpful to introduce proxy voting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yes • no • unsure 	<p>No – <i>This Council does not allow for substitutes because its is felt that it is important for members of a committee to fully understand their role in respect of that committee and to have considered all the information provided at committee including any verbal update and debate before forming a view. This would particularly be an issue for regulatory committees and could lead to claims of predetermination. It would also be an issue in committee where training in their duties is essential namely, Planning and Development, Licensing Committee and Accounts & Audit Committee.</i></p>	
<p>Q11. If yes, for which of the following reasons which may prohibit a member’s participation in council meetings do you consider it would be appropriate?</p> <p>Please select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical or medical conditions • caring responsibilities • parental leave or other responsibilities • other [Free text box] 	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Q12</p>	<p>As set out above</p>	

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Are there circumstances in which you feel proxy voting would not be appropriate?	
Q13 - If you think proxy voting is appropriate, are there any limitations you think should be placed upon it?	N/A
[Free text box]	