

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 18 September 2023

Title of Motion: Online Meetings

Motion Narrative and Action Required:

Plymouth City Council recalls how well it, along with Local Government in general, adapted to online meetings during the COVID19 pandemic. We note the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales now allow online participation by decision makers at formal meetings and believe this option should be extended to Councils in England.

The benefits of such flexibility include speedy responses to public health challenges, increased attendance by those who can't be present in the meeting room, better work/life balances and less required travelling. This may also widen the field of those willing to put themselves forward to election.

This council agrees to -

1. support the petition launched by the Association of Democratic Services Officers / Lawyers in Local Government with regard to remote and hybrid meetings.
2. to request the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to respond to the call for evidence which closed two years ago and change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.

Proposer: Cllr Eddie Rennie

Seconder: Cllr Bill Stevens