

COVID – 19 MEETING PROTOCOL – COUNCIL CHAMBER

GENERAL POINTS FOR ALL IN ATTENDANCE

- All attendees are expected to undertake the free Covid-19 lateral flow test within 24 hours prior to attendance at any meetings available from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, or are self-isolating you must not attend the meeting.
- Please consider in advance how you will safely travel to and from the meeting. Public transport should be avoided if possible, with walking or cycling recommended where possible
- NHS Test and Trace QR code and a self-registration facility will be available for attendees.
- Hand Sanitising points will be available on entry and exit to the venue.
- Face coverings must be worn (unless an exemption applies)
- Identified seating plan will be available at the venue observing social distancing requirements.
- You will be responsible for your own refreshments while in attendance at the meeting.
- There should be no unnecessary movement around the meeting room.
- There should be no sharing of stationery, documents or other equipment.

COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

- All Councillors and Officers attending the meeting are strongly encouraged to take a staggered approach to arrival/departure and avoid any socialising and mixing before or after the meeting.
- A seating plan will ensure safe social distancing and seating will be labelled accordingly.
- Face coverings should be worn at all times unless exemptions apply and can momentarily be removed when speaking into a microphone
- Microphones in the Council Chamber are free standing, there is no requirement for these to be shared or passed around.

PUBLIC/MEDIA ATTENDANCE

- Public and Media attendees are encouraged to please provide some advance notice of their intention to attend the meeting by contacting democratic.services@southampton.gov.uk or by telephoning 023 8083 2390 as we may need to review the venue to ensure we can facilitate a covid-safe meeting.
- There will be clearly defined seating areas for members of the public and media.
- Face coverings must be worn throughout the meeting.
- Members of the public/media wishing to attend the council chamber for particular agenda items will be escorted in and out of the council chamber by a member of council staff.

It is important to note that although the impact of the COVID-19 testing and vaccination programmes has been positive, the 'Hands Face Space Fresh Air' message is still crucial. People who have been vaccinated and/or tested negative for COVID-19 must still apply COVID-safe measures such as social distancing, good hand hygiene and wearing of face coverings where required.