

## COVID – 19 MEETING PROTOCOL – COUNCIL CHAMBER

### GENERAL POINTS FOR ALL IN ATTENDANCE

- All attendees are strongly encouraged 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.
- We advise that you should not attend the event if you are a close contact of a positive case even when exempt from self-isolation, in order to protect other people who may be vulnerable
- Please consider in advance how you will safely travel to and from the meeting. Walking or cycling recommended where possible
- Hand Sanitising points will be available on entry and exit to the venue.
- Consideration should be given to the wearing of face coverings to reduce the risk to individuals and others. Face coverings in crowded enclosed spaces are expected and recommended.
- Identified seating plan will be devised that allows for space between seats. Side to side seating advised rather than face to face seating where possible.
- 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. We request that attendees do not adjust any ventilation settings in the room or close windows that have been left open

### 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.
- Consideration should be given to the wearing face coverings, especially if attendees are coming into close contact with people they do not usually meet. Face coverings in crowded enclosed spaces are expected and recommended.
- 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](mailto:democratic.services@southampton.gov.uk) or by telephoning 023 8083 2766 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.
- Consideration should be given to the wearing face coverings, especially if attendees are coming into close contact with people they do not usually meet. Face coverings in crowded enclosed spaces are expected and recommended.
- 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, COVID-19 remains a serious risk to health and the 'Hands Face Space Fresh Air' message is still crucial. People who have been vaccinated and/or tested negative for COVID-19 should still apply COVID-safe measures such as social distancing, good hand hygiene and wearing of face coverings where recommended.***