

Consultation - Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

The Government are holding a consultation on enabling remote attendance, and proxy voting at local authority meetings, including parish council meetings. At the time of Covid restrictions, the Government made temporary changes to legislation for meetings to be held remotely and they operated successfully during this time.

This consultation will last for 8 weeks from 24 October 2024, ie **until 18 December 2024**.

The government recognises that there are circumstances in which it may not always be possible for members to attend council meetings in person. It is with this in mind that the government intends to amend the law to introduce provisions for remote attendance at local authority meetings.

In addition, they are seeking views on the possible introduction of proxy voting for those occasions when an elected member, due to personal circumstances, may be unable to attend even remotely.

Responses are invited from individual elected members and also councils as a whole.

The consultation is not about mandating remote meetings, but rather allowing councils the choice to hold these if they so wish and similarly allow individual councillors to attend remotely.

Giving councils the power to decide what works best for their own circumstances is welcome and, if implemented, will also hopefully lead to an increase in terms of diversity of councillors.

For more details on the consultation please click [here](#).

To respond to the survey please use the following link

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-standards-and-conduct/remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting/>

Recommendations

To support the proposal enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings by:

- as many members as possible responding individually to the consultation.
- completing a response from the PC, as some of the questions differ from those for individual members.