

# **The public's rights to information and attendance at meetings**

## **You have a right to:**

- Attend all council, cabinet, committee and sub-committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the council and all committees and sub-committees and written statements of decisions taken by the cabinet or individual cabinet members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting (a list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public register stating the names, addresses and wards of all councillors with details of the membership of cabinet and of all committees and sub-committees.  
Information about councillors is available at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/councillors)
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the council, cabinet, committees and sub-committees. Agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) are available at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings)
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title. The council's constitution is available at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/constitution](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/constitution)
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the council, cabinet, committees and sub-committees and to inspect and copy documents.

## **Public transport links**

The Shire Hall is a few minutes walking distance from both bus stations located in the town centre of Hereford.

## **Attending a meeting**

Please note that the Shire Hall in Hereford, where the meeting is usually held, is where Hereford Crown Court is located also. For security reasons, all people entering the Shire Hall when the court is in operation will be subject to a search by court staff. Please allow time for this in planning your attendance at a meeting.

## **Recording of this meeting**

Anyone is welcome to record public meetings of the council using whatever, nondisruptive, methods they think are suitable. Please note that the chairperson has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons including disruption caused by the recording, or the nature of the business being conducted. Recording should end when the meeting ends, if the meeting is adjourned, or if the public and press are excluded in accordance with lawful requirements.

Anyone filming a meeting is asked to focus only on those participating actively.

If, as a member of the public, you do not wish to be filmed or photographed please let the democratic services officer know before the meeting starts so that anyone who intends filming or photographing the meeting can be made aware.

The reporting of meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the reporting to ensure that they comply.

The council is making an audio recording of this public meeting. These recordings are made available for members of the public via the council's website unless technical issues prevent this. To listen live or to hear the entire recording once the meeting has finished navigate to the page for the meeting and click the larger blue arrow at the top of the agenda. To listen to an individual agenda item click the small blue arrow against that agenda item.

## **Fire and emergency evacuation procedure**

In the event of a fire or emergency the alarm bell will ring continuously.

You should vacate the building in an orderly manner through the nearest available fire exit and make your way to the fire assembly point in the Shire Hall car park.

Please do not allow any items of clothing, etc. to obstruct any of the exits.

Do not delay your vacation of the building by stopping or returning to collect coats or other personal belongings.

The chairperson or an attendee at the meeting must take the signing in sheet so it can be checked when everyone is at the fire assembly point.