

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

2 July 2025

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES –
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

Report of the Governance Manager

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Amy Bryan, Governance Manager

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To inform the Committee of the Government response to the consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be noted.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None directly
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2 	Not applicable. This report is for information only.
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Plan priorities; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A great place that cares for the environment A great place to live well A great place to work A great place to access good public services
Indirectly affects all the above.

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** (reasons for bringing the report)

- 1.1 On 24 October 2024, the government published a consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings. The consultation closed on 19 December 2024. The consultation sought views on the practical implications of allowing remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings.
- 1.2 Following consideration at Standards Committee, Council at its meeting on 25 November 2024, considered and approved a response for submission.
- 1.3 On the 5 June 2025 the Government published the consultation results and a response.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The key elements from the government response to the consultation include:
 - The government is of the view that in-person authority meetings remain vital for local democracy, but that hybrid and remote attendance, and proxy voting, will enable local authorities in England to develop more modern, accessible, and flexible working practices.
 - The government plan to legislate to support permanent provision in relation to both remote attendance and proxy voting, when parliamentary time allows.
 - On remote attendance the government plans to permit local authorities to develop their own locally appropriate policies, if they decide to hold remote meetings.
 - On proxy voting, the government plans to require principal (unitary, upper and second-tier) councils to implement proxy voting schemes, to provide consistency for members who are absent when they become a new parent, or for serious or long-term illness for meetings of full Council. For other meetings, proxy voting may be used but will not be required (substitute or pairing schemes may be more appropriate).
 - Guidance will be created in relation to both remote attendance and proxy voting policies.
- 2.2 The details of the consultation response is linked as Appendix 1 - [Remote attendance and proxy voting in local authorities: consultation results and government response - GOV.UK](#).
- 2.3 As yet there is no timescale for when this will become legislation. A further update will be given when more information becomes available.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To enable the Committee to consider the outcome of the consultation.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options as this report is for information only.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Remote attendance and proxy voting in local authorities: consultation results and government response - GOV.UK
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	