

South West Local Authority COVID-19 Protocol

This briefing note sets out the working arrangements currently in place for the various South West local authorities as a result of Covid-19.

Version 1.0 25th March 2020

Local Authority	Contact Methods	Committee Protocol	Decision Making Approach
BCP Council (Bournemouth Christchurch Poole)	- Planning Officers available by email only. All working from home. Can request a call back by email.	- Next Planning Committee (30th April) has not yet been cancelled.	- Decision making is staying the same as currently.
Cornwall Council	- Emails fine, all working from home. Request a call-back.	- Committee – unknown at this time.	- No changes to decision making. No site visits taking place unless it is for a dangerous structure.
Dorset Council (North/East/ Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland)	- Available on phones and emails, with most of the department working remotely.	- All Committee Mtgs postponed until further notice	- Decision making is staying the same as currently.
East Devon District Council	- Available on phones and emails. Majority of department working remotely.	- Next committee (7th April) postponed. Waiting for National Government guidance.	- Decision making is staying the same as currently.
Exeter City Council	- Available on phones and emails. Majority of department working remotely.	- Decision-making committees are still scheduled to continue.	- Decision-making committees are still scheduled to continue
Mendip District Council	- Best to email, as people are working remotely.	- Committees postponed	- To be confirmed on decision making
Mid Devon District Council	- Available by emails. Majority of department working remotely. Can request a call back by email.	- Currently being considered.	-Discussions currently taking place
North Devon District Council	- Can communicate on email and phone	- Committees being considered. No change to schedule at this time	- No change in decision making.
North Somerset Council	Phones and emails as normal	- Committees to be confirmed.	- Decision making to be confirmed.
Plymouth City Council	- Phones and emails fine, all working from home.	- Next Planning Committee (9th April 2020) will happen	- No change to decision making process. More leniency in timescales waiting for an application to validated.
Sedgemoor District Council	- Phones and emails fine, all working from home.	- Planning committees cancelled	- Full council meeting on Wednesday and is to be confirmed.

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South Hams District Council	- All working from home / email contact only. May be possible to request a call-back.	- Currently considering moving Committee to video forum. No decision yet.	- No changes to decision-making currently.
South Somerset District	- All working from home / email contact only. May be possible to request a call-back.	- To be confirmed	- To be confirmed
Somerset West and Taunton Council	- Offices are closed, and they are working from home. Available on phones and emails.	- Committee to be confirmed, however looking at conference calling.	- To be confirmed, with decision being posted on their website
Teignbridge District Council	- Available on phones and emails, with most of the department working remotely.	- Next Planning Committee (April) cancelled	- Decision making is staying the same as currently.
Torbay	- All working from home / email contact only. May be possible to request a call-back.	- Committee 30th March 2020 is cancelled	- Temporary measure all decisions to be delegated to Assistant Director of Planning & Transport who will coordinate with members
Torrige District Council	- Phone calls are redirected to work mobiles and planning support and still in the office and can send through phone calls. Can communicate on email as well.	- Committees are postponed for now.	- Decision making to be confirmed, looking at conference calling for committee. No change in decision making.
West Devon	- Best to contact on email, instead of phone.	- Committee are still continuing at the moment	- Decision making is staying the same currently. All updated to be on the website.