

# DEMOCRACY

Democracy, especially local democracy, is essential. It provides the building blocks of society which make sure our loved ones are cared for, our children are educated and our neighbourhoods are safe and well-maintained. A vibrant local democracy needs the best people to represent your local community. It needs to deliver services which meet the needs of its citizens. Crucially, it needs citizens that are engaged and who are willing to play their part to make the difference for their area if it's to really thrive in an open and fair way.

Did you know that there are lots of ways you can have your say on local democracy?

## CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Your elected councillors, 75 in total, serve you and your community and are responsible for areas of the city called wards, there are 29 in total. It's their role to represent you and your concerns and to lobby on your behalf.

You can email, write a letter or telephone your councillor. Many of our members are also engaging on social media. Contact details for councillors can be found here [www.cardiff.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/councillors)



## YOUNG PEOPLE CAN JOIN THE CARDIFF YOUTH COUNCIL

Individuals and representatives from schools and youth groups make up Cardiff Youth Council (CYC). Two members get elected as Members of Youth Parliament. Three 'Grand Council' meetings are held every year in City Hall. You can find out lots more on the CYC Facebook and Twitter feed - @CardiffYC



## ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS

There are regular public meetings including Council and Planning Committee (televised live on our website via webcast) and meetings of the Cabinet and five topic related Scrutiny Committees (some of which may be televised live).

The agenda and papers, location and time of the meetings are published here [www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk). You can also subscribe to updates including notifications when a new agenda is published and updates on specific local or policy issues you are interested in. [cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/SubscribeToUpdates](http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/SubscribeToUpdates)



## PETITIONS

The Council welcomes petitions and we recognise that petitions are one way in which people can let us know their concerns. Petitions can be presented to a meeting of the Full Council and Planning and Licensing Committees.

To submit your petition at Full Council please contact your Local Councillor who can present it on your behalf, or for any other petition contact [democraticservices@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@cardiff.gov.uk)

## DOWNLOAD THE MOD.GOV APP

You can access any of the public committee papers on your mobile device by downloading the Mod.Gov App. You can choose which committees you wish to subscribe to and the relevant papers are downloaded to your device when you are next online.



## TAKE PART IN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

We regularly hold consultations on proposals that may affect you, your community and the services we provide. All of our consultations are widely available. Live consultations can be found at:

- Cardiff Debate [www.cardiffdebate.co.uk](http://www.cardiffdebate.co.uk)
- Ask Cardiff public consultation webpage [www.askcardiff.com](http://www.askcardiff.com)
- Cardiff Citizens Panel. We also make sure details are included here, in the Capital Times, and in Council run buildings.



## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

If you live or work in Cardiff and have a question to submit concerning something that matters to you and your community you can ask a public question at a Full Council meeting. You can ask one question per meeting and up to two in any one municipal year.

To ask a public question please email [democraticservices@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@cardiff.gov.uk) or write to Cardiff Council Democratic Services, Room 286, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW.



## GET INVOLVED THROUGH SCRUTINY

Scrutiny is undertaken by Councillors who do not hold Cabinet positions within the Council. They work together to ensure accountability, openness and transparency, acting as a critical friend and enabling the voice and concerns of the public to be heard.

At the start of each municipal year (the day after Annual Council on the last Thursday of May) each Scrutiny Committee begins to devise a work programme for the following 12 months.

The Council welcomes your ideas on contents for our work programmes. Please email [scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We send out regular updates on our services, events and any consultations taking place. It's well worth following us on Twitter and liking our page on Facebook. Many of your local councillors are also embracing social media channels. The hashtag #cdfcouncil also captures regular debates taking place about local democracy in Cardiff.



More information is available on our website:

[www.cardiff.gov.uk/yourcouncil](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/yourcouncil) or Tel: 029 2087 2432