

# NEWS RELEASE

18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022

## DUNDEE FLOWER & FOOD FESTIVAL

Dundee City Council has today (18<sup>th</sup> January) announced that the Dundee Flower and Food Festival will again take place virtually this year.

The decision not to hold a physical event at Camperdown Park has been taken following careful consideration of the logistical demands on staff to put on such a large-scale event while providing key council services during the pandemic.

The popular festival has already been held virtually in 2020 and 2021, showcasing via the web the range and quality of the area's horticulture and food offering through videos, pictures and downloadable content.

**Councillor Anne Rendall, Convener of Neighbourhood Services**, said: "I am very sad that we can't currently return to the popular and familiar sight of around 18,000 people visiting Camperdown over the September weekend.

"However, given the amount of planning and logistical organisation that goes into the event, and uncertainty around events like this, it is just not feasible for it to go ahead in person this year.

"The personnel who would be busy just now planning the festival are all focused on delivering essential front-line services, which continue to be affected by the pandemic and higher than normal levels of staff absence.

"With quick-changing Covid safety guidance, there is a lack of certainty over what the situation will be like even by next month when tenders would usually go out. At the same time, local suppliers may themselves find it difficult to commit to coming this year.

“The 2020 and 2021 Virtual Flower and Food Festivals have proven to be successful and highlighted a lot of the city and region’s great gardening, cooking, baking and floral talents.

“It’s not the way we would ideally like to do it, but I know that many of the great exhibitions on offer will be showcased again online this year and I urge residents to get involved.

“The news will be a disappointment to many who have attended regularly and followed the Festival over the years, but it’s important that the council’s key services continue to be prioritised as well as ensuring the safety of both employees and members of the public.”

The Dundee Flower and Food Festival has taken place virtually on [the website](#) during the pandemic and as well as through the festival’s [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) channels. A similar digital event is planned to take place this year between Friday 2nd and Sunday 4th September 2022.

**ENDS.**