

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION OF:	Council
DATE:	22 October 2014
SUBJECT:	Amendments to the Council Constitution – Filming of Meetings
REPORT FROM:	Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	J M Hammond
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	This report seeks approval to amend the Constitution to reflect provisions which came into force on 6 August 2015 under the Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	That the Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services be delegated approval to amend the Council Constitution and Council Procedure Rules to reflect the provisions set out in the report.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes

Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	There are no direct financial implications.
Health and Safety Implications	There are no health and safety implications
Statement by Executive Director of Resources (including Health and Safety Implications)	There are no direct resource implications.
Equality/Diversity implications:	There are no equality/diversity implications arising from this proposal.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS

**DIRECTOR: Mike Owen, Executive
Director of Resources and Regulation**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
		22 October 2014	

1. Background

- 1.1. The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 provide that whilst a meeting of a local authority is open to the public any person attending is to be permitted to report on the meeting. The regulations further provide that a person attending a local authority meeting for the purpose of reporting on the meeting must, so far as practicable, be afforded reasonable facilities for doing so.
- 1.2. In terms of reporting on the meeting, a person may use any communication method, including the internet, to publish, post or otherwise share the results of the person's reporting activities. Publication and dissemination may take place at the time of the meeting or take place after the meeting.

1.3. "Reporting" is defined in the regulations as:

- (a) filming, photographing or making an audio recording of proceedings at a meeting;
- (b) using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- (c) reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present

1.4. There is no requirement for a local authority to permit oral reporting or oral commentary on a meeting as it takes place if the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting.

1.5 The Regulations make clear that the carrying out of these activities must not disrupt the proceedings of the meeting. However, as previously indicated, there is a requirement to offer "reasonable facilities." In its Guidance Note on the Regulations, the Department for Communities and Local Government advises members of the public that if they wish to carry out the activities referred to in 1.3 above, it is advisable to notify local authority staff in advance so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

2. Summary

2.1. Members are asked to approve delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services to make amendments to the Council Constitution and Council Procedure Rules to incorporate the provisions of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

List of Background Papers:-

DCLG Regulations:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/140812_Openness_Guide.pdf

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