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Democratic Support

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CITY COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

Monday 24 November 2014

2.00 pm

DEVONPORT GUILDHALL, KER STREET PL1 4EL

Members:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Fox, Chair

The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Casey, Churchill, Coker, Damarell, Darcy, Philippa Davey, Sam Davey, Downie, Drean, Evans, K Foster, Mrs Foster, Fry, Hendy, James, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, Dr. Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Mrs Nelder, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Ricketts, Riley, Dr. Salter, Singh, John Smith, Peter Smith, Sparling, Stark, Stevens, Storer, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Wigans.

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and attach the draft protocol for filming, photography, recording and use of social media at public meetings of the Council which is referred to in the Council report referred to in agenda item 17.

Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

PART I – PUBLIC MEETING

17. FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHY, RECORDING AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AT PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 1 - 2)

Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive) will submit a report seeking approval of a protocol on the use of filming, photography, recording and the use of social media at Council meetings and to amend the constitution accordingly.

USE OF FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHY, RECORDING AND THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Introduction

Plymouth City Council believes in openness and transparency. Anyone who wishes to report on any public meeting will be welcomed and will be provided with reasonable facilities to report, film, tweet or blog about any aspect of the meeting.

Filming, photographing and recording meetings

The Council asks that filming and/or photography requests are made in advance of the meeting (contact Democratic Support) and takes place from positions in the room as agreed by the Chair as such activities must not be disruptive or distracting to the good conduct of the meeting.

The Chair's decision, on whether or not the meeting is being disrupted or disturbed and to require filming, photography, recording or the use of social media to stop, is final.

At the start of each meeting, the Chair will make an announcement that the meeting may be filmed, recorded or photographed. Meeting agendas will carry this message and notices will be placed in meeting rooms.

There are situations where national rules require or allow the Council's committees to be closed to the public and press for example when they have to deal with confidential information. This protocol does not apply in such cases.

Filming and photographing members of the public

Some Council meetings are webcast. Where a meeting is not webcast and members of the public may speak (to ask a 'public question' for example) the Democratic Support Officer will ask each individual to give their permission to be photographed and/or filmed and they will not be photographed/filmed if they object.

Use of mobile devices

To minimise disruption to others attending the meeting, all attendees must ensure that their phone or other mobile devices are switched off or set to silent during the meeting.

No councillor, whether a decision maker or an observer, is permitted to use social media or mobile devices in a private meeting (when the press and public are excluded) or to disclose in any way the content of items under discussion.

The Councillors Code of Conduct will apply when using social media. Inappropriate comments made during a meeting could open councillors to potential complaints or investigation under the Code of Conduct.

Democratic Support

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