

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Filming, photography, recording and use of social media at public meetings of the Council
Committee:	City Council
Date:	24 November 2014
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Peter Smith
CMT Member:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Judith Shore, Democratic and Member Support Manager
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Key Decision:	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The purpose of this report is to seek 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.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

Plymouth City Council aspires to be a co-operative council that actively engages with local residents about how services are delivered. A key part of this is being open, transparent and accountable for decisions made.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

No implications.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management

No implications.

Equality and Diversity

No significant issues – filming and reporting of Council meetings enables greater involvement and engagement of those who cannot be physically present at the meeting.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

That the protocol on filming, photography, recording and the use of social media at meetings of the Council is:

1. Approved
2. Included in Part G (Codes and Protocols) of the Council's constitution

Reasons

To formalise the Council’s practice on filming, photography, recording and the use of social media at meetings in accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Alternative options considered and rejected:

This is a legislative requirement.

Published work / information:

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014:

<http://tinyurl.com/kq7j9gp>

Plain English guide, ‘Open and accountable local government’:

<http://tinyurl.com/oqap23g>

Background papers:

None

Sign off:

Fin	cdr14 15.09	Leg	21674 /DVS	Mon Off	21674 / DVS	HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Giles Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive													
Has the Cabinet Member agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

1. Background

- 1.1 On 6 August 2014, new regulations (The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014) came into force, which govern the public's rights to attend and report on local authority meetings. The Government has published a plain English guide, 'Open and accountable local government' for people who attend meetings.
- 1.2 This report proposes a protocol on filming, photography, recording and the use of social media at meetings to ensure the Council continues to meet its own high standards of openness and inclusivity.
- 1.3 Plymouth City Council does not have a specific policy on filming and reporting at meetings and has usually taken a positive approach to allowing filming when requests are made. The media have been asked to make their intentions clear in advance so the filming can be facilitated and the Chair of the meeting advised.
- 1.4 The Council believes that openness encourages greater public engagement in the democratic process.
- 1.5 Anyone wanting to film is asked to contact a member of the Democratic Support team in advance of the meeting to assist with setting up of any equipment, agreeing a suitable location and so on.

2. Use of social media, photography and filming

- 2.1 Some councillors, members of the public and the media and the Council's Communications Team already use social media during meetings. The attached protocol will formalise this use at public meetings of the Council.

3. Constitutional Review Group

The Constitutional Review Group considered the draft protocol on 29 September and recommended that it is approved by full council and the constitution amended accordingly.