

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Council about new regulations relating to the openness of local authority business, and seek approval of some minor consequential amendments to the Constitution.

Information and Advice

2. The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 came into force in August 2014. These Regulations mean that the public and members of the press are entitled to record and report on local authority meetings, for example using their mobile phone to take photos, tweeting or filming (including audio).
3. The Regulations apply to all meetings of Council, committees and sub-committees where the public are not excluded.
4. The Regulations do not require the Council to permit oral reporting or commentary on a meeting as it takes place if the person doing so is present at the meeting.
5. The Council's meeting procedure rules currently stipulate that the consent of the meeting chairman is required if a member of the public wishes to use a recording device. Some minor amendments to the Constitution are therefore needed in order to ensure the Council's procedure rules for meetings comply with the new legislation. The proposed amendments are set out in the **Appendix**.
6. The Regulations also require certain officer decisions to be made publicly available. This is already achieved by regular reporting of officer decisions to the relevant committees.

Other Options Considered

7. None; the changes are required by legislation.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To ensure the Council complies with the provisions of the Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) To approve the changes to the Council's Constitution shown in the Appendix to the report.

Councillor Alan Rhodes
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SG 26/08/2014)

10. County Council has responsibility for changing the Council's Constitution. The proposals within this report fall within the remit of County Council.

Financial Comments (SEM 27.8.14)

11. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 ([published](#))
- DCLG – Open and accountable local government – a guide for the press and public on attending and reporting meetings of local government ([published](#))

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All