

ITEM 4(c)(iv)

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

16 JULY 2014

REPORT CONSIDERED BY CONSTITUTION COMMISSION 23 JUNE 2014

Recording Protocol for Meetings

At its meeting on 5 March 2014, the Commission deferred consideration of this matter to allow the Political Groups to consider the approach to be taken for the recording of Council meetings by the public.

The Commission had, at its meeting on 5 March 2014, considered whether the Council should consider adopting guidance on the recording of public meetings for inclusion as part of Access to Information Procedure Rule 11.1, particularly as a result in the growth in use of mobile 'phones which allow recording and various social media, in order to provide clarity on the Council's position for the public, Members and officers.

It was suggested that any guidance should ensure that:

- (a) recording should be conducted so as not to not disrupt or distract from the meeting the meeting and the Chair reserves the stop recording if it is interrupting the meeting;
- (b) there will be fair usage of the recorded material. It should not be edited to misinterpret or misrepresent the proceedings;
- (c) members of the public located in the gallery will not be recorded, particularly as part of any filming; and
- (d) the Chair of the meeting will have absolute discretion to terminate or suspend the recording.

Access to Information Procedure Rule 11.1 currently provides:

"Nothing in these procedure rules requires Milton Keynes Council to permit the taking of photographs of any proceedings, or the use of any means to enable persons not present to see or hear any proceedings (whether at the time or later), or the making of any oral report on any proceedings as they take place".

Draft guidance is attached as an **Annex**).

If the Commission wishes to recommend that the Council adopt Guidance along the lines of that attached it suggested that the following additional words are included as part of Access to Information Procedure Rule 11.1:

"However, the Council supports the principle of transparency at its meetings that are open to the public and recognises the use of both video and audio recording equipment, together with the use of social networking websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people. A protocol on videoing, photography and audio recording at council meetings is attached at Annex C to these Procedure Rules."

Background Papers: None