

## CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2013

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Civic Affairs Committee held on Friday, 20 September 2013. Decisions made by the Portfolio Holder will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Cabinet or to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Patrick Adams (Agenda) Graham Aisthorpe-Watts (Minutes).

#### 1. **FILMING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Committee

##### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

To allow members of the public to film its public meetings in accordance with newly published guidance by the Department for Communities and Local Government entitled 'Your council's cabinet – going to its meetings, seeing how it works'.

That Standing Order 21.4 of the Council's Constitution (Recording of Business) be amended to read: -

"The recording in any format of any meeting of the Council, the Executive, or any committee or sub-committee of the Council or the Executive, is permitted, except: -

- (a) where the Chairman, or person presiding the meeting, rules that filming is being undertaken in such a way that it is disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the meeting.
- (b) where the public have been excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules (Rule 10) during the consideration of exempt or confidential information.

The Committee

**AGREED** that it would be inappropriate at the current time for the Council to film or broadcast its own meetings due to the cost of the installation and maintenance of the equipment required. It was further agreed that the situation would be reviewed in 12 months.

**Other Options Considered:** To recommend that the Council's existing Standing Orders be maintained or to recommend alternative amendments.

**Reason For Decision:** To comply with the guidance form the Department for Communities and Local Government in June 2013 entitled "Your Council's Cabinet – going to its meetings, seeing how it works".

#### 2. **REVIEW OF WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

The Committee

**APPROVED** The amended Whistleblowing Policy at Appendix A to the report.

**NOTED** The quick guide to the policy for staff.

**AGREED** To include the Whistleblowing policy as a standing item on its agenda.

**AGREED** To review the policy on a bi-annual basis to ensure it is fit for purpose.

**Other Options Considered:** To leave the policy unchanged and incompatible with new legislation.

**Reason For Decision:** To ensure the council's Whistleblowing policy is updated following changes to legislation in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 (ERRA) which came into force on 25 June 2013.