

<b>Recommendation to Council</b> on 19 April 2012	<b>From:</b> <b>Constitution Advisory</b> <b>Group</b> <b>27 January 2012</b>	<b>Item 11 (i)</b>
	<b>Filming, Blogging, Tweeting and Recording by the Public at Meetings</b>	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:-	
	<b>1. that the draft protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at Council meetings, a copy of which is attached at Appendix A to this report, be approved and adopted as the Council's formal guidance on this matter;</b>	
	<b>2. that the Constitution be amended to refer to the availability of the protocol within the Access to Information Procedure Rule at paragraph 3 of Part G2 of the Constitution, as set out in Appendix B to this report.</b>	
	<b>Background</b>	
2.	The Constitution Advisory Group at its meeting on 27 January 2012 considered a draft protocol on audio/visual recording by the public at meetings and whether, if adopted, the protocol should be set out within the Constitution.	
3.	The meeting had noted that the draft protocol provided for audio/visual recording and photography, unless carried out by the Council, to be undertaken by accredited members of the media only, subject to certain restrictions and the prior agreement of the chairman of the meeting. In addition, signs should be put in place before the meeting started advising that recording and/or photography was to take place.	
4.	The Advisory Group was aware that not all of the Council's meetings took place in the Chamber where audio visual equipment was available and it could prove difficult to change a meeting's venue. Nonetheless, Members acknowledged the advantages to the Council in undertaking the recording itself.	
5.	Concern was expressed over how recordings could be employed, especially if content was used out of context. It was noted that the Council could not prevent this from happening but if recording was restricted to the Council's internal arrangements or accredited members of the media this was less likely to happen.	
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A  Appendix B	Draft protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at Council meetings Proposed amendments to Part G2 of the Constitution