

Part I

Electoral Division affected: None

Use of Resources Protocol for Councillors
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

In order to provide and clarify guidance and support for Councillors in understanding what is and is not acceptable in the use of County Council resources, a revised Use of Resources Protocol is presented for approval.

Recommendation

That the Deputy Leader of the County Council approves the revised County Councillor Use of Resources Protocol.

Background and Advice

The Code of Conduct for County Councillors says that:

"you must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resource of the authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly (including for political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986"

In order to provide guidance and support for Councillors in understanding what is and is not acceptable in the use of County Council resources, a Use of Resources Protocol is in place. The current protocol is, however, now out of date in some areas, and the opportunity has been taken to review and update the protocol.

The protocol does not form part of the constitution, but is one of the protocols and policies that Councillors are required by the Code of Conduct to behave in accordance with.

The Use of Resources Protocol consists of a general protocol, and also the County Councillors Acceptable Use Policy for Information and Communications Technology

(AUP). Other Appendices to the protocol set out the rules and guidance for Councillors use of social media, ICT provision to Councillors and details of any applicable ICT purchase scheme operated by the Council.

Consultations

The draft protocol has been considered by the Member Development Working Group

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Misuse of the County Council's resources by a County Councillor would be a breach of the Code of Conduct. It is necessary to set out clearly the offer to Councillors and to provide guidance in order that there is clarity on what is acceptable.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A