

**Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 3 November 2022

**Report of the Director of Corporate Services**

**Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
None;

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Delivering better services;

**County Councillor Use of Resources Protocol**  
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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**Brief Summary**

The Use of Resources Protocol provides guidance and support for Councillors in understanding what is and is not acceptable in the use of county council resources. The protocol has been reviewed by the Political Governance Working Group and is now presented at Appendix 'A' for Cabinet consideration.

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet agrees that the Use of Resources Protocol for county councillors, as set out in Appendix 'A', be approved.

**Detail**

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 Political Governance Working Group has reviewed and updated the Use of Resources Protocol, which is now presented at Appendix 'A' for Cabinet consideration. The main changes are:

1. The protocol has been brought up to date to reflect the current ICT offer.
2. More information, including examples, has been provided on what councillors can and cannot do with county council resources.
3. A provision that gave the Leader and Deputy Leader the right to have access to a council supplied car for official business has been removed, on the basis that the provision has been unused for a number of years.

The protocol does not form part of the constitution but is one of the protocols and policies that the Code of Conduct requires councillors to abide by.

The Use of Resources Protocol consists of a general protocol, the County Councillors Acceptable Use Policy for Information and Communications Technology (AUP), guidance on the use of social media, details of the current ICT provision, a statement on support for disabled councillors and a parental support policy for councillors.

## **Consultations**

N/A

## **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

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

