



North Northamptonshire Council

Recording of Council Meetings by the Press and Public - Protocol

The protocol is intended to enhance the rights of access by the press and public to Council meetings. It only applies to those meetings where the press and public would normally have rights of access as defined in the Council's Constitution. Any recordings undertaken by the Council itself would be subject to a separate protocol.

- Recording either audio, visual or both will be permitted from the area designated as the "public gallery".
- No audio-visual equipment will be permitted to be placed in the immediate vicinity of the Elected Members or Officers participating in the meeting.
- No flash photography will be permitted during the meeting.
- The Chair of the relevant meeting retains the right to require that any equipment in use is relocated, switched-off or removed should it prove to be disruptive to the smooth and efficient conduct of the meeting.
- All equipment used to record the proceedings of the meeting will have its own power supply; no Council power supply will be used at any time.
- All equipment used to record proceedings of the meeting shall be silent when in use and cause no distraction to participants of the meeting or other members of the "public gallery".
- Users of audio-visual recording equipment will comply with all reasonable requests relating to health & safety e.g., in relation to trip hazards etc.
- Where members of the public are participating in a meeting under the Council's Public Participation Procedure, they shall be requested to give explicit permission for their contribution to be recorded.
- There shall be no filming or recording of the area designated as the "public gallery" at any time.
- Any recordings of meetings do not under law replace or negate the officially recorded minute of that meeting.

- Recording equipment will be turned off during any adjournment periods during a meeting.
- Any issues or queries relating to the implementation of this policy shall be referred to the Proper Officer (Director of Legal and Democratic Services) or their designated representative (Committee Clerk).

Adele Wylie

Director of Legal and Democratic Services