

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

3 May 2018

Public Attending Council Meetings

Report of the Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To inform members of new guidance for the public attending Council meetings.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 To outline the rights of the public to attend council meetings but also their responsibilities and the behaviours expected of them, a guidance document has been produced that can be given to the public at meetings and also be published on the website.
- 1.2 At its last meeting of the Standards Committee, Members discussed the issue of potential intimidation directed at councillors during meetings. The power of Chairmen to deal with disruptive behaviour was noted.
- 1.3 The new guidance for the public will provide the public with a better knowledge of what will happen and what is expected of them, and will allow Chairmen to refer to the guidance the public will have in front of them should any disruptive behaviour take place.
- 1.4 The guidance is attached at **Appendix 1** for Members' information.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 New guidance for the public attending council meetings has been produced and is submitted to Standards Committee for information.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 The guidance document contains the Council's statement regarding provision of different languages or larger print sizes.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 This report is for information only.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 None arising from this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 Council meetings are required by law to be open to the public, save for where information that is confidential or exempt is to be discussed. The public also has the right to record or film meetings. This document seeks to provide guidance in how these rights can be exercised.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 None arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Members note the new guidance for the public attending council meetings.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Affected	None directly
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	Improving customer contact and access to information Demonstrating good governance

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Guidance for the public attending council meetings.
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
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AGIN 4(f) (STANDS 0503) Public Attendance at Meetings