

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

**Standards and Governance Committee**

**Item 10**

**7 April 2016**

**Filming and Broadcasting of Fire Authority Meetings**

**Report of the Clerk and the Chief Officer**

Contact: Kevin Greenhough Telephone: 01962 847483

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report proposes review of the Authority's Protocol on filming, photographing and audio-recording of meetings held in public, in light of the experience of its application since September 2014.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Standards and Governance Committee reviews the Authority's Protocol on filming, photographing and audio-recording of Authority meetings held in public, based on their experiences of the application of the Protocol as identified in section 3 of the report.
- 2.2 That the Standards and Governance Committee agrees and **RECOMMENDS** any changes to the Protocol to the Full Authority: the Clerk and Chief Fire Officer to draft an updated Protocol and (if necessary) updates to Standing Orders commensurate with any such recommendations.

**3 The Protocol**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 (the Regulations), which came into force on 6 August 2014, the Authority agreed to the implementation of a Protocol on filming, photographing and audio-recording of Authority meetings held in public at their meeting in September 2014. The Protocol set out the actions that the Fire Authority would take to film or audio-record and subsequently broadcast its own meetings. It also formalised the ability of members of the press and public to film, photograph or audio-record at meetings of the Authority held in public.
- 3.2 Since the implementation of the Regulations in 2014, the ability of the press and public to film and record meetings of public authorities has become normalised. Public expectations around the ability to access meetings where significant topics are to be

discussed, have grown in line with the social media based rolling news.

- 3.3 At the February meeting of the Full Authority, a “live stream” (rather than filming and subsequent broadcasting) of the meeting was produced for the first time, in recognition of the significance of the items on the agenda. Members of the Standards and Governance Committee now have experience of approximately 18 months of audio-recording of Committee meetings. Members will likely also have experience of streaming, filming and/or audio-recording at their own Authorities.
- 3.4 The Protocol on filming, photographing and audio-recording of Authority meetings is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **4 Financial/Human Resources Implications**

- 4.1 The current impact of filming and audio-recording meetings is low as it is managed “in-house” through existing resources. Any substantial changes to the existing arrangements would require financial evaluation and subsequent reporting.

#### **5 Impact Assessments**

- 5.1 There are no identified issues that will materially affect these proposals.
- 5.2 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

#### **6 Background Papers**

- 6.1 The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

Full Authority Report: 10 September 2014 “Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014”