

Part 4

Section 4.3 – Code of Practice for Recording Meetings

1. Recording by the Public

The right to record meetings are set out in Procedure Standing Order 23, and the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution. This Code of Practice supplements those provisions.

The right to record extends only to formal meetings of the Combined Authority, and its committees or sub-committees which are open to the public.

Recording in this context includes filming, photographing and making an audio recording.

No recordings should be made or published in breach of this Code of Practice.

The agenda for each meeting will state that the meeting may be recorded. We will also display signs in the meeting room stating that the meeting may be recorded.

Please inform the Chair of the meeting **before** the meeting starts if you do not want to be recorded. The Chair will inform any person recording the meeting that you do not wish to be recorded.

If you record a meeting, you must comply with the following:

Before the meeting

Before the meeting starts, please inform the Chair (or clerk) of the committee that you want to record the meeting.

To minimise disruption, and ensure a safe environment, you must also ask the Chair's **permission** before the meeting if you wish to:

- use **large equipment** (that is, **larger** than a smart phone, tablet or compact camera)
- **move** around the room or film from different angles or
- use **lighting** for filming/**flash** photography.

Making your recording

You should record **overtly** (that is, in a way which is clearly visible to others at the meeting).

You must record from the **public seating area** and from **one fixed position**, (unless you have the Chair's permission to do otherwise).

Do not block other people's view of proceedings with your recording device.

Please put your recording device on **silent mode**.

You should **focus** recording on:

- councillors and officers attending the meeting, and
- any other people invited to address the meeting, who have not objected to being filmed.

Do not record any member of the public who has asked not to be recorded.

Do not record any child or young person present under the age of 18 unless their parents/guardians have given you written consent.

Stopping recording

You must stop recording if the Chair instructs you to¹.

Publishing recordings

You must comply with all relevant laws when recording reporting and publishing, including those relating to libel and defamation.

The Combined Authority will not be liable for recordings or reports made or published by you or any other person.

When you publish a recording, please publish an **explanatory statement** identifying:

- **when and where** the recording was made,
- the **context** of the discussion,
- the **main speakers** and their **role or title**.

Do not edit the recording in a way that could:

- lead anyone to misinterpret the proceedings or comments recorded,
- misrepresent anyone in the recording, or
- show a lack of respect for anyone in the recording.

Recordings may start and end at any point of a meeting, but you should publish the material between those points without editing it, or alternatively make it clear when breaks in recordings occur.

¹ The circumstances in which the Chair may do this are set out in Procedure Standing Order 25.

2. Combined Authority recording of meetings

Details of recording and webcasting activities carried out by the Combined Authority will be made available on meeting agendas and notices displayed at each meeting. Data collected as part of recording activities carried out by the Combined Authority will be processed in accordance with the Combined Authority's privacy notice².

The Combined Authority's Access to Information Annex to the Procedure Standing Orders applies to the recording and webcasting of meetings.

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² A copy of the Combined Authority's privacy notice relating to meetings can be found on the website [here](#).