

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2014

Note to Members in relation to the Recording of Meetings

Members will have seen the note in the September Members' Bulletin about the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which came into force on 6 August 2014.

The Regulations allow the reporting of all public meetings (including filming, photography, audio recording, written accounts, live broadcasts and live commentary) by anyone (including individuals, reporters, bloggers & television companies) without the need for prior consent.

The Authority will from now on include the following as a standard agenda item in all public meetings agenda:

“The Authority allows the recording and reporting of public meetings but asks that any party wishing to do so informs the Authority in advance of the meeting.

Recording and reporting that disrupts the meeting is not allowed. Persons expressly refusing consent, children and vulnerable adults cannot be filmed or photographed.

The existing rules relating to confidential and exempt information, defamation, Data Protection and Public Order apply.

The Authority accepts no liability whatsoever for the recording and reporting carried out by other parties.”

Can all Chairs please apply this new approach. If necessary please seek advice from senior officers, the Monitoring Officer, or the Authority solicitor.

Can all Members be particularly aware that overt and covert recording and reporting cannot, in most cases, be prevented and may occur more often now. That creates a greater need than ever to be reasonable, proportionate, and appropriate in Authority meetings.

There will be meetings for which the significance or other relevant circumstances warrant the Authority making its own audio recording of the meeting. All participants in those meetings will be made fully aware if that is the case.