

Standards Committee report



14 October 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE REVIEW

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Social Media Guidance for Councillors (adopted in March 2021) should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains relevant and reflective of the experiences of the Standards Committee throughout the year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Social Media Guidance remains fit for purpose and no changes are required.
- 2.2 That the Social Media Guidance be reviewed annually at the Committee's meeting held in October of each year.

3. Background

- 3.1 In recent years, the Standards Committee has seen an increase in the number of complaints received relating to use of social media.
- 3.2 As a response to this, the Committee agreed that it would develop social media guidance which could be used by Councillors of Milton Keynes who use social media, either on an occasional or regular basis.

- 3.3 The Social Media Guidance ('the Guidance') was adopted by Full Council on 30 March 2021 and it was recommended that it be reviewed, by the Standards Committee, annually to ensure that it remained relevant and reflective of the current social media trends, complaints, and experiences.
 - 3.4 At the last meeting of the Committee, held on 14 July 2021, Councillor Sam Crooks requested that the Social Media Guidance be reviewed before the next meeting and, therefore, officers have reviewed the Guidance six months before it's review date.
 - 3.5 Following an officer review, it is not considered that there have been any substantial changes to the way in which social media is used. Further to this, as the Guidance was only adopted six months ago, there has not been a sufficient amount of time to assess whether the Guidance is having the desired impact, or to ascertain whether any learning could be applied to the Guidance to assist Councillors.
4. Alternatives
 - 4.1 The Committee could recommend that changes are made to the Social Media Guidance.
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List of Annexes

None.

List of Background Papers

Social Media Guidance