



1. COUNCIL POLICIES
1.1 COUNCIL CHAMBER & MEETINGS
1.1.5 Mobile Phones in Meetings

A call taken on a mobile telephone during a meeting can be an unwanted distraction and is generally considered disrespectful.

1. Mobile telephones may remain turned on during Information Briefings
2. No mobile telephone is to be turned on or used during Council Meetings or Committee Meetings unless otherwise authorised here in.

There may however be circumstances when use of a mobile telephone in formal meetings is considered necessary such as:

- If on call for an emergency service (police, fire, ambulance, rangers etc)
- If awaiting the outcome of medical treatment for a close relative (ie impending labour or relative in intensive care in hospital).
- If awaiting contact from distinguished guests due at that or subsequent meetings.

Members needing to leave their mobile telephones turned on must first obtain the express permission of the Chair of the meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. If the Chairman grants permission, where possible, the mobile telephone should be set to silent call mode.

If a call is received during the meeting, the member is to leave the room immediately to take the call. (This policy does not however excuse the member from their obligation to remain to vote on a matter and in such circumstance, the call should be responded to after the vote is taken.

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED 13 JUNE 2002
REVIEWED 26 JUNE 2008

NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW JUNE 2012

The Administration of this Policy is by Coporate Division.