



Media Policy

Approved at Policy and Finance Committee: July 2024
Due for Review: July 2027

Introduction

1. Fleet Town Council (“the Council”) is committed to providing accurate information about its governance, decisions, and activities. Where this information is not available via the Council’s Freedom of Information publication scheme, please contact the Council’s office.
2. The Council shall, where possible, cooperate with those whose work involves gathering material for publication in any form, including the internet (“the media”).
3. This policy explains how the Council may work with the media to meet the above objectives in accordance with legal requirements and restrictions.

Legal Requirements and Restrictions

4. This policy is subject to the Council’s obligations set out in various laws, including the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Act 1986, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998, and other applicable legislation, as well as the Council’s standing orders and financial regulations. Relevant documents are available via the Council’s publication scheme.
5. The Council cannot disclose confidential information or information prohibited by law. This includes information restricted by court order, legislation, the Council’s standing orders, contracts, or common law. Councillors have additional restrictions from the code of conduct, available via the Council’s publication scheme.

Other Communications with the Media

6. This policy does not seek to regulate councillors in their private capacity.
7. The Council’s communications with the media aim to represent the corporate position and views of the Council. If councillors’ views differ from the Council’s corporate position, this must be made clear.
8. The Council’s Executive Officer may contact the media to provide information, statements, or other material about the Council.
9. Subject to the obligations not to disclose confidential information or information prohibited by law and not to misrepresent the Council’s position, councillors are free to communicate their personal views.

Also refer to Media Procedures

Adopted by P&F Committee 24 July 2024, due for review July 2027