

**CABINET – 12 JUNE 2025****PROTOCOL FOR FLYING FLAGS AT COUNTY HALL****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to present the County Council's current protocol for flying flags at County Hall.

Recommendations

2. The Cabinet is recommended to consider whether it wishes to make any changes to the current protocol.

(Key Decision)

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Leader has requested the opportunity to reconsider the protocol.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. None.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. The existing protocol is the result of an agreement between the Group Leaders of the previous Council.

Resource Implications

6. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

7. None.

Officer(s) to Contact

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PART B

Background

8. The protocol appended to this report has been in place since January 2025. Prior to that, all flags (all Pride Flags, the Commonwealth Flag, Emergency Services Flag, Ukrainian Flag, Armed Forces Flag and Red Ensign) were flown from the three flagpoles at the front of County Hall and the flagpole in the quadrangle was only used for flag raising ceremonies relating to the Armed Forces and Armistice Day.

Proposals/Options

9. The Cabinet is invited to amend the protocol as it feels is appropriate.

Consultation

10. There is no statutory requirement to consult on this matter. The current protocol requires the Corporate Equalities Board, a cross-departmental officer body which oversees delivery of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, to undertake an annual review of the protocol, involving consultation with the staff networks to ensure that correct flags have been identified and that each network is satisfied with the level of visibility. Any changes would be reported to Group Leaders for their approval.

Equality Implications

11. The introduction to the current flag flying protocol clarifies the implications.

Human Rights Implications

12. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Background Papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix – Protocol for Flying Flags at County Hall

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