

Policy Owner/Responsible Officer	Communications and Engagement Coordinator
Department	Communications
Date endorsed	26 June 2012
Next review date	21 November 2024
TRIM reference	24/35283

Contents

Policy Statement/Objectives	2
Scope	3
References	3
Consultations	3
Definitions	3
Variation and review	4
POLICY	4
1. Administrative framework for Council’s social media platforms	4
1.1. Council’s platforms	4
1.2. Establishment and deletion of Council social media platforms	5
1.3. Appointment and role of the Social Media Administrator	5
1.4. Authorised users	5
1.5. Administrative tone	6
1.6. Register of authorised users	6
1.7. Ceasing to be an authorised user	6
2. Administrative framework for Councillors’ social media platforms	6
2.1. Councillor platforms	6
2.2. Induction and training	7
2.3. Identifying as a Councillor	7
2.4. Other general requirements for Councillors’ social media platforms	7
2.5. Councillor queries relating to social media platforms	7
2.6. Other social media platforms administered by Councillors	7
3. Standards of conduct on social media	8
3.1. Standards	8
4. Moderation of social media platforms	9
4.1. Responsibility	9
4.2. House Rules	9
4.3. Removal or ‘hiding’ of content	10
4.4. Removing defamatory content from Community Groups	10

4.5.	Blocking or banning-----	10
5.	Use of social media during emergencies-----	11
5.1.	Management-----	11
6.	Records management and privacy requirements-----	11
6.1.	Records management-----	11
6.2.	Privacy considerations and requirements -----	12
7.	Private use of social media -----	12
7.1.	What constitutes 'private' use -----	12
7.2.	Use of social media during work hours-----	13
8.	Concerns or complaints-----	13
8.1.	Process -----	13
9.	Concerns or complaints-----	13
9.1.	Process -----	13
	Related Forms/Documents -----	14
	Attachments-----	14
	Authorisation-----	14

Policy Statement/Objectives

We, the Councillors, employees and other officials of Kiama Municipal Council, are committed to upholding and promoting the following principles of social media engagement.

Principles

Openness	Our social media platforms are places where anyone can share and discuss issues that are relevant to our Council and the community we represent and serve.
Relevance	We will ensure our social media platforms are kept up to date with informative content about our Council and community.
Accuracy	The content we upload onto our social media platforms and any other social media platform will be a source of truth for our Council and community and we will prioritise the need to correct inaccuracies when they occur.
Respect	Our social media platforms are safe spaces. We will uphold and promote the behavioural standards contained in this Policy and our Council's code of conduct when using our social media platforms and any other social media platform.

Scope

This Policy applies to Councillors, employees and other officials of Kiama Municipal Council.

References

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
- Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002
- State Records Act 1998
- State Archives and Records Authority of NSW
- Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW
- Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW
- Office of Local Government Model Social Media Policy 2022
- Council's Code of Conducts
- Council's Complaints Handling Policy

Consultations

- Executive Leadership Team
- Management Leadership Team
- Governance Coordinator
- Cross-Council Communications Officers
- Communications Team
- Records Team

Definitions

Term	Definition
Authorised user	Employees (members of Council staff) who are authorised by the CEO or SMA to upload content and engage on the Council's social media platforms on the Council's behalf.
Council Official	Councillors, employees (members of staff) and delegates of the Council (including members of committees that are delegates of the Council);
Minor	For the purposes of clause 3.1.4.(b) of this Policy, is a person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

Personal information	Information or an opinion (including information or an opinion forming part of a database and whether or not recorded in a material form) about an individual whose identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained from the information or opinion.
SMA	Is a Council's Social Media Administrator appointed under clause 1.3 of this Policy.
Social media	Means social media platforms and applications. such as but not limited to social networking sites, wikis, blogs, microblogs, video and audio sharing sites, webpages (internet sites) and message boards, that allow people to easily publish, share and discuss content. Examples of social media platforms include, but are not limited to Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Snapchat, LinkedIn, Yammer, YouTube, Instagram, Flickr and Wikipedia.
Platform	A channel, account or page on a social media platform is also referred to as a 'social media platform' or 'platform' in this Policy. In this case the platform is identified by the named individual or business who is posting. For example, Council may have several platforms, pages, channels or accounts on a single social media platform (eg: a Library page, a main Council page and a Leisure Centre page, all on Facebook).

Variation and review

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this Policy.

Review History

Date reviewed	Date adopted/endorsed	Brief detail of amendments
June 2012	26 June 2012	New Policy
July 2014	19 August 2014	Council endorsed the revised and updated
August 2016	N/A	Reviewed August 2016 but not endorsed by Council – refer TRIM 16/67128
October 2022 to April 2023	18 April 2023	Update of Policy in line with Model Social Media Policy 2022 provided by the NSW Office of Local Government.
November 2023	21 November 2023	Administrative update only: updated the definition of 'social media' to align with legal definitions.

POLICY

1. Administrative framework for Council's social media platforms

1.1. Council's platforms

- 1.1.1. Council will maintain a presence on the following social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.
- 1.1.2. Council's social media platforms must specify or provide a clearly accessible link to the House Rules' for engaging on the platform.

1.2. Establishment and deletion of Council social media platforms

- 1.2.1. A new Council social media platform or a social media platform proposed by a Council related entity (for example, a Council committee), can only be established or deleted with the written approval of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their delegate.
- 1.2.2. Where a Council social media platform is established or deleted in accordance with clause 1.2.1, the CEO or their delegate may amend clause 1.1.1 of this Policy without the need for endorsement by the Council's governing body.

1.3. Appointment and role of the Social Media Administrator

- 1.3.1. The CEO will appoint a member of Council staff to be the Council's Social Media Administrator (SMA). The SMA should be a senior and suitably qualified member of staff.
- 1.3.2. The CEO may appoint more than one SMA.
- 1.3.3. The SMA's role is to:
 - a) approve and revoke a staff member's status as an authorised user;
 - b) develop and/or approve the training and/or induction to be provided to authorised users;
 - c) maintain a register of authorised users;
 - d) maintain effective oversight of authorised users;
 - e) moderate the Council's social media platforms in accordance with Part 4 of this Policy;
 - f) ensure the Council complies with its record keeping obligations under the *State Records Act 1998* in relation to social media (see clauses under clause 6.1.1 of this Policy);
 - g) ensure the Council adheres to the rules of the social media platform(s); and
 - h) coordinate with the Council's Communications Team to ensure the Council's social media platforms are set up and maintained in a way that maximises user friendliness and any technical problems are resolved promptly.
- 1.3.4. The SMA may delegate their functions under paragraphs (e) and (f) of clause 1.4.5 to authorised users.
- 1.3.5. The SMA is an authorised user for the purposes of this Policy.

1.4. Authorised users

- 1.4.1. Authorised users are members of Council employees who are authorised by the SMA to upload content and engage on social media on the Council's behalf.
- 1.4.2. Authorised users should be members of Council employees that are responsible for managing, or have expertise in, the events, initiatives, programs or policies that are the subject of the social media content.
- 1.4.3. The SMA will appoint authorised users when required.
- 1.4.4. An authorised user must receive a copy of this Policy and induction training on social media use and Council's obligations before uploading content on Council's behalf.
- 1.4.5. The role of an authorised user is to:
 - a) ensure, to the best of their ability, that the content they upload onto social media platforms is accurate;
 - b) correct inaccuracies in Council generated content;
 - c) ensure, to the best of their ability that images used depict a true representation of the issue or subject matter (eg: not over-edited);

- d) if/when resources allow, to answer questions on Council's behalf on social media platforms, as appropriate (note, we do not encourage Council engagement or discussion on community groups, but will attempt to answer direct questions not covered in the original post or associated links and correct inaccuracies if we see them);
- e) keep the Council's social media platforms up to date; and
- f) where authorised to do so by the SMA:
 - i. moderate the Council's social media platforms in accordance with Part 4 of this Policy; and
 - ii. ensure the Council complies with its record keeping obligations under the *State Records Act 1998* in relation to social media (see clauses 6.1.1 to 6.1.4 of this Policy).

1.4.6. When engaging on social media on Council's behalf if not posting from a Council platform (such as, but not limited to, on a community social media page), an authorised user must identify themselves as an employee but they are not obliged to disclose their name or position within the Council.

1.4.7. Authorised users must not use Council's social media platforms for personal reasons.

1.5. Administrative tone

1.5.1. Authorised users upload content and engage on social media on the Council's behalf. Authorised users must use language consistent with that function and avoid expressing or appearing to express their personal views when undertaking their role.

1.5.2. Authorised users may use more personal, informal language when engaging on Council's social media platforms, for example when replying to comments.

1.6. Register of authorised users

1.6.1. The SMA will maintain a register of authorised users. This register is to be reviewed every six (6) months to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

1.7. Ceasing to be an authorised user

1.7.1. The SMA may revoke a staff member's status as an authorised user, if:

- a) the staff member makes such a request;
- b) the staff member has not uploaded content onto any of the Council's social media platforms in the last six (6) months;
- c) the staff member has failed to comply with this Policy;
- d) the SMA is of the reasonable opinion that the employee is no longer suitable to be an authorised user; and/or
- e) the employee resigns from their position at Council.

2. Administrative framework for Councillors' social media platforms

2.1. Councillor platforms

2.1.1. For the purposes of this Policy, Councillor social platforms are not Council social media platforms. Part 1 of this Policy does not apply to Councillors' social media platforms.

2.1.2. Councillors are responsible for the administration and moderation of their own social media platforms (in accordance with Parts 2 and 4 of this Policy), and ensuring they comply with the record keeping obligations under the *State Records Act 1998* (see clauses 6.1.1 to 6.1.4 of this Policy) and Council's Records Management Policy in relation to social media.

- 2.1.3. Clause 2.1.2 also applies to Councillors in circumstances where another person administers, moderates, or uploads content onto their social media platform.
- 2.1.4. Councillors must comply with the rules of the platform when engaging on social media.

2.2. Induction and training

- 2.2.1. Councillors who engage, or intend to engage, on social media must receive induction training on social media use. Induction training can be undertaken either as part of the Councillor's induction program or as part of their ongoing professional development program.

2.3. Identifying as a Councillor

- 2.3.1. Councillors must identify themselves on their social media platforms in the following format: Kiama Councillor "First Name and Last Name".
- 2.3.2. A Councillor's social media platform must include a profile photo which is a clearly identifiable image of the Councillor.
- 2.3.3. If a Councillor becomes or ceases to be the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or the holder of another position (for example, chairperson of a committee), this must be clearly stated on the Councillor's social media platforms and updated within one month of a change in circumstances.

2.4. Other general requirements for Councillors' social media platforms

- 2.4.1. Councillor social media platforms must specify or provide a clearly accessible link to the 'House Rules' for engaging on the platform.
- 2.4.2. A Councillor's social media platform must include a disclaimer to the following effect:

"The views expressed, and comments made on this social media platform are my own and not that of the Council".
- 2.4.3. Despite clause 2.4.2, Mayoral or Councillor media releases and other content that has been authorised according to the Council's media and communications protocols, policy may be uploaded onto a Councillor's social media platform.
- 2.4.4. Councillors may upload publicly available Council information onto their social media platforms.
- 2.4.5. Councillors may use more personal, informal language when engaging on their social media platforms.
- 2.4.6. Councillors must not discuss confidential or commercial-in-confidence Council matters on social media and are bound by the Code of Conduct for Councillors at all times.

2.5. Councillor queries relating to social media platforms

- 2.5.1. Questions from Councillors relating to their obligations under this Policy, technical queries relating to the operation of their social media platforms, or managing records on social media may be directed to the CEO in the first instance, in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors policy.

2.6. Other social media platforms administered by Councillors

- 2.6.1. A Councillor must advise the CEO of any social media platforms they administer on which content relating to the Council or Council Officials is, or is expected to be, uploaded. The Councillor must do so within:
 - a) Six (6) months of becoming a Councillor; or
 - b) One (1) month of becoming the administrator.

3. Standards of conduct on social media

3.1. Standards

- 3.1.1. This Policy only applies to Council Officials' use of social media in an official capacity or in connection with their role as a Council Official. The Policy does not apply to personal use of social media that is not connected with a person's role as a Council Official.
- 3.1.2. Council Officials must comply with the Council's *Code of Conduct – Council Staff, Contractors and Volunteers* when using social media in an official capacity or in connection with their role as a Council Official.
- 3.1.3. Council Officials must not use social media to post or share comments, photos, videos, electronic recordings or other information that:
- a) is defamatory, offensive, humiliating, threatening or intimidating to other Council /officials or members of the public;
 - b) contains profane language or is sexual in nature;
 - c) constitutes harassment and/or bullying within the meaning of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, or is unlawfully discriminatory;
 - d) is contrary to their duties under the *Work Health and Safety Act* and their responsibilities under any policies or procedures adopted by the Council to ensure workplace health and safety;
 - e) contains content about the Council, Council /officials or members of the public that is misleading or deceptive;
 - f) divulges confidential Council information ;
 - g) breaches the privacy of other Council Officials or members of the public;
 - h) contains allegations of suspected breaches of Council's *Code of Conduct – Council Staff, Contractors and Volunteers* or information about the consideration of a matter under the Procedures for the Administration of the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW*;
 - i) could be perceived to be an official comment on behalf of the Council where they have not been authorised to make such comment;
 - j) commits the Council to any action;
 - k) violates an order made by a court;
 - l) breaches copyright;
 - m) advertises, endorses or solicits commercial products or business;
 - n) constitutes spam; and/or
 - o) is in breach of the rules of the social media platform.
- 3.1.4. Council Officials must:
- a) attribute work to the original author, creator or source when uploading or linking to content produced by a third party; and
 - b) obtain written permission from a minor's parent or legal guardian before uploading content in which the minor can be identified. (Note: for larger-scale events where filming and photography is likely to occur, Council displays a sign at the venue notifying the public that official images will be used on Council's website and social media channels. The sign has a link to Council's Privacy Policy and event attendees are also generally advised to alert a Council staff member if they do not give permission for images of themselves or their children to be used)
- 3.1.5. Council Officials must exercise caution when sharing, liking or retweeting content as this can be regarded as an endorsement and/or publication of the content.

- 3.1.6. Council Officials must not incite or encourage other persons to act in a way that is contrary to the requirements of this Part.
- 3.1.7. Councillors must uphold and accurately represent the policies and decisions of the Council's governing body but may explain why they voted on a matter in the way that they did. (See section 232(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 1993*).

4. Moderation of social media platforms

Note: Councillors and Council Officials should be aware that they may be considered a 'publisher' of any content uploaded onto a social media platform they administer, including content that:

- is uploaded by a third party; and/or
- appears on their social media platform because they have 'liked', 'shared', or 'retweeted' the content, or similar.

4.1. Responsibility

- 4.1.1. Council Officials who are responsible for the moderation of the Council's or Councillors' social media platforms may remove content and 'block' or ban a person from those platforms. Such actions must be undertaken in accordance with this Part.
- 4.1.2. For the purposes of this Part, 'social media platform' and 'platform' means both the Council's and Councillors' social media platforms.

4.2. House Rules

- 4.2.1. Social media platforms must state or provide an accessible link to the 'House Rules' for engaging on the platform.
- 4.2.2. At a minimum, the House Rules should specify:
 - a) the principles of social media engagement referred to in clause 1.1 of this Policy;
 - b) the type of behaviour or content that will result in that content being removed or 'hidden', or a person being blocked or banned from the platform;
 - c) the process by which a person can be blocked or banned from the platform and rights of review;
 - d) a statement relating to privacy and personal information (see clause 6.1.4 of this Policy);
 - e) when the platform will be monitored (for example weekdays 9am – 5pm, during the Council's business hours);
 - f) that the social media platform is not to be used for making complaints about the Council or Council Officials; and
 - g) information about, or a link to, Council's Complaints Handling Policy.
- 4.2.3. For the purposes of clause 4.2.2(b), third parties engaging on social media platforms must not post or share comments, photos, videos, electronic recordings, or other information that:
 - a) is defamatory, offensive, humiliating, threatening, or intimidating to Council Officials or members of the public;
 - b) contains profane language or is sexual in nature;
 - c) constitutes harassment and/or bullying within the meaning of the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW*, or is unlawfully discriminatory;
 - d) contains content about the Council, Council Officials or members of the public that is misleading or deceptive;
 - e) breaches the privacy of Council Officials or members of the public;

- f) contains allegations of suspected breaches of the Council's *Code of Conduct* or information about the consideration of a matter under the *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW*;
- g) violates an order made by a court;
- h) breaches copyright;
- i) advertises, endorses or solicits commercial products or business. (Note: in some cases where a business, event or vendor has officially partnered with Council, an exception may be granted);
- j) constitutes spam; and/or
- k) would be in breach of the rules of the social media platform.

4.3. Removal or 'hiding' of content

- 4.3.1. Where a person uploads content onto a social media platform that, in the reasonable opinion of the moderator, is of a kind specified under clause 4.2.3, the moderator may remove or 'hide' that content.
- 4.3.2. Prior to removing or 'hiding' the content, the moderator must make a record of it (for example, a screenshot).
- 4.3.3. If the moderator removes or 'hides' the content under clause 4.3.1, they must, where practicable, notify the person who uploaded the content that it has been removed and the reason(s) for its removal and their rights of review.
- 4.3.4. A person may request a review of a decision by a moderator to remove or 'hide' content under clause 4.3.1. The request must be made in writing to the CEO and state the grounds on which the request is being made.
- 4.3.5. Where a review request is made under clause 4.3.1, the review is to be undertaken by the CEO, SMA or a member of staff nominated by the CEO who is suitably qualified and who was not involved in the decision to remove or 'hide' the content.

4.4. Removing defamatory content from Community Groups

- 4.4.1. If a Council employee is directly named and/or spoken about in any way outlined in clause 4.2.3, Council will contact the group administrators and request the post be removed. This will be undertaken by Council's Human Resources, Risk Management, Governance and Communications Teams.

4.5. Blocking or banning

- 4.5.1. If a person uploads content that is removed or 'hidden' under clause 4.3.1 of this Policy on three (3) or more occasions, that person may be blocked or banned from the social media platform.
- 4.5.2. A person may only be blocked or banned from a Council social media platform with the approval of the CEO or SMA. This clause does not apply to blocking or banning a person from a Councillor's social media platform.
- 4.5.3. Prior to blocking or banning a person from a social media platform, the person must, where practicable, be advised of the intention to block or ban them from the platform and be given a chance to respond. Any submission made by the person must be considered prior to a determination being made to block or ban them.
- 4.5.4. The duration of the block or ban is to be determined by the CEO or SMA, or in the case of a Councillor's social media platform, the Councillor.
- 4.5.5. Where a determination is made to block or ban a person from a social media platform (or all social media platforms), the person must, where practicable, be notified in writing of the decision and the reasons for it. The written notice must also advise the person which social media platforms they are blocked or banned from and the duration of the block or ban and inform them of their rights of review.

- 4.5.6. Despite clauses 4.5.1 to 4.5.5, where a person uploads content of a kind referred to under clause 4.2.3, and the moderator is reasonably satisfied that the person's further engagement on the social media platform poses a risk to health and safety or another substantive risk (such as the uploading of defamatory content), an interim block or ban from the platform/all platforms may be imposed on the person immediately for a period no longer than (two (2) weeks).
- 4.5.7. A person who is blocked or banned from the platform/all platforms under clause 4.5.6 must, where practicable, be given a chance to respond to the interim block or ban being imposed. Any submission made by the person must be considered when determining whether the interim block or ban is to be removed or retained under clauses 4.5.1 to 4.5.5.
- 4.5.8. A person may request a review of a decision to block or ban them from a social media platform. The request must be made in writing to the CEO and state the grounds on which the request is being made.
- 4.5.9. Where a review request is made under clause 4.5.8, the review is to be undertaken by the CEO or a member of staff nominated by the CEO who is suitably qualified and who was not involved in the decision to block or ban the person. Where the decision to block or ban the person was made by the CEO, the review must be undertaken by another senior and suitably qualified member of staff who was not involved in the decision.
- 4.5.10. Where a person that is the subject of a block or ban continues to engage on a social media platform(s) using an alternative social media account, profile, avatar, etc., a moderator may block or ban the person from the platform(s) immediately. In these circumstances, clauses 4.5.1 to 4.5.8 do not apply.

5. Use of social media during emergencies

5.1. Management

- 5.1.1. During emergencies, such as natural disasters or public health incidents, the Communications Team will be responsible for the management of content on the Council's social media platforms.
- 5.1.2. During emergencies, content will be determined/directed by Council's Crisis Management Team.
- 5.1.3. To ensure consistent messaging both during and after an emergency, authorised users and Council Officials must not upload content onto the Council's or their own social media platforms which contradicts advice issued by the agency coordinating the emergency response, or agencies supporting recovery efforts.
- 5.1.4. Training on social media use during emergencies should be included in training and/or induction provided to authorised users and Councillors.

6. Records management and privacy requirements

6.1. Records management

- 6.1.1. Social media content created, sent and received by Council Officials (including Councillors) acting in their official capacity is a Council record and may constitute open access information or be subject to an information access application made under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. These records must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* and the Council's approved records management policies and practices.
- 6.1.2. You must not destroy, alter, or remove social media content unless authorised to do so. If you need to alter or remove social media content, you must do so in accordance with this Policy, and consult with the Council's Records Coordinator and comply with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998*.

- 6.1.3. When/if a Councillor's term of office concludes, the Councillor must contact the Council's records manager and CEO or SMA to manage/transfer records of social media content created during their term of office and comply with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998*.
- 6.1.4. In fulfilling their obligations under clauses 6.1.1 to 6.1.3, Council Officials should refer to any guidance issued by the *State Archives and Records Authority of NSW* relating to retention requirements for Councils' and Councillors' social media content¹.

6.2. Privacy considerations and requirements

- 6.2.1. Social media communications are in the public domain. Council Officials should exercise caution about what personal information, if any, they upload onto social media.
- 6.2.2. The *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* applies to the use of social media platforms by the Council and Councillors. To mitigate potential privacy risks, Council Officials will:
 - a) advise people not to provide personal information on social media platforms;
 - b) inform people if any personal information they may provide on social media platforms is to be used for official purposes;
 - c) moderate comments to ensure they do not contain any personal information; and
 - d) advise people to contact the Council or Councillors through alternative channels if they have personal information they do not want to disclose in a public forum.
- 6.2.3. Council Officials must ensure they comply with the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* when engaging on and/or moderating social media platforms. In fulfilling their obligations, Council Officials should refer to any guidance issued by the Information and Privacy Commission of NSW, such as, but not limited to, the Health Privacy Principles.

7. Private use of social media

Note: Activities on social media websites are public activities. Even though privacy settings are available, content can still be shared and accessed beyond the intended recipients.

The terms and conditions of most social media sites state that all content becomes the property of the site on which it is posted.²

7.1. What constitutes 'private' use

- 7.1.1. For the purposes of this Policy, a Council Official's social media engagement will be considered 'private use' when the content they upload:
 - a) is not associated with, or does not refer to, the Council, any other Council Officials, contractors, related entities or any other person or organisation providing services to or on behalf of the Council in their official or professional capacities; and
 - b) is not related to or does not contain information acquired by virtue of their employment or role as a Council Official.
- 7.1.2. If a Council official chooses to identify themselves as a Council Official, either directly or indirectly (such as in their user profile), then they will not be deemed to be acting in their private capacity for the purposes of this Policy.

¹ See State Archives and Records Authority of NSW Government Recordkeeping / Advice and Resources / Local

² Social Media: Guidance for Agencies and Staff (Government of South Australia) – page 9

- 7.1.3. While Council cannot dictate what employees say or do in their private time, please be aware that, as a Council employee, you are bound by *Council's Code of Conduct – Council Staff, Contractors and Volunteers* Identified breaches of the *Code of Conduct* will be internally addressed, as required by the Code.
- 7.1.4. It is also worth considering clause 4.2.3 on the types of behaviour that are generally banned on most social media groups.

Note: excessive use of social media can exacerbate mental health issues. Please be considerate of others and look after your own wellbeing when using social media.

7.2. Use of social media during work hours

- 7.2.1. Council employees may only access and engage on social media in their private capacity while at work during breaks.
- 7.2.2. Council employees who access and engage on social media in their private capacity during work hours must ensure it does not interfere with the performance of their official duties.
- 7.2.3. Employees may in some instances need to use social media for work purposes. For example: where the use of social media directly benefits or informs employees in the course of their work (eg: checking on relevant news or community issues, or following updates from companies such as Microsoft that use social media to keep customers informed of outages or other technical issues.) In this area, Managers should clearly outline to their team or each employee what is a reasonable use of social media. This does not constitute 'private use of social media'.
- 7.2.4. Employees may also be directed to use sites such as YouTube to watch training or informative videos and tutorials. This does not constitute 'private use of social media'.

8. Concerns or complaints

8.1. Process

- 8.1.1. Concerns or complaints about the administration of a Council's social media platforms should be made to the Council's CEO or SMA in the first instance.
- 8.1.2. Complaints about the conduct of Council Officials (including Councillors) on social media platforms may be directed to the CEO.
- 8.1.3. Complaints about a CEO's conduct on social media platforms may be directed to the Mayor.

9. Concerns or complaints

9.1. Process

- 9.1.1. Concerns or complaints about the administration of a Council's social media platforms should be made to the Council's CEO or SMA in the first instance.
- 9.1.2. Complaints about the conduct of Council Officials (including Councillors) on social media platforms may be directed to the CEO.
- 9.1.3. Complaints about a CEO's conduct on social media platforms may be directed to the Mayor.

Related Forms/Documents

- Community Engagement Strategy
- Social Media Policy 2016

Attachments

Nil	
-----	--

Authorisation

Name: Chief Executive Officer – Council Resolution No: 23/103OC

Date: 18 April 2024