

The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Thursday, 22 November 2018

Expansion of Webcasting

Item number	8.2
Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	None

Executive Summary

The Council agreed on 3 May 2018 to offer support and facilities to the Pensions Committee, Licensing Board and Edinburgh Integration Joint Board to enable webcasting for each body should they choose to do so. As requested, this report provides a six-month update outlining the response of each body.

Expansion of Webcasting

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the update.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 15 March 2018, Council approved a motion by Councillor Miller recognising the benefits of webcasting and noting that some meetings were held in public but were not webcast. The motion also asked for a report looking at the feasibility, benefits and costs of introducing webcasting for public meetings, including but not limited to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB), Licensing Board and the Pensions Committee.
- 2.2 A report was submitted to Council on 3 May 2018 outlining the associated costs of expanding webcasting and seeking approval to offer the use of webcasting facilities to the Pensions Committee, Licensing Board and the EIJB. Council agreed to offer the facilities and support to enable webcasting for each body should they choose to do so.

3. Main report

Pensions Committee

- 3.1 A report was considered by the Pensions Committee on 26 September 2018 outlining advantages and disadvantages of webcasting. The Committee concluded that the benefits of its existing format outweighed the advantages of introducing webcasting. Concerns were raised that participation, challenge and the ability to discuss sensitive matters in an open and transparent way would be hindered.
- 3.2 The Pensions Committee therefore agreed that it would not webcast meetings as it considered its current practices, including the involvement of the Pension Board, to be open and transparent and relevant for the pension fund's stakeholders.

Licensing Board

- 3.3 On 28 May 2018 the Licensing Board discussed the possibility of webcasting meetings and the practicalities of doing so. It was agreed in principle to webcast meetings.

- 3.4 The Licensing Board is currently in the process of updating its statement of Licensing Policy. A report providing further information on webcasting has been scheduled for the conclusion of this process. This is expected to be in November 2018.

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

- 3.5 On 13 May 2018 the Joint Board agreed a one-year webcasting pilot.
- 3.6 Bespoke webcast training was offered to all board members and an interactive session took place in advance of the go-live date.
- 3.7 The first meeting to be webcast was on 28 September 2018. There were 48 live viewers and have been 150 archive views to date. This was the first live webcast of an Integration Joint Board meeting in Scotland.
- 3.8 Joint Board meetings will continue to be webcast, and a summary of the year-long pilot presented to its members in Autumn 2019.

Other meetings and webcasting development

- 3.9 The Council continues to webcast the majority of its committee meetings and has recently entered into a new two-year contract for the provision of this service with the option to extend for a further two years. This upgrade includes high definition cameras and enhanced slide capability and took place during the October 2018 political recess. The new contractual arrangement allows for additional flexibility should additional services and hours be required.
- 3.10 The first meeting of the Edinburgh South East of Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee was webcast on 2 November 2018 utilising the Council's system. Future meetings will continue to be webcast.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 To encourage open and transparent discussion and decision making.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Based on the frequency and length of meetings, approximately £1200 each per annum for Edinburgh Integration Joint Board and Licensing Board is expected in additional contract charges.
- 5.2 Additional officer resource costs have also been incurred to provide webcasting support. This has been contained within existing budgets.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Any risk to the extension of webcasting particular meetings should be considered by the relevant board/committee as set out in the report.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Webcasting meetings allows a greater ability for the public to view meetings.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no sustainability impacts as a result of this report. Webcasting may reduce travel as people can view the meetings at their convenience.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Bodies in question were consulted by way of a committee/board report and discussion to determine the appropriateness of webcasting.
- 9.2 Training and guidance is made available for all members of bodies to be webcast by the Council's Governance and Committee Services Team in partnership with Facilities Management.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 The City of Edinburgh Council 3 May 2018 – [Webcasting of Council Meetings](#)
- 10.2 Pensions Committee 26 September 2018 - [Webcasting](#)

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11. Appendices
