

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2016

REFERENCE FROM DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE: 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2016

“ WEBCASTING OF MEETINGS (HDS) –

The webcasting of meetings of the Planning Committee was one of the ways in which the Council had sought to increase accessibility in terms of its decision-making processes. with the “end product” being comparable to Local Authorities who had engaged external providers of a webcasting service. Subject to Members' views, it was proposed that webcasting be extended to include meetings of Full Council. This would further demonstrate the Council's commitment to the process. Whilst consideration had been given to the possibility of including other meetings in the process, by its very nature, such an approach would have immediate resource implications. For example, the concept of webcasting Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees would result in approximately 70/80 meetings having to be resourced (i.e. ICT officer attendance), the majority of which took place in the evening. In the current climate, in which savings were constantly having to be effected, it was not considered that incurring additional staffing costs of such a scale could be justified.

Any costs associated with the expansion of webcasting to include meetings of Full Council would be met from within existing resources.

Members supported the concept of extending the existing arrangements to include, on a trial basis, meetings of Full Council. It was agreed that an “internal” trial webcast should take place (as had occurred with the Planning Committee) in order that any adjustments required could be made prior to live webcasting commencing.

Officers pointed out that, in terms of configuring the equipment to webcast a Full Council meeting, there would be significant differences compared to the arrangements for Planning Committee. These included the fact that there would be a lot more Members present and, importantly, the Council's Constitution contained a requirement for Members to stand when addressing meetings of Council. This contrasted with the “fixed” position of Members sitting in a Planning Committee meeting.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet be recommended to agree the extension of webcasting of the Council's meetings to include Full Council, the first meeting of which would be an internal exercise in order that any issues arising could be addressed prior to the subsequent commencement of live webcasting of Full Council meetings.

(2) T H A T the Head of Democratic Services consider whether any amendments to the Council's Constitution will be required to facilitate effective webcasting of Full Council meetings and, if so, to report to Full Council accordingly..

Reason for decisions

(1&2) To further improve accessibility in terms of the Council's decision-making processes."

Attached as Appendix – [Report to Democratic Services Committee](#): 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016