

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Standards Committee
Date: 6 March 2019
Report for: Discussion
Report of: Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

Report Title

Webcasting of Committee Meetings - Review

Summary

Following the Constitution Working Groups recommendations to Council on 28 November 2018, webcasting of Committee meetings has been introduced. This report provides a brief summary of functioning so far.

Recommendation(s)

That the Working Group notes the performance of webcasting to date and considers whether the practice can be modified.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Ian Cockill
Extension: 1387

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following agreement of the Constitution Working Group's recommendations by Council on 28 November 2018, webcasting of the authorities meetings in addition to the main Council meeting, commenced on 10 December 2018 with the broadcast of the Employment Committee.

2.0 Current Arrangements

- 2.1 The Constitution Working Group agreed to purchase portable standalone equipment to support the webcasting facilities provided by Public-I in the Council Chamber and stream those meetings not held in the Council Chamber on YouTube for a 12 month trial basis. This was a cost-effective approach given that the Council still had a two year contract with Public-I, with the associated costs being incorporated into the Democratic Services budget.
- 2.2 Due to the IT network configuration in the Town Hall, the Council currently has the ability to webcast meetings on the YouTube platform from Committee Rooms 2 and 3, Thomas De Trafford A and B and Meeting Room 6. Due to the specialist IT connections and modifications needed to allow streaming it is not possible to webcast meetings offsite away from the Town Hall.
- 2.3 General notice that meetings are webcast is included on the Council's homepage and each agenda carries a notice. Announcements at the outset of meetings and notices in and around the meeting room advise members of the public that meetings are being broadcast and will be available to view on YouTube at a later date and that they may elect not to be filmed. The camera is focused on the meeting table and does not show the public gallery.

Public-I Contract

- 2.4 The Council has a webcasting package with Public-I, which includes up to 30 hours of webcasting annually and technical support for a cost of £9k per year. Anything used above the 30 hours is charged at £38 per additional hour. The full Council and GMCA meetings have not exceeded this 30 hours in the past.
- 2.5 Public-I's standard hours package is 30 hours. They do not offer any other packages with more hours included, so any additional hour would be charged at the £38 per hour mentioned above.
- 2.6 Since the expansion of web-casting, the Licensing Sub-Committee has utilised Public-I in the Council Chamber on 2 occasions and 2 unscheduled GMCA meetings have also been held. An option maybe to consider levying a charge for external uses of the Chamber should additional costs be incurred for exceeding the 30 hour package.

3.0 Webcasts and Viewing Figures

- 3.1 To date the following meetings have been webcast generating the amount of views shown below:

Meeting (webcast on YouTube except *Public-I)	Date	Views @ 26.02.19
Employment Committee	10 December 2018	91
Health Scrutiny Committee	12 December 2018	138
Planning & Development Management Committee	13 December 2018	376
Licensing Sub-Committee*	14 December 2018	10*
Executive	17 December 2018	140
Licensing Sub-Committee*	20 December 2018	52*
Scrutiny Committee	9 January 2019	70
Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee	15 January 2019	52
Safety at Sports Grounds Sub- Committee	23 January 2019	27
Health Scrutiny Committee	24 January 2019	90
Executive	28 January 2019	123
Council*	30 January 2019	No figures available on Public-I
Accounts and Audit	6 February 2019	44
Scrutiny Committee	12 February 2019	93
Planning & Development Management Committee	14 February 2019	137
Budget Executive	20 February 2019	33
Budget Council*	20 February 2019	118*
Executive	25 February 2019	16
Total (17 meetings)		1610

3.2 All Committee's meeting the Access to Information Requirement have been broadcast, with the exception of the Planning and Development Committee on 10 January 2019 which was held at Lancashire Cricket Club. Furthermore, the Licensing Sub-Committee on 14 January 2019 was not web-cast because of the confidential nature of the proceedings.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 That the Committee notes the performance of webcasting to date.