

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
NAME OF COMMITTEE:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING:	14 DECEMBER, 2016
TITLE:	WEBCASTING
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	TO REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017/18
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1.0 Background and context

- 1.1 The Democratic Services Committee has requested a report on the options available in relation to webcasting including extending to Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Since June 2014, the Council has been piloting webcasting meetings of the Council, Executive and Planning and Orders Committees and progress reports submitted to this Committee. The Council's current arrangements for webcasting meetings are in line with a number of Councils in Wales and some authorities have extended webcasting to include Scrutiny Committees, particularly to cover items of particular public interest.

2.0 Future Requirements

- 2.1 The national context needs to be borne in mind in planning the way forward. It is likely that Welsh Government will refer to webcasting in the next Local Government Bill and any future mandatory requirements. The White Paper, Reforming Local Government Power to Local People (February 2015) made reference to "the intention at the time to legislate to require that all full Council and Executive meetings must be broadcast online, at the same time encouraging the broadcasting of Committees".

3.0 Funding

- 3.1 Members will be aware that each Council received a grant of £40k from Welsh Government towards the initial cost of piloting webcasting. The

current position on funding is that there is provision in the budget to cover costs in 2016/17 only – annual costs being approximately £10,000 and no provision included in the draft settlement.

- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee authorises the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee, to make representations to Welsh Government seeking the continuation of grant funding to cover the costs of webcasting and obligations that may be set out in a future Local Government Bill, which is viewed as an additional cost to local government at a time of reduced budgets.
- 3.3 In view of the need for clarity on future requirements and central Government funding, the SLT recommend that current arrangements should continue for 2017/18. This Committee may wish to undertake an evaluation of the current pilot after a 3 year period i.e in 2017/18 once clarity is received from Welsh Government.
- 3.4 In the meantime, it is recommended that provision will need to be allocated in the budget for 2017/18 to cover current costs.

4.0 Recommendations

- 1) To continue with the pilot of webcasting meetings of the Council, Executive and Planning and Orders Committee in 2017/18.
- 2) To recommend to the Executive that a sum of £10,000 be included in the budget for 2017/18 to cover necessary costs.
- 3) That representations be made to Welsh Government in accordance with para 3.2 above with regard to central government funding to cover cost and any future statutory requirements.

Huw Jones
Head of Democratic Services
05.12.16