

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

County Council  
13th October, 2022

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

**SUBJECT:** Broadcasting Council Meetings

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Council is asked to consider a recommendation from the Democratic Services Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, for a return to live broadcasting of all Council meetings within 60 days of the Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Prior to the pandemic in 2020 the Council broadcast meetings of Full Council and the Cabinet only through a contract with Public-I. During the pandemic Full Council, Cabinet and other meetings of the Council were broadcast live using Teams Live software. However, this software could not provide the ability for simultaneous translation.
- 2.2 During this period Zoom software licences were purchased which allowed simultaneous translation to be provided for those in the meeting but not for the public.
- 2.3 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 has clarified that the minimum requirement for broadcasting of Council meetings is that the Full Council meeting itself only has to be broadcast. Prior to the AGM in May in order to re-introduce the translation facility and to allow for hybrid meetings, the Executive Management Team took the decision to go back to the pre-pandemic position to broadcast the Full Council and Cabinet meetings only using the Public-I system as there was insufficient funding to broadcast all meetings using the Public-I system. It was estimated that the additional cost of webcasting all meetings, which does not include the current contract cost for the Cabinet and Council of over £15,000 would be over £80,000 per year (based on the current hourly rate for webcasting x the average length of a meeting x number of meetings per year).
- 2.4 The Democratic Services Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> September considered the current position and made the following recommendation to the Council:
- Resolved that the Democratic Services Committee recommends to Full Council on October 6 for an immediate return of press and public access to live broadcasts of planning, scrutiny, employment, democratic services and all any other meetings which previously were accessible and that the issue of “live” broadcasts is resolved within 60 days of this Full Council meeting.**
- 2.5 Since this meeting officers have been testing Zoom webinars / events which provides the ability to broadcast meetings live to the public and also allows the public to hear simultaneous translation where this is required. This way of

broadcasting can be done at a much lower cost than originally thought. Further testing of the software is required as well as some retraining for Members and subject to this work it is hoped that the Council can return to full broadcasting as required by the Democratic Services Committee. There will be an additional cost of £3560 per annum for Zoom webinar / events licences which can be accommodated within the existing budget.

### 3. **Resource Implications**

- 3.1 Additional funding was allocated in the current years budget to meet the additional costs of webcasting, the additional £3,560 per annum can be met from this allocation.
- 3.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the above and can support the recommendation.

### 4. **Legal implications**

- 4.1 Legal: the recommendations can be accepted from a legal point of view
- 4.2 The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

<b>Recommendation to Council:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>That officers continue to test and implement the use of Zoom webinars / events to live broadcast planning, scrutiny, employment, democratic services and all any other meetings which previously were accessible within 60 days of the from the date of this resolution.</b>	<b>To deliver the recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee to broadcast all Council meetings to the public within 60 days of the Council meeting.</b>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Wyn Richards</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	

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### **Background Papers used to prepare Report:**