

Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee
Tuesday, 11 June 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Webcast Project Update – Viewing Statistics
REPORT OF:	Director: Governance and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is:

To provide Members with an update on Council and Committee webcast viewing statistics, as requested by the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee at its meeting held on 29 August 2018 (Minute 9 refers).

RECOMMENDATION/S: That

Views of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee are requested.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee is requested to keep the Council's constitutional arrangements under review (including meeting procedures) and to make such recommendations to the Council as it considers appropriate.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Members views are requested.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Early in 2016 consideration was given to a proposal to introduce Webcasting of the public meetings of Wirral Council, namely the procurement of:

- a) A Webcasting solution to stream / record and digitally store its Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings and associated activities i.e. staff briefings and training events.
- b) An audio / visual solution to replace the current facilities in Wallasey Town Hall (Council Chamber, Civic Hall and Committee Rooms 1, 2 & 3.
- c) A replacement / upgrade of the Council's Electronic voting system in the Council Chamber at Wallasey Town Hall. Including all Council Chamber microphones.

- 3.2 A Capital budget allocation of £225,000 was confirmed by Cabinet at its meeting 20 February 2017, and subsequently by Council on 6 March 2017. An additional Capital sum of £6,401 was agreed by SLT at its meeting on 19 December 2017 and has been met from the departments existing budget allocations (some additional expenditure is also being met from facilities and IT contingency budget heads e.g. Council Chamber carpeting, Committee Room furniture and broadband connections).

- 3.3 Following budget approval at Cabinet, and subsequently by Council on 6 March 2017, a project team was established and tendering for the above products took place.

- 3.4 Following competitive tender process, on 8 January 2018 a contract was awarded to contractor Public-i, the leading supplier of technology and the market leader in provision of webcasting services to local councils in England and Wales. The current contract is in place for a period of 3 years.

Viewing Statistics

- 3.5 At its meeting held on 29 August 2018 the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee requested an update on viewing statistics to be presented at the end of the Municipal Year i.e. covering a full 12 month period (Minute 9 refers).

- 3.6 It is well known that attendance at public meetings is dependent upon the business of Council, and the same applies for live broadcast and archive views of Council / Committee meetings.
- 3.7 A number of Wirral's recent Council meetings have generated significant public interest, necessitating use of 'overflow rooms' where members of the public who were unable to access the Council Chamber viewing gallery could watch proceedings via the weblink.
- 3.8 As a result some statistics may not (positively) reflect the full level of public interest for specific meetings. It should also be noted that some archive views of meetings can be generated by council officers who utilise the archive to assist in the preparation of meeting minutes and actions arising as a result of Member debate.
- 3.9 Proposals for dealing with meetings with a high public turnout were reported to the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee meeting on 20 November 2018.
- 3.10 At the time of reporting to the November meeting of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, a total of 23 meetings had been webcast. See summary below (as at midday 5 November):
- 494 'live' views during all meetings
 - 2358 access views to the archive
 - 2852 Total
- 3.11 At the time of preparation of this report, the viewing figures for the Municipal Year 2018/19 (67 meetings) are as follows:
- 1842 'live' views during all meetings
 - 6911 access views to the archive
 - 8753 Total

A breakdown of the above figures is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT; STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 General guidance on the resource implications arising from the project were provided to Members in their consideration during planning and procurement (pre-tender) and during options for the delivery stages of the project. Further consultation will take place with Members, HR and other service areas of the Council if required.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are no identified risks arising directly from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 Since its initial inception, the Webcasting Project has been the subject of a range of consultative meetings culminating in budgetary approval via Cabinet and Council in early 2017. During 2018 SLT, the Elected Member Steering Group, Political Leadership and the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee have been consulted on a variety of options in respect of the Webcasting Project.

8.2 Members views are sought.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Webcasting viewing figures

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

APPENDIX 1

Webcast title	Live date	All views	Live views	Archive views
Audit and Risk Management Committee	24/04/19 18:00	71	20	51
Planning Committee	17/04/19 18:00	215	90	125
Joint Strategic Commissioning Board	02/04/19 14:00	57	15	42
Pensions Committee	25/03/19 18:00	29	2	27
Cabinet	25/03/19 10:00	71	13	58
Planning Committee	21/03/19 18:00	82	16	66
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19/03/19 18:00	39	0	39
Council	18/03/19 18:00	193	63	130
Council	18/03/19 17:00	94	19	75
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13/03/19 18:00	39	11	28
Audit and Risk Management Committee	11/03/19 18:00	106	27	79
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	05/03/19 18:00	43	6	37
Council	04/03/19 18:00	588	57	531
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27/02/19 18:00	54	12	42
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee	26/02/19 18:00	28	5	23
Council	25/02/19 18:00	702	319	383
Cabinet	25/02/19 10:00	95	8	87
Cabinet	18/02/19 10:00	86	15	71
Planning Committee	14/02/19 18:00	56	0	56
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	07/02/19 16:00	184	42	142
Joint Strategic Commissioning Board	05/02/19 14:00	34	8	26
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee	31/01/19 18:00	21	5	16
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30/01/19 18:00	427	138	289
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29/01/19 18:00	56	8	48
Audit and Risk Management Committee	28/01/19 18:00	27	3	24

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	24/01/19 18:00	48	12	36
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22/01/19 18:00	75	8	67
Pensions Committee	21/01/19 18:00	42	5	37
Planning Committee	17/01/19 18:00	81	21	60
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15/01/19 18:00	170	61	109
Cabinet	17/12/18 10:00	173	20	153
Planning Committee	13/12/18 18:00	110	21	89
Council	10/12/18 18:00	510	99	411
Joint Strategic Commissioning Board	04/12/18 14:00	30	12	18
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29/11/18 18:00	62	9	53
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28/11/18 18:00	53	4	49
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27/11/18 18:00	59	11	48
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27/11/18 16:00	86	32	54
Cabinet	26/11/18 10:00	162	41	121
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee	20/11/18 18:00	25	3	22
Audit and Risk Management Committee	19/11/18 18:00	33	4	29
Planning Committee	15/11/18 18:00	95	10	85
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13/11/18 18:00	93	19	74
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12/11/18 18:00	278	51	227
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee	07/11/18 18:00	39	3	36
Pensions Committee	29/10/18 18:00	41	4	37
Planning Committee	18/10/18 18:00	125	18	107
Joint Strategic Commissioning Board	16/10/18 14:00	83	19	64
Council	15/10/18 18:00	487	111	376
Cabinet	01/10/18 10:00	80	11	69
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25/09/18 18:00	76	16	60
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20/09/18 18:00	174	6	168
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	18/09/18 18:00	68	8	60
Planning Committee	13/09/18 18:00	164	32	132

Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12/09/18 18:00	134	12	122
Council	10/09/18 18:00	515	132	383
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee	29/08/18 17:00	23	1	22
Joint Strategic Commissioning Board	21/08/18 14:00	98	3	95
Planning Committee	16/08/18 18:00	85	15	70
Audit and Risk Management Committee	23/07/18 18:00	64	5	59
Cabinet	23/07/18 10:00	229	24	205
Planning Committee	19/07/18 18:00	156	19	137
Cabinet	16/07/18 09:50	48	5	43
Council	09/07/18 17:55	110	17	93
Planning Committee	21/06/18 17:55	82	11	71
Annual Full Council Part 2	15/05/18 17:45	144	10	134
Wirral Mayor Making Annual Council Part 1	14/05/18 18:45	146	15	131
Total Views:		8753	1842	6911