

Report

Webcasting of Integration Joint Board Meetings

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

18 May 2018

Executive Summary

1. The City of Edinburgh Council has considered a report on the possibility of extending webcasting to a range of public meetings, including the Integration Joint Board.
2. The Integration Joint Board decides all its meeting arrangements, including schedules, accommodation etc.
3. The Integration Joint Board is therefore invited to consider the offer of webcasting facilities for its meetings in future.

Recommendations

4. The Integration Joint Board is asked to decide whether it wishes future meetings to be webcast live, and archived.
5. If agreed, this could be on a pilot basis for a period of up to one year, subject to review.

Background

6. The City of Edinburgh Council currently webcasts around 220 hours of meetings per annum.
7. Significant benefits have been realised in terms of accountability, transparency and public access. Viewing figures though are mixed, depending on the topic. High profile meetings can attract over 1000 live viewers, while the average is 50 – 100 live viewings. However, there is considerable take-up of archived recordings, often months after meetings.
8. Following a motion by Councillor Miller agreed at the March 2018 meeting, the Council has now agreed to offer the use of webcasting facilities to a number of meetings, including the Integration Joint Board.

Main report

9. Webcasting facilities exist in two rooms in the City Chambers, the main Council Chamber and the Dean of Guild Court Room. The latter is currently used as the meeting room for the Integration Joint Board.
10. Should the Integration Joint Board agree, it would be possible for future Joint Board meetings to be webcast live, and recorded. This could be done on a pilot basis, subject to review after a year. As with Council meetings, webcasting would be limited to items considered in public.
11. Webcasting services could be accommodated within the Council's webcasting contract, and Council officers could provide the necessary support for live webcasting.
12. Appropriate guidance would be offered to Joint Board members, should the pilot be agreed.

Key risks

13. It is possible live webcasting might inhibit members' contributions at meetings. This has not been the Council's experience, but there is a risk, especially for non-voting members.

Financial implications

14. The additional cost of webcasting Joint Board meetings would be £1200 per annum.

Implications for Directions

15. None.

Equalities implications

16. Webcasting meetings allows a greater proportion of the public to view meetings.

Sustainability implications

17. None.

Involving people

18 Relevant officers have been consulted.

Impact on plans of other parties

19 None.

Background reading/references

20 City of Edinburgh Council, 3 May 2018

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