

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Council

Date of meeting: 21st March 2024

Title: Broadcasting of additional committee meetings

Purpose of the report: To consider the recommendations in relation to increasing the number of meetings broadcasted

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Democratic Services, Policy, Performance and People and Organisation

Background

Ceredigion County Council currently broadcasts the proceedings at all Council and Cabinet meetings. This exceeds the current requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, which relates to principal Council meetings only. These meetings are currently broadcasted via the Council's Facebook sites, which is extremely resource intensive as it requires an ICT officer to attend all meetings remotely in order to facilitate the live-streaming to both the Ceredigion County Council Facebook site (which provides a broadcast with translation) and to the Cyngor Sir Ceredigion Facebook site (which provides a broadcast 'as spoken').

In October 2023, ICT and Democratic Services Officers carried out tests to the live-streaming components of the hybrid meeting management system to ensure that it was able to meet the requirements for broadcasting before the system went live. The testing was successful, however it will require some further development by ICT to ensure that the sharing presentation functionality of the process works. Once this has been completed the Democratic Services Officers will be able to manage the broadcasting without additional support from ICT Officers. This improvement provides the opportunity to increase the number of committee meetings that are broadcasted live and available for a specified period after the meeting, without the need for ICT Officers to be present.

During its meeting on 20 September 2023, members of the Democratic Services Committee requested that consideration is given to the live-streaming of additional committees.. A discussion paper was presented to the Democratic Services Committee for consideration at its meeting dated 28 February 2024. Members acknowledged the additional demands that would be placed upon Democratic Services Officers to manage the broadcasting process as well as managing the hybrid system and minute-taking. They also considered feedback received from other Local Authorities in Wales which recommend that the Monitoring Officer or his/her Deputy are present in all meetings being broadcasted. Consideration was therefore given to the capacity of the Monitoring Officer and Deputy to attend meetings and the recommendations reflect this.

Consideration was given as to which Committee could be live-streamed and it was agreed that the Development Management Committee would be the most appropriate due to public interest and due to the fact that the Monitoring Officer (or Deputy) is in attendance at all such meetings.

Following discussion, members of the Democratic Services Committee recommended the following schedule in relation to the broadcasting and asked that the schedule be reviewed at a future date, to consider extending the provision to include all Overview and Scrutiny Committees when capacity allows.

Recommended schedule for additional broadcasting

Council	Broadcasting provision already in place
Cabinet	Broadcasting provision already in place
Development Management Committee	To commence broadcasting from May 2024

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No, this proposal is in addition to meeting and exceeding the current legislative requirements.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

- Long term:** Consideration will be given to reviewing the broadcasting schedule as and when capacity allow this.
- Collaboration:** A discussion paper was presented and discussed with Members of the Democratic Services Committee
- Involvement:** Improve access and involvement of the public.
- Prevention:** Not applicable
- Integration:** Not applicable.

Recommendations:

For Council to approve that the provision for broadcasting of meetings is extended to include the Development Management Committee from May 2024.

Reasons for decision:

As recommended by the Democratic Services Committee and to extend access to the public to the Development Management Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Not applicable.

Policy Framework:

None

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Not applicable.

Finance and Procurement implications:

None.

Legal Implications:

None

Staffing implications:

No additional resources will be provided.

Property / asset implications:

None.

Risk(s):

None

Statutory Powers:

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

None

Corporate Lead Officer:

Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services

Reporting Officer:

Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services

Date:

29 February 2024