

Meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2022

Webcasting

Present: Councillor Parry, Councillor Milligan, Councillor Virgo,

Alan Turpie, Kevin Anderson, Saty Kaur, Marco Reece-Heal, Janet Ritchie (Action Note)

Saty Kaur advised that this meeting was to discuss the Webcasting report presented to Council in November and to consider the three options outlined within the report. This was separate to Hybrid Working and advised that another report would be presented to Council regarding costs for Hybrid Working.

Discussion took place regarding costings, issues with Quasi-Judicial meetings and the importance of being transparent. It was noted that the neighbouring Councils were webcasting more meetings than Midlothian Council and at the moment it was not costing Midlothian Council anything to webcast. Marco Reece-Heal confirmed although this was not costing the Council anything at present this may not be the case in the near future.

Further discussion took place regarding webcasting, MS Teams and audio recording. It was highlighted that the audio recording equipment in the Chambers was very old and there was uncertainty how long this would be able to be used. It was also highlighted that the webcasting kit in the Chambers was old and at the moment we are webcasting however there is no support service contract in place therefore no service for this.

It was noted that conducting in-person meetings was an interim arrangement until officers reported to Council to present options and costs for hybrid working.

It was agreed by all three Group Leaders:

- To webcast all governance meetings for public items while there is no cost involved.
- General Purposes Meetings will not be broadcast if only private business is on the agenda. The public element will be broadcast if there is public business otherwise like all meetings the broadcast will stop before going into private business
- Licensing Board will not be broadcast
- Police Fire and Rescue Board will not be broadcast
- MIJB will not be broadcast
- An update on this discussion regarding webcasting will be reported to Council at its December meeting as well as a report on Hybrid Working and the costs.