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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

27 August 2019

### Cabinet

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**Title:** Expansion of Webcasting

**Purpose:** To propose the expansion of the Council's webcasting arrangements to include meetings of the Cabinet.

**Recommendation:** The Cabinet is asked to approve the introduction of webcasting of meetings of the Cabinet.

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 All meetings of the full Council have been webcast since December 2017 and Integration Joint Board meetings will also be accessible to the public via webcast in the near future.
- 1.2 It is proposed that webcasting be extended to include meetings of the Cabinet.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 14 September 2016, the Council approved a motion to begin webcasting its meetings. Following acquisition of the necessary equipment, completion of staff training and establishment of a Webcasting Protocol, the first Council webcast took place on 20 December 2017. Budget provision has been made in subsequent financial years to maintain a webcasting contract.
- 2.2 The current contract with Public-i contract includes a 30-hour per year package of webcasts, which are available to view 'live' or indefinitely thereafter on archive, with an option to purchase further webcast time at an hourly/'bundle' rate as required.
- 2.3 A total of 14 Council meetings have been webcast to date, with a viewing peak for a single meeting of 175 'live' viewers and 434 archive viewers. Viewers are able to click to view a single webcast or can elect to subscribe for alerts on an ongoing basis.
- 2.4 There is capacity in the current contract to expand webcasting to a committee. As Cabinet is the main decision-making committee of the Council, it is logical that the next committee to be webcast is Cabinet.
- 2.5 At its meeting held on 20 June 2019, the Integration Joint Board agreed to commence webcasting its meetings. Staff from the Health and Social Care Partnership have since received the necessary training to operate the webcasting equipment and webcasts are due to commence in August 2019.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to approve the introduction of webcasting of meetings of the Cabinet.

### **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1 Any webcasting hours in excess of the 30 hours per year included in the current contract will incur an additional fee of £30 per hour, to be met from existing budgets. The Integration Joint Board will meet the extra costs relating to webcasting of their meetings.

#### **Human Resources**

- 4.2 Existing staff resources will be used to extend webcasting to Cabinet meetings, with one further Committee Services Officer attending meetings of the Cabinet to operate the webcasting equipment in addition to the team member clerking the meeting.
- 4.3 Due to the limited size of the Committee Services team, it will not be possible to apply the same level of resource to webcasting meetings of the Cabinet as for full Council meetings. Whilst no specific issues are anticipated, this may result in an interruption to the Cabinet webcast in the event of a significant technical issue arising.

#### **Legal**

- 4.3 None arising from the recommendations of the report.

#### **Equality/Socio-economic**

- 4.4 Webcasting arguably serves to make the Council's democratic processes more accessible and allows far more members of the public to view meetings than could be accommodated within the Council Chambers alone.

#### **Environmental and Sustainability**

- 4.5 None arising from the recommendations of the report.

#### **Key Priorities**

- 4.6 Webcasting supports the Council Plan priority outcome "An accessible Council that puts residents and communities at the heart of what we do" by using technology to make the Council's work more accessible.

#### **Community Wealth Building**

- 4.7 None arising from the recommendations of the report.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with Group Leaders and Independent Members, all of whom have expressed their support for, or indicated they have no objection to, the proposed expansion of webcasting to meetings of the Cabinet.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive

For further information please contact Melanie Anderson, Committee and Member Services Manager, on tel number 01294 324131.

### **Background Papers**

Correspondence with Group Leaders and Independent Members.