

Agenda Item:

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Resources**

Date: 13 March 2008

Report from: Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager

Title of report: **WEBCASTING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS: REFERRAL BY FULL COUNCIL TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

Purpose of report:

- To advise the committee that at it's meeting on 19 December 2007, Full Council resolved to refer the issue of webcasting public meetings to Overview and Scrutiny for further consideration.

Recommendations:

- **The committee agree to refer the issue of webcasting public meetings to the 2008 Annual Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny for inclusion in the 2008/09 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. At its meeting on 5 March 2007, Cabinet received a motion from Councillor Daniel on webcasting of public meetings and Cabinet asked that “officers be requested to investigate the feasibility of webcasting public meetings, including the costs and benefits of doing so” (minute 115 refers).
- 1.2. At its meeting on 5 November 2007, Cabinet received a report from the Head of Information Technology detailing the results of the investigation, including webcasting at other councils, benefits weaknesses and costs (minute 62 refers). Cabinet resolved that: -
 1. “Webcasting public meetings be not proceeded with on the basis that it does not represent value for money within the current financial climate and
 2. In order to facilitate larger meetings within the Town Hall, officers are requested to investigate the provision of improved communication links from the Council Chamber to an accessible room within the Town Hall”.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 19 December 2007, Full Council resolved that minute 62 of 5 November 2007 Cabinet be referred to Overview and Scrutiny for further consideration.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Part 29.8 of the Constitution states: -

“The Overview and Scrutiny Committees shall also respond, as soon as their work programme permits, to requests from the Council and if they consider it appropriate, the Cabinet, to review particular areas of Council activity”.
- 2.2 The work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny function is set by the Annual Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny and a full work programme was agreed in June 2007 for the 2007/08 Municipal Year that the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committees are progressing.
- 2.3 The work programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year will be set at the Annual Meeting on 17 June and it is recommended that the issue of “Webcasting Public Meetings” be included in the list of issues for the Overview and Scrutiny Resources Committee to review and submit a report to Cabinet.

Webcasting Public Meetings: Referral by Full Council to Overview and Scrutiny

Equalities & Community Cohesiveness	X
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	
Risk Management	
Environmental issues	
Economic / Financial implications	X
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	X

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