

# **SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY**

**9 June 2016**

## **Report of the Clerk**

### **WEBCASTING**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

*To seek approval for renewing the contract to webcast meetings of the Authority*

---

#### **2. Recommendations**

**Members are recommended:**

- a) **To agree to continue webcasting meeting of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority.**
  - b) **To note that costs are being negotiated with the service provider and will be reported to the next meeting of the Authority**
  - c) **To delegate responsibility to the Chair and Vice Chair for agreeing a 3 year webcasting contract renewal**
  - d) **To note the price economies under consideration which arise from entering into a joint webcasting contact with Barnsley MBC and multi-year agreement**
- 

#### **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 Webcasting is the live broadcast of meetings over the internet with access via computer, tablet and smartphone. Members' contributions are time stamped so that the viewer can browse all contributions by a specified member or scroll to a particular debate. Individual items can be shared and commented upon via social media.
- 3.2 The hardware and software are leased from Public-i Ltd which also provide a helpdesk during the webcast and host an archive of the webcast for six months after the meeting.
- 3.3 The Authority has webcast its meetings since 2006, along with the other South Yorkshire Joint Authorities. In 2015 the Joint Authorities entered into a joint contract with Barnsley MBC resulting in a reduction in costs for all parties.
- 3.4 Officers are currently in negotiations with Public-I to identify additional savings predicated on the agreement of a 3 year contract.

#### **4. Transparency**

- 4.1 The webcasting of the Authority supports transparency and engagement with stakeholders including employers and scheme members. The increased avenues for openness and accountability, which web technologies provide are important to gain public trust in the Authority's decision making. This complements the expectations regarding openness and transparency of meeting proceedings as defined in the 2014 Audit and Inspections Act.
- 4.2 Broadcasting meetings in this way encourages engagement and feedback, and overcomes exclusion: the hard of hearing can read a transcription, minority groups can read a translation, and citizens with reading difficulties can see and hear a streamed video.
- 4.3 There have been a total of 3956 live and archived viewings of South Yorkshire Pensions Authority meetings over the last 12 months (up from 2093 over the previous 12 months).

#### **6. Implications**

- 6.1 There is a low risk of legal action. This relates to the potential of defamatory statements by members of the Authority which are subsequently transmitted by webcast. However, the Authority can remove potentially defamatory statements from the archive copy of the webcast. The Authority's insurers have also stated the current liability policies will provide an indemnity in respect of any claims arising out of the webcast transmissions of Authority meetings.

M McCarthy  
Deputy Clerk

Officer responsible:  
C Tyler  
Principal Policy and Communications  
Officer 01226 772824