

# **SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY**

**6 October 2016**

## **Report of the Clerk**

### **WEBCASTING**

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

To provide Members with an update in respect of the Authority's webcasting contract

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#### **2. Recommendations**

**Members are recommended:**

- a) To note the cost of £2511 (ex VAT) for webcasting meetings of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, per annum for the next 3 years as part of the Joint Authorities webcasting contract.**
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#### **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 At the previous meeting of the Authority (9<sup>th</sup> June), Members agreed to enter into a 3 year webcasting contract for the live transmission and archived viewing facility of Pensions Authority meetings. At the time of the meeting, Members were informed that costs were being negotiated with the service provider in the interests of identifying potential cost savings as part of a longer term, joint contract with Barnsley MBC. Members agreed to delegate final responsibility to the Chair and Vice Chair for agreeing to enter into the contract.
- 3.2 The cost to the Authority is calculated against a percentage of the total hours broadcast by the webcasting partners (Pensions Authority, Fire Authority and Sheffield City Region Combined Authority), determined as a percentage of live hours broadcast.
- 3.3 The total cost of webcasting (ex VAT) is £13,217 p.a., which includes a 15% saving derived as a result of the above negotiations and of which the Pensions Authority is liable for a 19% proportion which equates to £2511 p.a.
- 3.4 On receipt of these figures, the Chair and Vice Chair approved the Authority entering into the 3 year contract on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **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.

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