

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

15 September 2023

Broadcasting and recording of public committee meetings

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report back to Members on the broadcasting and recording of public committee meetings.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a previous meeting of the Committee, Members requested an update report be brought to the Committee regarding arrangements for the broadcasting and recording of public committee meetings.

3.0 BROADCASTING AND RECORDING OF PUBLIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3.1 Before 1 April 2023, the district, borough and county councils in North Yorkshire all differed in their approaches to the recording and broadcasting of public meetings. In an attempt to avoid issues arising during the important initial few months of North Yorkshire Council, each former council area has been continuing with their previous policy and precedent with regards to the recording and broadcasting of meetings. What this then means for the new North Yorkshire Council is that meetings of Full Council, the Executive, the Police Fire and Crime Panel and Planning and some Area Constituency Committee meetings are routinely recorded/broadcast. In addition, a number of meetings are recorded/broadcast where there is significant public interest.
- 3.2 Moving beyond this interim or transition stage a consistent approach needs to be agreed upon and implemented.
- 3.3 A report will shortly be taken to Management Board and then Cabinet regarding the provision of the necessary technology at key sites in the county to enable some or all of the Council's public committee meetings (over 250 a year – see Appendix 1) to be recorded, broadcast and have hybrid access. The report will propose a range of costed options from carrying on as we are to recording/broadcasting all public committee meetings of the Council.
- 3.4 The majority of committee meetings are currently held at County Hall Northallerton but there are a significant number of committee meetings held in the former district and borough council areas. These tend to be meetings of planning, licensing and the Area Constituency Committees and are usually held at the former district and borough council offices. Consideration will also be given to additional sites for meetings in Ripon and Whitby and some form of mobile unit to enable recording/broadcasting of and hybrid access to committee meetings held elsewhere in the county.
- 3.5 The equipping of a number of sites to the same standard for recording/broadcasting and hybrid access to committee meetings will be a significant piece of work. Consideration will also need to be given to long term technical and staff support. As such, it is likely that any and work on the IT infrastructure may need to be phased.

3.6 Members will be kept informed of developments.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The financial implications are unclear at this point as the preferred solution has yet to be identified. It is clear, however, that the standardisation of facilities at a number of sites to enable the recording/broadcasting of and hybrid access to some or all committee meetings will necessitate initial capital investment and longer term funding for support and maintenance.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There is no legal requirement to record and broadcast public meetings of the Council's committees. At present, a councillor attending a public committee meeting of the Council remotely as opposed to in-person cannot fully participate in the meeting in so far as they cannot propose, second or amend a motion and cannot vote on any matter in the meeting.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The provision of facilities that enable recording/broadcasting of and hybrid access to committee meetings will reduce the need of members of the public, officers and some councillors to travel to meetings and so help reduce carbon emissions associated with transport and so the Council's overall carbon footprint.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

None

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

6 September 2023

Appendix 1 – List of Committees and Frequency of Meetings

Committee	Frequency of meetings
Full Council	Quarterly
Executive	18 scheduled in 2023/24
Shareholder committee	Quarterly
Scrutiny Board	Quarterly
Scrutiny of Health	Quarterly
Care and Independence and Housing OSC	Quarterly
Corporate and Partnerships OSC	Quarterly
Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise OSC	Quarterly
Children and Families OSC	Quarterly
Transition (LGR) OSC	Quarterly
Strategic Planning Committee	Monthly 12
Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Planning Committee	Monthly 12
Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Planning Committee	Monthly 12
Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Planning Committee	Monthly 12
Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Planning Committee	Monthly 12
Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Planning Committee	Monthly 12
Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Planning Committee	Monthly 12
Statutory Licensing Committee	5 scheduled in 2023/24
Sub-Committees of the Statutory Licensing Committee	36 scheduled to date in 2023/24
General Licensing and Registration Committee	6 scheduled in 2023/24
Sub-Committees of the General Licensing and Registration Committee	12 scheduled in 2023/24
Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee	Quarterly
Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee	Quarterly
Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee	Quarterly
Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee	Quarterly
Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee	Quarterly
Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee	Quarterly
Audit	5 times a year
Pension Fund Committee	5 times a year
Standards and Governance Committee	4 times a year
Chief Officer Appointments and Disciplinary Committee	As required
Chief Officer Appointments and Disciplinary Sub-Committee	As required
Appeals (Home to School Transport) committee	14 scheduled in 2023/24
Employment Appeals Committee	As required
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	Quarterly
North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board	Quarterly
North Yorkshire Police Fire and Crime Panel	Quarterly
Joint Devolution Committee	Quarterly
North Yorkshire Local Access Forum	3 times a year
	268 meetings a year

