

PAST REVIEW UPDATE: DIGITAL BROADCASTING OF POLICY OVERVIEW, SCRUTINY AND SELECT COMMITTEES

Committee name	Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities
Officer reporting	Mark Braddock, Democratic Services
Papers with report	None

HEADLINES

This report updates the Committee on the actions taken by officers following the Committee's review, "Digital Broadcasting of Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees", which was agreed by Cabinet in March 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the update on the actions taken with regards to the previous review regarding "Digital Broadcasting of Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees".

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. In March 2019, the Cabinet approved a Policy Overview Committee review into "Digital Broadcasting of Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees", which included four recommendations.
2. This report highlights the progress against each of the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

That Cabinet notes the opportunity to raise the profile of the work of the Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees, demonstrating the broader public engagement in Hillingdon's democratic process.

3. Since the first broadcasts in June 2019, there have been over 13,000 views of the Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees meetings on YouTube. Further enhancements or innovations in broadcasting videos continue to be investigated within existing resources.

Recommendation 2

That Cabinet approve the expansion of the current digital broadcasting service to all Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees, noting that this does not apply to any Panel established by a committee. Furthermore, that this commences as soon as practicable after the start of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

4. Democratic Services began to broadcast all Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees, beginning with the broadcasts of both the External Services Select Committee

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and the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee on 12 June 2019.

5. Since the decision was made to broadcast these meetings, 26 Policy Overview, Scrutiny or Select Committees have been broadcast live on the Council's YouTube channel.

Recommendation 3

That Cabinet note the Committee's conclusion that the current camera configurations are deemed generally suitable for viewing and that Democratic Services will put in place suitable procedures regarding the attendance of witnesses.

6. Democratic Services put in place processes to ensure that any members of the public or Council officers who are due to attend a meeting as a review witness are informed prior to the meeting that these meetings will be filmed and broadcast live to YouTube.
7. Any members of the public who attend the meetings are informed by way of an invitation to speak at the meeting that the meeting will be filmed.
8. Council officers are also informed prior to the meeting that their witness evidence will be broadcast.

Recommendation 4

That Cabinet agree that, going forward, such meetings are held in Committee Rooms 5 & 6 to negate the need for any additional infrastructure, and to not incur any financial expense in broadcasting them.

9. All meetings of Policy Overview, Scrutiny or Select Committees were moved to either Committee Room 5 or 6 shortly after the review's recommendations were agreed by Cabinet in March 2019.
10. Any future meetings are now scheduled to take place in Committee Rooms 5 and 6 when room bookings are completed for the municipal year, and the Council's Programme of Meetings is scheduled to ensure that no more than two Policy Overview, Scrutiny or Select Committees take place on any given evening, to ensure the availability of Committee Rooms 5 and 6.
11. Council meetings are given priority over any other events that may have been scheduled to take place in Committee Rooms 5 or 6.

Implications on related Council policies

None.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

The delivery of the recommendations outlined in the report has allowed the Council's democratic processes to become more open and transparent, following the decision to broadcast all Policy Overview, Scrutiny and Select Committees live on the Council's YouTube channel, Hillingdon London.

Financial Implications

There were no financial implications.

Legal Implications

There were no legal implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.