

Council Meetings

Posted by RM64 - 02 Sep 2018 18:30

This request was emailed to all 4 Ward 4 Councillors.

Cllr Stewart Miller

Cllr Alan Lafferty

Cllr Annette Ireland

Cllr David MacDonald

all replies will be posted.

Hi

As my Councillor and as your constituent living in Ward 4, I would appreciate if you could raise the matter of the Webcasting of all Council meetings at the next Full Council meeting on 12 September 2018.

I would ask that you submit a motion to the meeting to enable all Council meetings held after this Full council Meeting, to be made available via Webcast.

The equipment/personnel are in place etc. There should be no reason why all future Cabinet meetings should not be made available via Webcast.

Attending Council meetings in the Public Gallery is not a particularly illuminating experience.

The majority of Councillors and officials mumble and do not speak into their microphones(That is if they switch them on).

Most of the time they are inaudible to those sitting in the Public Gallery.

A lot of the seats/desks face away from the Public Gallery. You can only see Councillors/officials backs.

At the last Audit & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16 August, the whole Committee turned their backs on the Residents/Council Tax Payers sitting in the Public Gallery. You could not see their faces or see/hear what they were saying.

I think that says it all.

These meetings should be held for the convenience of East Renfrewshire Council Residents/Tax Payers, not for the convenience of Councillors.

It is time all these meetings are made available via Webcast.

A worrying change has been made(without consultation) regarding Councillors' commitment to Webcasting -

14 August 2018 - Erc Webcast page -

'East Renfrewshire Council is committed to providing residents with a transparent and accessible decision-making process.

Council meetings, where decisions on both strategic and local issues are made, will now be webcast.

You will now be able to see how decisions which affect you and your community are reached, without having to attend meetings in person.'

If ERC is committed to above , then the decision regarding live webcast of these meetings has already been made.

As at 29 August 2018 - Erc Webcast page -

'Welcome to the East Renfrewshire Council webcast homepage.

The Council is committed to making its decision making processes open and transparent.

As part of this commitment, meetings of the full Council are webcast.

Recent and upcoming webcasts are displayed in the Webcast overview panel to the right of this page.

To view a webcast, click on the title and the webcast will begin automatically.'

I would appreciate your commitment to the Webcasting of all Council meetings and if you would raise this matter as requested.

Thanks

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Re: Council Meetings

Posted by Tom - 20 Sep 2018 15:23

RM64 wrote:

Reply from Cllr Jim Swift -

Dear Eamonn,

It would be very helpful, given our last conversation about this matter if you could respond directly to [name]

It would seem that he has an FOI that advises about the costs being fixed, but does not consider the human resource implications.

It would be helpful I am sure if you advised about those costs and any other costs that make webcasting an expense.

Sincerely,

Jim

@RM64 In my opinion your are spot on the money with regards Cllr Swift MSc, BA and his motives.

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Re: Council Meetings

Posted by Tom - 20 Sep 2018 15:44

This confirms that the person he said he spoke to was Eamonn Daly and who he alleges informed him that it takes two members of staff to operate the web cast.

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Re: Council Meetings

Posted by RM64 - 21 Sep 2018 11:06

But.....we are already paying for 30 hours per annum, and not using anywhere near this. There is no reason not to Webcast committee meetings....

On Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 10:49 PM David Macdonald wrote:

I was part or a working group looking into review into the standing orders and we discussed the possibility of replacing the system with a Facebook Live broadcast on the ERC webpage.

As it stands right now, the Provost is not in favour of broadcasting other committees as he believes there to be not enough demand for such an addition.

I will keep pushing for increased access and transparency.

I will be making enquiries with Communications about this.

Kind regards,

David.

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Re: Council Meetings

Posted by RM64 - 26 Sep 2018 16:42

---Original message---

From :

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Date : 26/09/2018 - 17:04 (GMTST)

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Subject : RE: RE: Audit & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 27 September 2018 - Webcasting - Email from Cllr Swift

Thank you for your email

I think Councillor Swift is referring to your previous FOI request about webcasting costs to which I responded on 6 September, and which I understand has been widely shared.

As the webcasting of meetings has been limited to meetings of the full Council I have continued to absorb those costs within the budget for my service.

Were the number of meetings to be webcast to be increased, the human resource implications relate to the additional member of staff required to attend meetings to monitor the system to ensure it operates correctly and to deal with any issues that may arise;

the additional time taken to upload supporting resources (agendas and reports) to go with the webcast, and the additional time taken after the meeting to review the webcast and ensure all speakers and agenda points are correctly annotated before making the meeting available on the archive for public viewing.

As the Council has not requested the extension of webcasting beyond the existing arrangements, conducting a hypothetical exercise to establish additional costs at this time would be a waste of time and resources.

If the Council do wish to consider extending webcasting to other meetings, the exercise will be carried out at that time and will help inform any future decision the Council makes in this regard.

As your initial e-mail was addressed to all members of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor Swift's e-mail also was sent to them, I have copied them in to this reply.

Yours faithfully

Eamonn Daly

Democratic Services Manager

Department of Corporate and Community Services

Sent: 20 September 2018 14:33

To: Daly, Eamonn

Subject: Re: RE: Audit & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 27 September 2018 - Webcasting - Email from Cllr Swift

Hi Eamonn

I refer to email below from Cllr Swift.

Is this treated as an FOI request?

In addition to Cllr Swifts request, could I ask you to give details of when the 'the human resource implications.' were presented to Council and when they were approved?

I look forward to studying the costs that you give to advise me about these costs and about any other costs that make webcasting an expense.

I hope Cllr swift is not using you to put his case against the Webcasting of Council Meetings and his view that webcasting is an expense.

Thanks

-----Original message-----

From :

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Date : 20/09/2018 - 13:45 (GMTST)

To :

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This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Subject : RE: Audit & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 27 September 2018 - Webcasting

Dear Eamonn,

It would be very helpful, given our last conversation about this matter if you could respond directly to [name]

It would seem that he has an FOI that advises about the costs being fixed, but does not consider the human resource implications.

It would be helpful I am sure if you advised about those costs and any other costs that make webcasting an expense.

Sincerely,

Jim

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Re: Council Meetings

Posted by RM64 - 26 Sep 2018 16:51

-----Original message-----

From :

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Date : 26/09/2018 - 17:04 (GMTST)

Subject : RE: FW: Webcasting Costs 2

The following meetings were webcast

2015

16 December

2016

11 February

9 March

20 April

4 September

29 September

26 October

14 December

2017

9 February

22 March

19 April

24 May

28 June

13 September

28 September

25 October

13 December

2018

2 March

28 March

3 May

9 May

27 June

12 September

Problems with the broadband connection prevented the webcasting of the meetings 23 March and 15 June 2016.

As I have mentioned in previous correspondence the webcast archive lasts for 6 months and arrangements are in hand for all meetings prior to that to be made available on the Council's Youtube channel.

Yours faithfully

Eamonn Daly

Democratic Services Manager

Department of Corporate and Community Services

Sent: 26 September 2018 15:19

To: Daly, Eamonn

Subject: Re: FW: Webcasting Costs 2

Hi Eamonn

Would appreciate reply.

Thanks

-----Original message-----

Date : 17/09/2018 - 12:59 (GMTST)

To :

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Subject : Re: FW: Webcasting Costs 2

Hi Eamonn

Thanks for this. But with respect , on this occasion, I don't believe you have gone out your way to be entirely helpful.

I have looked up the minutes as you instructed.

I did a search for 'Council Minute 2015', 'Council Minute 2016', 'Council Minute 2017', 'Council Minute 2018'

Please confirm that all the Council Meetings (2015 to 2018) listed as a Council Meeting were actually Webcast.

Please give details of how all these Council Meetings (2015 to 2018) subject to Webcast can be viewed.

A prompt reply would be appreciated.

Thanks

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Re: Council Meetings

Posted by RM64 - 27 Sep 2018 17:34

-----Original message-----

From :

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Date : 27/09/2018 - 19:22 (GMTST)

To :,

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Subject : Re: Audit & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 27 September 2018 - Webcasting

As promised, in my Chair's report at the beginning of the meeting, I asked the members of the committee if they had any demand for extending the Web casting of council committees and if so, could they let me know and I would forward these requests to council officers. As yet, no, one has intimated any demand from residents.

In addition, I have asked a considerable number of local residents, well over 100, if they thought we should extend Web casting of council committee meetings and not one single person said they would like to see more.

Personally, I don't have a problem in Web casting more but I cannot justify the extra expense of asking the council for extra resources to cover staff costs as we would probably have to make cuts elsewhere to pay

Kind regards

Stewart

----- Original message -----

Date:27/09/2018 14:55 (GMT+00:00)

To: "Grant, B (Cllr)" , "Swift, Jim (Cllr)" , "McLean, J (Cllr)" ,
"Ireland, A (Cllr)" , "Miller, Stewart (Cllr)" , "Fletcher, J (Provost)" ,
"Gilbert, C (Cllr)"

Subject: Re: Audit & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 27 September 2018 - Webcasting

Hi Stewart(or any committee member)

Due to family commitment I am unable to attend meeting, hence my request for webcast.

Would appreciate if you could give me update on your previous commitment - 'I will raise question
2 at the meeting '

Thanks

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