

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	4 December 2017
Report of the	-	Executive Director of Resources
Subject	-	Call-In – Council Chamber Audio/Visual Equipment Upgrade

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 November 2017, considered a report on the call-in in respect of the Council audio visual equipment upgrade. The recommendation and minute arising is reproduced below.

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet reconsider its decision taken on 6 November 2017 and approve that Options 1: Conference and Audio System Upgrade; 2: Video/Presentation System Upgrade; 3: Camera and Webcasting Encoder Installation be purchased for the Council Chamber and that live-streaming of Council meetings not be pursued, but kept under review.

OSC17/40. **CALL- IN – COUNCIL CHAMBER AUDIO / VISUAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADE**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Business Resources which detailed what action could be taken following the initiation of the call-in procedure in respect of the Cabinet decision on the upgrade of the Council Chamber's Audio / Visual equipment agreed on Monday 6 November 2017 (Minute CB17/37 refers). The Executive Director of Resources had initiated the call-in procedure at the request of Councillors S.H. Earl and Mrs S.M. Prochak in accordance with the procedure.

Cabinet agreed on 6 November 2017 that Option 1 (Conference and Audio System Upgrade [microphones] and Option 2 (Presentation Equipment [projector and screens] be purchased and installed for the Council Chamber, but that Option 3 (Camera and Webcasting Encoder Installation) be declined.

The reasons for the call-in were confirmed as follows:

- the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) had considered this matter on 16 October and recommended all three Options, as follows: Option 1 – Conference and Audio System (microphones); Option 2 – Presentation Equipment (projector and screens); and Option 3 – Fixed cameras for the videoing of meetings (without live webcasting);
- videoing would give the Council control over video footage of its meetings;
- installing all three options at the same time would provide economies of scale and ensure technical compatibility;
- funding had been allocated in the Rother 2020 programme; and

- it was disappointing to note that Cabinet had not approved Option 3 on the grounds of potential pressure to webcast meetings at an additional cost of £12,000 per annum, which was not even supported by the OSC.

After discussion and consideration of the call-in reasons, the Committee unanimously recommended that Cabinet be requested to reconsider their original decision and approve that Options 1: Conference and Audio System Upgrade; 2: Video/Presentation System Upgrade; 3: Camera and Webcasting Encoder Installation be purchased for the Council Chamber. Members agreed that live-streaming of Council meetings should not be pursued, but kept under review.

(Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda Item 11.1).

Malcolm Johnston
Executive Director of Resources