

COUNCIL

11th March 2024

Motions

(D) Livestreaming of Council Meetings

Amendment for the motion to read as follows, to be proposed by Councillor Jessica Arnold (seconder to be confirmed.)

“Council notes:

(1) Online access to Council meetings improves local democracy by encouraging more residents to engage in Council business with convenient access, whilst increasing transparency and accountability in Council decision-making. This is particularly important for allowing people with disabilities or reduced mobility, caring responsibilities or evening/shift working patterns to attend Council meetings.

(2) That an increasing number of local authorities are recording and streaming Council meetings live routinely.

(3) Bromley Council has successfully livestreamed Council meetings during COVID and after.

(4) That most Bromley Council meetings are already hybrid meetings, with attendees in the Council Chamber and Council Officers and Councillors viewing and/or participating online.

(5) There are cost and resourcing implications in providing a 5-star livestreaming service; however, the Council has existing resources to offer basic online viewing access and to upload recordings of Council meetings online with minimal cost implications.

Therefore, Council moves to:

(1) Provide online viewing access to Full Council meetings and Committee meetings held in public from no later than three months after the move of these meetings into our new premises at Churchill Court.

(2) To robustly consider what an appropriate length of time should be to keep recordings of meetings available for public access online, recognising the pros and cons of either short or long periods of access, to be considered by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

(3) Continue to investigate affordable enhancements to livestreaming and availability of recordings online to improve access without incurring significant costs, and keep our arrangements under review for quality and cost, with future updates coming to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.”