

PE1731/B

Midlothian council submission of 9 October 2019

- Public meetings are audio recorded. Initially the audio recordings were for internal use only, but in recent years they have been archived, uploaded and available via the Council's website. However, there has not been any noticeable interest in these recordings and the main purpose of audio recording continues to be for internal use almost entirely by some staff working in Democratic Services for checking against the notes taken at meetings. Audio recording is possible due to the existence of microphones for the webcasting equipment. Webcasting is undertaken in terms of 2 meetings including the full Council. Due to financial restraints webcasting of all public meetings is not possible and has been restricted to the 2 meetings with the most public interest. As a result of further financial pressures the Council decided to not renew the webcasting contract therefore webcasting will cease in just over 12 months' time. At that point, unless the Council invests in new equipment which will require a financial outlay it will not be possible to continue to audio record due to the loss of the webcasting microphones.
- Not applicable
- Not applicable
- The constraints will be financial. If a Council does not have audio recording equipment it will have to be purchased and maintained. If it does have the equipment there is an ongoing cost in terms of maintenance and also staff time. The archiving of recordings and uploading is time consuming whereas the demand for recordings is very low/does not exist