

Webcasting of public meetings

Through the pandemic, the switch of Council meetings to virtual offered an unlooked for opportunity to further transparency and accountability of Southend Council, via the live webcasting of all public council meetings, rather than as previously only full council meetings.

As meetings returned to in-person, the requirements of social distancing meant that all meetings took place in the council chamber. This allowed continued webcasting of public meetings via the camera setup in the chamber.

Southend Council notes:

- There is a desire across the council for committee meetings to return to meeting in committee rooms, to facilitate better scrutiny and discussion.
- Councillors are elected by and to serve the public, and as such must be accountable to them.

Therefore, Southend Council resolves:

- To explore the necessary adjustments and improvements required for live webcasting of public meetings from committee meeting rooms.
- That no public meetings should take place in committee meeting rooms until they are able to be live webcast to the public.

Proposed by: Cllr Matt Dent

Seconded by: Cllr Daniel Cowan

Cllr Anne Jones

Cllr Aston Line

Cllr Margaret Borton

Cllr Tricia Cowdrey

Cllr Lydia Hyde