



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	The live streaming and archiving of Council proceedings on the internet
Date:	24 August 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Petra Scarborough, Democratic Services Section (ext 6003)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 18 November 2011, agreed a protocol for the live streaming and archiving of Council proceedings on the internet and noted that the live streaming would commence at the Council meeting on 1 December 2011. The Council had previously agreed to the implementation of the system at a cost of £60,000 over a period of three years.

2	Key Issues																					
2.1	The live streaming of the Monthly Meetings of the Council has enabled anyone with access to the internet to watch and listen to proceedings live through the Council's website. In addition, the process of archiving the video footage of the meetings has enabled individuals to view previous meetings via the Council's website at any point in time.																					
2.2	Following initial difficulties with the connection to the internet, the system has been operating effectively for a period of eight months and the viewing figures for the live streaming and for accessing the archiving are as follows (as at 14 August 2012): <table border="1" data-bbox="370 1630 1189 1973"><thead><tr><th><u>Meeting date</u></th><th><u>Live viewers</u></th><th><u>Archive viewers</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1 December 2011</td><td>2667</td><td>2051</td></tr><tr><td>5 December 2011 (special meeting)</td><td>0 (system failure)</td><td>551</td></tr><tr><td>4 January 2012</td><td>59</td><td>486</td></tr><tr><td>1 February 2012</td><td>131</td><td>390</td></tr><tr><td>1 March 2012</td><td>114</td><td>297</td></tr><tr><td>2 April 2012</td><td>50</td><td>367</td></tr></tbody></table>	<u>Meeting date</u>	<u>Live viewers</u>	<u>Archive viewers</u>	1 December 2011	2667	2051	5 December 2011 (special meeting)	0 (system failure)	551	4 January 2012	59	486	1 February 2012	131	390	1 March 2012	114	297	2 April 2012	50	367
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1 May 2012	33	322
1 June 2012	130	220
21 June 2012 (special meeting)	17	161
1 July 2012 (special meeting)	1	72
2 July 2012	120	758
	<u>3322</u>	<u>5675</u>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	One member of Democratic Services Section staff is required to operate the system at each meeting.

4	Equality Implications
4.1	n/a

5	Recommendations
5.1	Committee is recommended to note the information which has been provided.

6	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible: Petra Scarborough, Democratic Services Section	

7	Key to Abbreviations
n/a	

8	Documents Attached
None	