



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Extension of Existing Webcasting Contract
Date:	12th December, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council decided in 2011 to tender for the provision of a webcasting service to allow for the live webcasting of meetings of the full Council.
1.2	The Council received only one expression of interest, from Public-I, for the provision of the service. The contract was agreed for the provision of up to 60 hours of broadcasting per year at a monthly cost of £1,500.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The contract with Public-I was signed in September 2011 for a 2 year period with the possibility of a 1 year extension. The option for the extension was activated in September 2013 and ran out in September 2014.
2.2	Members will be aware of the current discussions which are ongoing with the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee about the venue for future meetings of Committees from April next year and whether or not the proceedings of such Committees should be recorded either by way of an audio recording or the webcasting option. A further report in this regard will be considered by that Committee in due course.
2.3	Given the uncertainty about exactly how many meetings will be required to be webcast in future, it is recommended that the existing contract with Public-I is extended on a monthly basis up until April 2015 to allow for a decision to be taken. At that point, a new tendering exercise will be undertaken to source a provider for the webcasting service.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The monthly cost of extending the current contract is approximately £525 and this has been provided for within existing budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to extend the webcasting contract with Public-I on a monthly basis to end not later than April, 2015.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager December, 2014	