

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REPORT**

SUBJECT: Extending the duty to broadcast local authority meetings
MEETING: Democratic Services Committee
DATE: 13 November 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To consider the Welsh Government consultation which aims to determine;
- Whether the duty on a principal council to broadcast meetings should be extended to include meetings other than that of the full council
 - Whether there should be a duty imposed upon Fire and Rescue Authorities and/or National Park Authorities to broadcast their meetings
 - Whether there should be a retention period for recordings of broadcast meetings

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee note the consultation and consider whether a response to it is required.

3. REASONS:

- 3.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires a principal council to make arrangements for its full council meetings to be broadcast electronically so that members of the public who are not in physical attendance at the meeting can see and hear the proceedings.
- 3.2 The legislation currently only requires meetings of Full Council to be broadcast with any additional broadcasts being subject to the discretion of the local authority. The consultation considers whether the requirement to broadcast meetings should be extended beyond just Full Council meetings.
- 3.3 The requirement to broadcast meetings does not currently extend to National Park or Fire and Rescue Authorities and the consultation asks whether it should become a requirement for them to do so.
- 3.4 Whilst all local authorities in Wales comply with the minimum requirement of the Act, the extent to which each authority goes beyond the minimum requirement varies significantly. Reasons for the variance largely depend on the local arrangements that are in place for broadcasting local authority meetings and the costs associated with it. Some authorities for example will only broadcast Full Council and then only other committees that the authority has determined has the most public interest such as planning committee.

- 3.5 Largely, the consultation in relation to Monmouthshire is not relevant given the extent to which the authority has gone above and beyond the legal requirement of the Act. By default, Monmouthshire already broadcasts all meetings of the council that are classed as committee meetings within the constitution. Additionally, this has been a long standing practice that pre dates the 2021 Act by a number of years and has become standard practice for the authority.
- 3.6 Due to the way Monmouthshire has introduced the technology to enable the Council to broadcast all meetings, there are no costs associated with the broadcasting of meetings and with the retention of the recordings of broadcasts and all are available online via the councils youtube channel going back a number of years.
- 3.7 Whilst the consultation may not be applicable to the Council given the extent to which Monmouthshire has gone beyond the minimum requirements of the legislation, it is worthwhile for the Council to be aware the requirements and acknowledge the openness and transparency that exists throughout the governance structure of the Council to encourage engagement with the democratic process.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 Not applicable given the standard practice of already broadcasting all committee meetings.

5. CONSULTATION:
n/a

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Consultation – Extending the Duty to Broadcast Meetings

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