NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO WEBCASTING OF PEMBROKESHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD MEETINGS

Corporate Governance Committee on 26 September 2016 considered a report by the Director of Development arising out of a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Jacob Williams which had been referred to the Committee for consideration and report back to Council for determination; such motion being in the following terms:

That Pembrokeshire County Council, as the lead authority and secretariat of the Pembrokeshire Public Services Board, expresses its commitment to webcasting the PSB’s meetings.

Furthermore this Council invites and expects other Pembrokeshire Public Services Board participants to commit to live-streaming and archiving the PSB’s meetings, and to enter discussions with a view to achieving this outcome.

The report considered by the Committee is attached as Appendix A.

The Committee’s Decision was to recommend that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and report back to Council in December.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and report back to Council in December.

Background Documents: None
NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO WEBCASTING OF PEMBROKESHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD MEETINGS

The following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Jacob Williams has been referred to Corporate Governance Committee for consideration and report back to Council for determination; such motion being in the following terms:

*That Pembrokeshire County Council, as the lead authority and secretariat of the Pembrokeshire Public Services Board, expresses its commitment to webcasting the PSB’s meetings.*

*Furthermore this Council invites and expects other Pembrokeshire Public Services Board participants to commit to live-streaming and archiving the PSB’s meetings, and to enter discussions with a view to achieving this outcome.*

Councillor Williams’ written submission in support of his Notice of Motion is attached as an Appendix.

The Notice of Motion was discussed by Pembrokeshire Public Services Board at a meeting held on 26th July 2016. Although some partners were in favour of webcasting meetings and it was agreed by all partners that transparency to the public was important, the majority of partners did not consider that webcasting of meetings was appropriate at the current time for the following reasons:

- It would mean that meetings would have to take place in County Hall rather than in any other PCC or partner organisation location;
- There was some concern that webcasting meetings would impact upon the quality and level of discussion and debate;
- As the PSB was in its infancy, the partnership was not ready to take part in webcasting as it had not yet agreed its work programme or priorities for the year ahead.

Therefore it was agreed as an initial way forward that one meeting per year should be webcast, at the point when partners were ready to review the first year of their work programme.

However, as per the Terms of Reference of the Board, it should be noted that meetings of the Board are open to members of the public to observe.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Notice of Motion be not adopted

Background Documents: None
Supporting Submission - Notice for Motion relating to Webcasting of Pembrokeshire Public Services Board Meetings

In the spirit of openness and transparency, webcasting opens up the Pembrokeshire Public Services Board to scrutiny of its activities and its members - none of whom is elected to serve on it.

If the PPSB's membership embraces webcasting - rather than moving to block the idea - I believe it would aid public accountability of the PSB and may serve to reassure the Pembrokeshire public, in whose name our local PSB acts.

Councillor Jacob Williams