

Item 143
Hearing Loop

Background

At Decembers Full Council meeting, 6 quotes for the work were presented to Cllrs for consideration. It was agreed that the local company be approached to give a more detailed evaluation of the requirements for the Chamber.

A site visit was made on 20th December and detailed study made of the room. It was considered that the hearing loop could be placed behind the skirting board around the room and there was little evidence of magnetic interference so this loop would be fine for the councils use. Quality will improve is the air conditioning is turned off.

Council would need to consider the different microphones to be put into the scheme. The basic choice would be a 360° mic either placed on a table (similar to the one we currently use) or it could be fixed in the ceiling to pick up all voices. A better option would be to install 3 mics and an automatic mixing box – the mics would face, left, right and to the Chair and would automatically focus on the key speaker at the time. This option would make for a better quality sound recording for our live streams on Facebook.

Revised quote for the different mic set up

Company 1a	To supply and install an AFILS to consist of a dedicated loop amplifier, mounting, microphone plate, free standing omni direction boundary microphone, 6M lead, audio output socket and installation. 12 Month parts and labour warranty.	£1,350 + VAT
Company 1b	Additional cost to upgrade the microphone to a 3 uni-directional ceiling microphones, together with an automatic microphone mixer. This gives more selectivity to the pick up of sound and actually 'hunts' for who is talking as the audio source for the loop system. This option would be the most effective pick up solution should the budget allow. <i>I am clarifying if the £1,630 is the total cost or 'in addition' to the £1,350.</i>	£1,630 + VAT