

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

BROADCASTING COUNCIL MEETINGS



Report Reference C-22-14
Meeting Date 4th July 2022
Agenda Item 12
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

During the period in which restrictions due to the COVID pandemic prevented the council being able to safely meet, the council moved its meetings online being broadcast via Zoom and Facebook. When the ability to hold virtual meetings expired, the council continued to livestream its meetings to both reduce the number of people in the meeting room and to enable the public to participate in the public speaking item remotely.

The council continues to have good online engagement from its meeting streams. Members of the public have participated remotely as suits their convenience and the streams are being watched on Facebook, for example 28 viewers watched at least part of the previous Full Council meeting, significantly more than have previously attended an ordinary council meeting.

The continuation of streaming meetings promotes open democracy and accountability. It enables residents to observe and engage with the council in a modern and convenient way. The council has not previously set a formal policy on the streaming of meetings and it is recommended it does so to formalise arrangements.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council sets its policy as follows:

The council will livestream all meetings of Full Council and committees except those parts where the public and press are excluded by resolution passed in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

The council will provide means for the public to participate in public participation sessions remotely.

The council will livestream all meetings of sub-committees except:

- a) those convened in accordance with the council's policies on sickness absence, discipline, grievance, appeals and performance improvement
- b) those parts where the public and press are excluded by resolution passed in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Livestreams shall ensure a clear view of the meeting in progress but shall not broadcast an image of members of the public without consent.