

# REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

## VIDEO BROADCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS



**Report Reference** C-23-10  
**Meeting Date** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
**Agenda Item** 13  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

---

### 1.0 BACKGROUND

During the pandemic, the council was unable to meet in person and temporary legislation was introduced which enabled the council to meet virtually. Following the expiration of this legislation, the council continued to livestream its meetings via Zoom/Facebook. In July 2022, council resolved to suspend video streaming due to objections from members, moving to an audio-only broadcast. The Town Clerk was tasked with reviewing options.

In November 2022, a report was considered which noted that there was no practical way of recommencing video streaming and accommodating the objections of members who did not wish to be on camera, it was therefore resolved that the matter be deferred to May 2023, to follow the elections.

The Town Clerk has spoken with the members who objected to video streaming in July 2022 and they have indicated they no longer object should the council wish to reinstate video streaming.

Video streams are more engaging than audio streams, which present users with a static image. For example, the June 2022 Full Council meeting was watched by 28 viewers (for at least part of the meeting) compared with just 12 for the March 2023 stream. Whilst this is only comparing two meetings, it is indicative.

### 2.0 STREAMING POLICY

Should Council wish to reintroduce video streaming, it is recommend that it approve the following policy:

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.

### **3.0 DECISION REQUIRED**

Council should:

- a) Determine whether to reintroduce video-streaming of council meetings
- b) Consider the adoption of the policy outlined in section 2