

22/03/2018

To the Members of the Protocol Committee

4. Report on live streaming of full council – Ref 20/1117 Councillor F McLoughlin Healy

It was agreed at the December Protocol Committee meeting that more information be gathered from other council's regarding live streaming and this item would remain on the agenda for the January protocol meeting. As not all local authorities had responded in advance of the January meeting, the members agreed that a report be given at the March meeting.

Member Services contacted 25 local authority's asking the following questions: -

1. Does your Local Authority use webcasting for council meetings?
2. If yes, when was it introduced and how many views have been recorded since its introduction?
3. If no, has it been proposed or rejected or just not proposed?
4. If yes, can you confirm if the introduction of webcasting has affected council meetings in any way? i.e. do meetings run for longer, has it made meetings more efficient/inefficient etc.
5. If no, are there any plans to introduce it in the future?
6. Any other comments?

A total of 16 Local Authorities have responded to the questionnaire as outlined below, follow up contact was made with the remaining authorities but no response was received.

	Local Authority	Livestreaming – Yes/No	Comments
1	Dublin City Council	Yes	DCC are live streaming since 2007 and noted their system is integrated with paperless meetings systems where all councillors use an i-pad. System works well and viewership is around 300/400 depending on what is on the agenda.

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2	Dun Laoighre/Rathdown	Yes	Happy with webcasting, no further comments given
3	Fingal	Yes	Happy with the process. Unable to confirm public viewing numbers, confirmed journalists do not attend the meetings anymore.
4	Roscommon	Yes	Introduced live streaming in July 2017. The live viewing figures are low but increase in the days after the meeting. In their opinion, it has made the meetings more professional and they are quite pleased with its introduction and satisfied with its impact allowing all council business and meetings to be conducted in an open and transparent manner.
5	Wicklow	Yes then No	Introduced in 2007, operated for approx 4 years. Viewing numbers were 30 to 40 a month. Due to low viewership and tightening budgets, members agreed to it ceasing in approx 2010. They currently do a live text transcription of meeting.
6	South Dublin	No	Decision made not to proceed
7	Leitrim	No	Decision made not to proceed was based on it being too expensive
8	Louth	No	Not using live streaming at present but are looking into it as a motion was passed recently
9	Donegal	No	Webcasting was proposed but it has not progressed
10	Meath	No	Webcasting was proposed but it has not progressed
11	Cavan	No	Have had no proposals or plans to introduce live streaming
12	Cork City	No	Have had no proposals or plans to introduce live streaming
13	Cork County	No	Have had no proposals or plans to introduce live streaming
14	Monaghan	No	Have had no proposals or plans to introduce live streaming
15	Offaly	No	Have had no proposals or plans to introduce live streaming
16	Tipperary	No	Have had no proposals or plans to introduce live streaming

M. McIvor
Senior Executive Officer
Corporate Services