



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Report to Resources

Report Author	Naomi Crewe, Town Clerk
Tel No	07706322037
Email	townclerk@todmorden-tc.gov.uk
Date	10 th September 2025
Subject	Live Streaming Option

Purpose of Report

1. To provide further information as requested by the Resources Committee and to consider the option of live streaming Council and Committee meetings to enhance transparency and support accessibility for residents.

Background

2. Todmorden Town Council is committed to improving public engagement and ensuring local governance is transparent and accessible to all members of the community. In recent years, local authorities have introduced the live streaming of meetings as a means of increasing public participation, allowing residents to follow discussions and decisions in real time, and providing an accessible alternative for those unable to attend meetings in person.
3. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Council meetings were lawfully held via Zoom under temporary emergency legislation, allowing for full virtual participation by councillors and the public. However, this legislation was later revoked, and councils were required to return to in-person meetings. Despite this, the wider debate around reinstating virtual or hybrid participation at local council level is ongoing, with increasing pressure and consultation around modernising participation in local democracy.
4. The Council already has some equipment which may be utilised for this purpose, including the TV screen currently used during meetings, and a wide-angled webcam. This would reduce the initial setup costs and allow for a basic trial setup.
5. If the Council meetings were to be live streamed to You Tube, there would be no requirement for a licence.
6. The Government is moving forward this summer to officially restore remote and hybrid meeting powers to local councils, based on strong sector support. This equipment would allow the Council, if new legislation is agreed, to be able to hold remote meetings if needed.

7. The Resources Committee requested that the Town Clerk gather information about other town/parish Councils who live stream their meetings and this has been provided in Appendix 1.

Financial

8. Todmorden Town Council already has some suitable equipment available for use in live streaming, including a laptop, a wide-angled webcam, and the TV screen currently used during meetings. This reduces the need for significant initial investment in basic broadcasting hardware.
9. The main cost associated with implementing a functional and effective live streaming setup would be the acquisition of a delegate microphone and speaker system, which would improve sound clarity and support hybrid or remote participation.
10. The Council has already sought quotes for such a system and the most suitable quote is a wired delegate system is estimated at circa £5,000.
11. The Government is moving forward this summer to officially restore remote and hybrid meeting powers to local councils, based on strong sector support.

Recommendation

12. That the Committee supports in principle the live streaming of Council and Committee meetings.
13. That the Committee recommends to Full Council that the Council take forward the live streaming of Council and Committee meetings and provide the technical, legal, and financial requirements for implementation, taking into account the equipment already available subject to it being under £7,000.
14. That the Committee recommend that the funds for this project are initially taken from the Community Development EMR and that if there is any underspend from the project or at the end of the financial year is placed back into the Community Development EMR.
15. That the Committee recommend to Full Council that £7,000 is moved from the Community Development EMR into a new budget code for this project.

Reasons For Recommendation

16. To enhance the transparency of Council proceedings.
17. To improve public access and engagement, particularly for residents unable to attend in person.
18. To align with modern expectations of openness in public sector governance.

Policy Implications:

19. This project would support the Council's objectives of open governance and improved community engagement.

Details Of Consultation:

20. Technical expert

Climate Change:

21. N/A

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

22. Live streaming would increase accessibility for those with mobility issues, health concerns, or other barriers to in-person attendance, thereby promoting inclusion and equality.

Supporting Papers:

Appendix 1 – Other Town/Parish Council You tube figures

Further Information, please contact: Naomi Crewe