



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísi Corparáideacha, Rialachais & Custaiméara
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach. V94 EH90

Corporate, Governance & Customer Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchant's Quay
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Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on Monday, 30th March, 2026

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Ryan

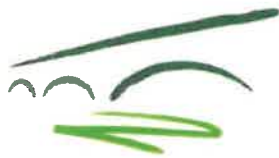
I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council provide independent legal advice to all its Elected Members on whether or not they have a conflict of interest when called as a witness on behalf of a constituent when the case is being taken by Limerick City and County Council.

Response

With regard to the issue of conflict of interest, the advice is that unless the Elected Members have been involved in the decision made to prosecute it is unlikely that a Member could have a conflict of interest. The decision to prosecute is an executive function; Elected Members do not have a role in this executive function.

If in any case where the Council has initiated proceedings, and an Elected Member is called by the subject of the proceedings, the Council will arrange for separate legal service advice to be provided if an Elected Member believes they might have a conflict of interest.

Ciara Farrell,
Head of Corporate and Governance.



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MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2026

Notice of Motion submitted by John Moran, Mayor of Limerick

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council agrees, subject to the necessary administrative, legal, procurement and data protection arrangements being put in place, and with financial support secured so as to protect existing core services in 2026, that all meetings of the Full Council held after the adoption of this resolution shall be live-streamed and recorded in full by audio and video means, and that such recordings shall be made publicly available on the Council's official website (www.limerick.ie) no later than two business days following the conclusion of each meeting, without unnecessary barriers or registration requirements.

Response:

This response considers the implication of live streaming and digitally recording, to make publicly available, the proceedings and recordings of the Plenary Meetings of Limerick City and County Council.

The Members will be aware that under Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as Amended) members of the public are entitled to be present at a meeting of the local authority. In Limerick this has been facilitated through the public and press galleries for in person attendance and, since the introduction of hybrid meetings, online for members of the public and press.

Standing Orders

The livestreaming of Council and broadcasting of recordings is not provided for under the Standing Orders.

The full Standing Orders are currently under review by the Standing Orders Sub Committee. Any amendment requires that at least one half of the total number of Members of the Council vote in favour of amending.

Technical Capacity and Software

The current system in use was commissioned for internal use and is not appropriate for roll out to meet requirements of data protection, freedom of information, storage and broadcast capability.



While livestreaming can occur at a cost of up to €10,000 & vat per annum with additional staff resources, ICT and the Data Protection Unit have recommended that a managed solution is required where the recording and publication process is automated and supported.

Consultation local authorities who currently record meetings confirms the use of a managed solution. Initial marketing soundings the estimated costs of suitable software with built-in governance and technical capabilities to allow the for use in the Council Chamber is approximately €30,000 p.a. & vat subject to proper procurement.

Conclusion

While live streaming and recording public meetings can provide transparency and accessibility benefits, it also presents legal, data privacy, financial and reputational risks. It is noted that the Members of Council have qualified legal privilege, not absolute parliamentary privilege.

It is recommended that if the decision is to proceed it is appropriately resourced in order to ensure an effective solution.

CIARA FARRELL,
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES.

30th March, 2026.