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Remote meetings: lessons learned from the first two months

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Overview

- Voting
- Member conduct
- General
- Our practical tips
- Conferencing platforms
- Supporting papers

Do as I say not as I do…

Rishi Sunak votes against Government by mistake in Commons online 'teething' blunder

After she announced the result of the vote, Dame Eleanor said: "I have been informed that there are a number of members, a small number of members, who have inadvertently cast their votes by electronic means in the opposite way to the way in which they had intended to vote.

Your questions answered

Voting

- Can members be invited to indicate their voting preferences in advance at full Council meetings?

- What is the best method for ensuring accurate voting?

- What impact does service interruption have on voting?

- How do we deal with amendments to motions or calls for a named vote?

Member Conduct

- Can we – should we – be monitoring members to make sure they are paying attention?

- If members need clarification during their deliberations, how should they seek it?

- Do we need new Code of Conduct rules to deal with misconduct at remote meetings?

General

- Should we avoid bringing controversial business to remote meetings and wait until we're back to "normal"?

- How do we judge when a dropped connection means that the member is no longer in remote attendance?

- How does the PSED apply to remote meetings?

- What are the implications for Wales?

Our practical tips

Organising the meeting

Technical issues

- Headsets – better audio quality   Blurred backgrounds

Managing the meeting

- Mute speakers who don't "have the floor"
- Should speakers switch cameras off when not speaking?
- Use chat function for alerting Chair/Clerk if someone wants to speak or leave
- Parallel communications with the Chair

Roles

- Monitoring speakers' connections, meeting security, live stream/public broadcast

Risk of challenge

- Preparation is key for officers and members, practice on equipment

- Voting procedure and fall back – chat function? Can be unreliable

- Importance of Chair having a script for likely functions – i.e. what happens if one or more members drop off communication

- Split real/virtual meetings – have Chair and support team in one room, others virtual

World of Interiors
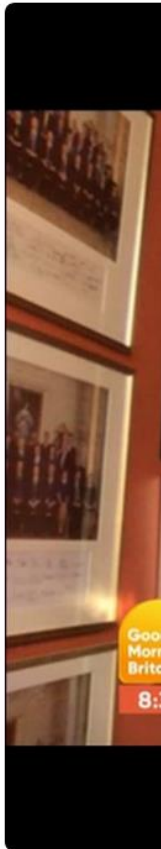
thom @thwphipps · 16 Apr
honestly looks like a RTD episode of doctor who

Hot Water

💬 153   🔁 1.4K   ♡ 8.1K

Your questions answered

Conferencing platforms

- What do we do if a party can't access the internet?

- Is it unfair if one participant joins via video while others have only an audio connection?

- How do we – and do we need to – live stream the meeting? What happens if it goes down?

- What do we do if a party refuses to use our chosen video conferencing platform due to "security issues"?

Supporting papers

- How do we satisfy the requirement in s.100B LGA 1972 to make copies of the agenda and background papers available to those attending <u>during</u> the meeting?

- Is it sufficient to limit members of the public to make written statements or do we need to allow "live" statements?

- What are the FOIA implications of remote meetings?

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