Deirdre Donnelly has served as an Independent Councillor on DLRCOCO since 2014. Prior to that she worked in RTÉ across a variety of roles in TV and radio. She also founded her own independent radio production company and was nominated for two awards. Although now a full-time councillor she works on a consultancy basis for the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland assessing TV, radio and film applications for funding.

Deirdre graduated from UCD with a BA in Irish and French in 1990 and with an MA from the School of Politics and International Relations in 2004. She also holds qualifications in marketing management and research, advertising and stockbroking investment. She is a fluent Irish and French speaker and is a regular contributor to TG4, Newstalk and RTÉ news and current affairs programmes.

Her personal interests include cinema, classical, jazz and world music.