

REPORT

SUBJECT:	TIMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS
MEETING:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE:	7th January 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A

1. PURPOSE:

To consider the responses to the members survey on timing of all council meetings and consider whether it is necessary to make a recommendation to Council on the timing of meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That members consider the responses and agree whether or not to make a recommendation to Council on the timing of meetings.

3. KEY ISSUES:

In considering the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales report 2019-20 at the meeting of Democratic Services Committee on the 3rd December 2018, it was agreed to survey all County Councillors in matters relating to the timing of council meetings to assess whether a recommendation was needed to be made to Council for their consideration.

In considering the report, members of the Democratic Services Committee noted the level of remuneration may not be enough to encourage diversity in candidates standing for election and also that the timing of council meetings may also be a barrier to those who could stand for election.

All responses received to the survey are included at Appendix A for information.

In summary;

- Majority of members prefer the current arrangements of morning and afternoon meetings to evenings.
- It was noted that evening meetings may be difficult for members due to representation on other bodies such as town/community councils. Similarly parents noted a preference to day meetings to avoid missing family time. In contrast however, some members preferred evening meetings due to work commitments.

- Majority of members think that meeting times should be fixed rather than varied.
- Majority of members agree that the start time of committees should be left up to the committee themselves to agree.
- Most members consider the current start times of 10/14:00 to be suitable and that holding meetings earlier than 10:00 would impact on the timing of pre meetings for committees.
- Some members consider a trial period alternating the timing of select committees may be useful but most members don't want another trial of varying times.
- The majority of members don't think that Democratic Services Committee should make a recommendation to Council to reconsider the timing of meetings.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

5. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

None

6. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

None

7. CONSULTEES:

All County Councillors

8. AUTHOR:

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager
Email: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01633 644978