

## Appendix A – Responses to Members Survey

### Question 1

Do you prefer morning (start between 9:00 and 10:00), afternoon (start between 13:00 and 15:00), evening (16:00 onwards) or anytime meetings?

<b>Morning</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Evening</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Anytime</b>	<b>0</b>

### Question 2

Do you have difficulty in attending meetings at a specific day or time? if yes what are those days and times? What are the issues that cause those difficulties for you (Employment, Family, Religion etc) and how could the timing of meetings help resolve this for you?

- Evening meetings difficult due to being on Abergavenny TC
- No problem but prefer to avoid Evenings as many other outside meetings are held in the Evenings.
- Family not happy about number of evening meetings I attend. Cannot prepare adequately for FC if held anytime other than afternoon.
- Starting Full Council meetings earlier would mean I could pick my child up from school/nursery.
- None
- Mornings are bad due to working full time.
- As I am employed full time, its incredibly difficult attending 10am meetings and very disruptive to my day. Afternoons or evenings are easier as I can start earlier and finish earlier in order for me to attend the meeting.
- I do not drive, so therefore I am reliant on public transport or taxis. If evening meetings were called, then I would need a taxi home which I could not pre book as I wouldn't know what time the meetings finished.
- Any time after School pickup - 3pm - is difficult
- No
- Evening times extremely difficult. Family
- Yes, employment and caring responsibilities (children but also older parents) have made attendance at Council meetings difficult. Meetings at 10 or 2 effectively take an enormous amount of the day if you are working in particular. Some flexibility with a number of meetings being in the evening would be helpful.
- Employment, Family and evening commitments
- Employment
- In particular the ones that overlap the end of school hours (3pm - 5pm)

### Question 3

Do you think the start time for a meeting should be fixed for familiarity or varied?

<b>Fixed</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Varied</b>	<b>6</b>
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#### Question 4

Should the start time of meetings be left up to each committee to agree themselves through the chair?

Yes	15	No	3
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#### Question 5

What do you consider would be the most suitable start time for meetings to encourage diversity and engagement whilst ensuring that committee business can be managed effectively?

- Variety of start times.
- 10.00 or 2.00
- 10.00
- Vary times of Select Meetings as a trial,
- Leave as they are.
- 9/9.30am
- From 9 am
- No view
- 16:00 would be at the end of someone's working day.
- 14:00/15:00
- This is a difficult one. 2pm seems to be a nice start time. Although 1pm would give me more time to catch the 15.50pm bus back to Monmouth, or it is the 16.50pm bus.
- 10 am
- 18:00
- 10am
- A variety to accommodate the differing needs of elected members.
- Some variety helps so that no one is completely inconvenienced. Flexibility helps and accommodates most members.
- Nothing
- I think we need a mixture

#### Question 6

Previous discussions on timings of meetings raised points of starting meetings at 9am or 9:30am rather than 10:00am to avoid waiting time for the meeting to start and using up a full morning. Issues around travel time and weather were countered to this previously. Do you have a preference to starting at 9:00am or 10:00am? or 15:00 rather than 14:00?

- 10 am to allow travel time for members living further away.
- 10.00 and 2.00
- 10.00
- No 10:00 and 14:00 is fine. As pre meetings would need to start at 9:30 and 13:30.
- 10am and 2pm.
- 9/9.30am
- 9 am
- 10.00am and 15.00pmno

- No
- 15:00
- 10am start is better for if I have to catch a bus, alternatively, earlier starts mean I have to take a taxi. 1pm is better for me for reasons stated in previous question.
- Happy with 10 and 14:00 starts.
- 10 and 14 - I can't get there any quicker after school drop off (what parent could?) and the above reasoning is true of meetings at 15.00
- No
- 10:00am
- The clue is in the rationale for the survey. Different members have different needs, however because we have a significant number of members who may have some flexibility in their diary - every attempt at variation is thwarted. We agreed to have meetings at various times - 10-3 and 5 but as this presumably did not suit some members it was rescinded.
- 9 or 2 would be fine.
- 14.00

### Question 7

The trial period of alternating Council between 10:00am, 14:00 and 17:00 only had one council meeting at 17:00 due to changes to the diary. Should another trial period varying times of council meetings be held and if so which committee?

- Another trial period - CYP or similar committees.
- No
- No
- A trial of Select Committee Meetings may be more beneficial than Full Council Meetings. Allow individual Committees to set their own meeting start times,
- No.
- 9/9.30am
- No
- No
- Yes, full Council.
- I believe each committee should run their own trial.
- As a town Councillor also, I have meetings Monday evenings. So Democratic Services would clash with my Town Council commitments which almost always start at 6pm.
- nope. varying things is just confusing
- Yes preferably Council
- No
- Yes
- No. no advantage at all in having an evening meeting starting at 5pm. If it is an evening meeting should it not start at 7 or 7.30 which would be too late.
- no preference
- yes

### Question 8

What should Democratic Services Committee consider, other than attendance at meetings, to assess whether a varied time is better or worse for a meeting?

- Gather member opinions - in reality difficult to get agreement across 43 members of different ages and responsibilities.
- Leave it. It works now.
- Time of year for evening meetings, attendance could be affected by poor travelling conditions.
- Likelihood of people turning up at wrong time.
- Family friendly hours, like the Welsh Assembly has
- Timings of all meetings
- Nothing
- People who work full time.
- A public survey to see if more working age people would be interested in standing if it did not impact your full time job.
- Surveys is a good option, if all elected members would complete them.
- any common denominators between those who don't attend (i.e. are the absentees all parents)?
- Is it easier for those with young children, or full time employment, to attend - and for the future, does it encourage a wider demographic of people who stand for election
- Majority wishes
- Reasons for non attendance. Is the measure we should attach value to just attendance or is contribution and outcomes?
- What are the issues. If they are not readily apparent don't consider them
- circumstances

### Question 9

Should democratic services committee make a recommendation to Council that Council set the start times for all meetings of the authority?

Yes	8	No	11
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### Question 10

If no, Should Democratic Services Committee make a recommendation to Council that Council set the start time for certain meetings, and if so which ones and what time?

- No. In a previous question, the option of committee chairs calling the start time of meetings is offered. I think this should be so. Up to the chairs of the committees. But each chair should fully listen to all members points when asked.
- Full Council, varied between morning and afternoon
- No.
- Full council - morning start
- No
- No view

- Yes. Full Council. The times are being set by people who don't work or are retired. Little wonder younger working people can be councillors eh?
- TBH I don't mind if it's set by committee or by council, I just want them to be fixed at 10 am where possible
- No. Each committee should decide for itself.
- Committees as present. Council 2pm
- None
- Na