

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

8TH SEPTEMBER 2022

SURVEY – TIMING OF MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

To consider the results of the timing of meetings survey, and to make a recommendation to Council.

REASONS:

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Council is required to survey Members in respect of the times and intervals at which meetings of a local authority are held. All local authorities should review the times at which meetings are held at least once in every term, preferably shortly after the new council is elected.

This report provides the findings of the survey undertaken following the recent local government elections.

Scrutiny Committee consulted	Not applicable
Cabinet Decision Required	NO
Council Decision Required	YES

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder(s): Cllr Darren Price - Leader

<p>Directorate</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones</p> <p>Report Author: Gaynor Morgan</p>	<p>Chief Executive's</p> <p>Designations: Head of Administration & Law</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p>Tel Nos.</p> <p>01267 224012 LRJ 01267 224026 GM</p> <p>E Mail Addresses:</p> <p>Lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk gmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

SURVEY – TIMING OF MEETINGS

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Issues to be taken into account in conducting a survey should include : (i) Whether daytime or evening meetings are preferred. (ii) Whether meetings are to be multi-location. (iii) The preferred meeting length. (iv) Whether particular times cause difficulties for councillors with particular characteristics, such as age, gender, religion, having caring responsibilities or being in employment.

The Timing of Meetings Survey was open to all Elected Members to complete between 19th May 2022 and 30th May 2022 and 53 members responded.

The results of the survey suggest that the majority of members would prefer meeting arrangements to remain as at present, a copy of the full results is attached for the Committee's consideration.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Survey Results

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Legal

The Local Government Wales Measure 2011 requires authorities to consult its members on the times at which meetings are held.

Finance

The introduction of meetings outside of office hours would result in additional staffing costs.

Staffing Implications

Possible staffing implications should the Authority move towards evening meetings.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

1.Scrutiny Committee Not applicable

2.Local Member(s) Not applicable

3.Community / Town Council Not applicable

4.Relevant Partners Not applicable

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations Not applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Local Government Wales Measure 2011		http://gov.wales/topics/localgovernment/publications/lgmeasure11/?lang=en