

# COUNCIL

## 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

### SURVEY – TIMING OF MEETINGS

#### DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council's meeting arrangements remain as at present.

#### 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

#### Directorate

**Name of Head of Service:**  
Linda Rees Jones

**Report Author:**  
Gaynor Morgan

#### Chief Executive's

**Designations:**  
Head of Administration & Law

Head of Democratic Services

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## COUNCIL

### SURVEY – TIMING OF MEETINGS

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.

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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 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:**

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