

<b>CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
<b>11 MARCH 2019</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Governance	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 452460

**COUNCIL MEETINGS START TIME**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Fiona McMillan, Director of Governance</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
It is recommended that the Constitution and Ethics Committee agree to a proposed start time of 6.00pm being included within future schedules of meeting submitted to Full Council.	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Constitution and Ethics Committee following a request to undertake research with Members.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain the Constitution and Ethics Committees views on changing the start time of Full Council from 7.00pm to 6.00pm.

2.2 This report is for Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.7.2.1, 'Authority to oversee the operation of the Council's Constitution and authority to make recommendations to Full Council as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution (including the codes and protocols) subject to the receipt and consideration of a report prepared by the Monitoring Officer, with the exception of those matters under the remit of the Executive.'

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 At the meeting on 29 October 2018 it was agreed that "a survey be undertaken with all Elected Members to seek their opinion on amending the start time of Full Council from 7.00pm to 6.00pm, with the guillotine to be triggered after four hours at 10.00pm with the results to be reported back to the next meeting."

4.2 This survey was undertaken in November 2018, circulated to all Councillors. 28 responses were received, with the results as follows:

Would you prefer Full Council to start at 6pm or 7pm?

6.00pm - 53.6%

7.00pm - 32.1%  
6.30 - 7.2%  
Daytime - 3.6%  
Would need to consult the Group - 3.6%

4.3 The majority of those who responded favoured a 6.00pm start time, subsequently meaning that the four hour guillotine for Council Meetings would end at approximately 10.00pm, rather than the current 11.00pm.

4.4 The power to amend the meeting schedule rests with Council and it is not for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to decide when meetings of Full Council should begin. However, should the Committee recommend it, the proposal submitted to the Annual Council meeting could include this suggestion for Council to determine.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The survey seeking opinions on when Full Council should start was circulated to all Members.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 That an earlier start to Full Council meetings will allow the meeting to finish earlier in the evening and ensure that Members are able to take decisions in the most beneficial environment.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 The recommendation is made as a result of the majority result in the feedback from Members. This change in start time would also enable Full Council meetings to finish earlier and improve the working environment for Members.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 To not propose a change to the start time of Council - this was dismissed as it was not the most favoured option with survey respondents and would not provide any improvement to the end time of Council meetings.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None.

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None.