

AIUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
21 FEBRUARY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council	
Contact Officer(s):	Dan Kalley, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 296334

AUDIT COMMITTEE START TIME 2022/23

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Director of Law and Governance</i>	Deadline date: March 2022
<p>It is recommended that the Audit Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree and recommend to Council the start time for all Audit Committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2022-23. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Audit Committee meeting following the Full Council decision on 24 July 2019 to allow Committees to decide their own start times for the Municipal Year 2020-21.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to allow the Audit Committee to discuss and agree the start times for meetings from the beginning of the Municipal Year 2022-23. The draft schedule of meetings will be agreed at Full Council on either 22 January or 4 March 2020.

2.2 This report is for the Audit Committee to consider under Council Standing Order section 4.4.1

The timings of normal committee meetings will be agreed by the committee for the next municipal year in January of the preceding municipal year (or as near to this time as possible).

3. TIMESCALES

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

4.1 At the Constitution and Ethics Committee on 8 July 2019 the Committee agreed by majority to recommend to Council that all Committees can agree their start times for the Municipal Year 2020-21. This was again agreed by majority at the Full Council meeting on 24 July 2019.

- 4.2 The Council standing orders have been updated to reflect this decision and gives Committees the opportunity to decide their own start time.
- 4.3 In order for the start times to be incorporated into the draft meeting schedule it is important for the Committee to make a decision on this before the January Full Council meeting. This is the only opportunity for the Committee to make this decision as the next meeting is after the January Council meeting.
- 4.4 Council standing orders allow the Committee to agree its start time every Municipal Year, thereby allowing the Committee to change the start times if it is felt that the start time was not suitable or working.
- 4.5 The Committee will need to decide the best start time and will need to weigh up attendance at meetings and the impact on the Council and members of the public.
- 4.6 The Committee has for the past two years met at 5pm. For the municipal year 2020/21 all meetings were held virtually due to the ongoing Pandemic and due to the uncertainty over this meeting times for 2021/22 have been kept at the same time.
- 4.7 At the last meeting on 29 November the committee agreed to defer the decision on the timings of the meeting to allow input from the newly appointed Independent Members of the Committee.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation on the start times for the committee is being presented to members at this meeting along with any suggestions with regards to meeting frequency. Any recommendations will be presented to Full Council as part of the meeting schedule report.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the Committee will agree a start time for meetings for the Municipal Year 2022-23 and this will be proposed as part of the draft meeting schedule.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The recommendation allows the Audit Committee to debate the start time of the meeting and make recommendations following debate.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are none.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 There are none.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are none.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 Minutes of the Constitution and Ethics Committee 8 July 2019
Report to Full Council 24 July 2019

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

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