



Meeting Start Times 2025/2026

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Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Mohammed Jamil, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance

Executive Summary:

This report is submitted to the Audit Committee following Full Council's decision of 24 July 2019 to allow committees to decide their own start times for the municipal year ahead.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Audit Committee recommends to Full Council the start time of 6pm for all Audit Committee meetings for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow the Audit Committee, following the decision of Full Council in July 2019, to decide its own start times for the municipal year ahead.

2. Background and key issues

- 2.1 On 8 July 2019 the Constitution and Ethics Committee resolved to recommend to Full Council that all committees are allowed to agree their own start times for 2020/2021 Municipal Year. This recommendation was agreed by Full Council at its meeting on 24 July 2019.
- 2.2 The Council's Standing Orders, set out in the Peterborough City Council Constitution, were subsequently updated to reflect this decision and allow committees to determine their own start times for the municipal year ahead.
- 2.3 In order for start times to be incorporated into the draft meeting schedule it is important for the Committee to make a decision prior to the January 2025 Full Council meeting. This is the only opportunity for such a decision to be made as the Committee's next meeting is after the January 2025 Full Council meeting.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 For the municipal years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 the Committee has started its meetings at 6pm. Prior to this the Committee started its meetings at 5pm.

3. Corporate Priorities

- 3.1 The proposal impacts the Sustainable Future City Council arm of the Corporate Priorities outlined below:
 - 3.1.1 Sustainable Future City Council
 - How we work
 - How we serve
 - How we enable
- 3.2 This impact needs to be taken into account in order for the Committee to be able to meet at the appropriate time to conduct business on behalf of the Council.
- 3.3 Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation on the start times for the Committee is being presented to Members at this meeting. Any recommendations will be presented to Full Council as part of the meeting schedule report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications, resourcing for committee meetings will be met from the existing budget.

6. Value for money

- 6.1 Resourcing for committee meetings will be met from the existing budget.

7. Legal implications (to be completed by the Legal team only after all other comments)

- 7.1 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

8. Equalities

- 8.1 There are no direct equalities impacts arising from the proposed meeting start times.

9. Options considered

- 9.1 To not provide the Committee with the opportunity to determine its own start times. This would, however, be contrary to both the Full Council's decision of July 2019 and paragraph 4.4.1 of the Council's Standing Orders.

10. Background documents

- 10.1 Minutes of the Constitution and Ethics Committee meeting of 8 July 2019
10.2 Report to the Full Council meeting of 24 July 2019
10.3 Peterborough City Council Constitution

11. Appendices

- 11.1 None.

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