

Council meetings Member survey 2023

In accordance with the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government under Section 6(1) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the council is required to survey members in respect of the times meetings are held at least once a term. The results will be reported to the Democratic Services Committee [DSC], when it will also consider the New Ways of Working report, which has been referred back to it by Council. DSC will then make a recommendation to Council, after which the Council's calendar for 2024 will be produced.

Q1. Name - 36 responses received.

Q2 & 3. Please consider the following and choose what time of day you would prefer the meeting to start.

Committee [nbr members]	9.30 am	10.00 am	10.30 am	11.00 am	11.30 am	2.00 pm	2.30 pm	3.00 pm	3.30 pm	4.00 pm	6.00 pm	6.30 pm	7.00 pm
Full Council [63]	2	21	10	1		1		6		1	4		
Planning, Taxi Licensing & Rights of Way [17]	1	12		1			1	2			1	1	
Scrutiny Committees [31]	2	15	1			3	1	7		1	2	1	1
Employment & Appeals [11]	2	7	1			1		4			1	1	
Democratic Services Committee [11]	1	10	2					2			1	1	
Governance & Audit [6]	1	9	1			1		4		1	2	1	
Finance Panel [9]	1	11				1		3		1	2	1	
Pensions & Investment [5]	2	9				1		4		1	2	1	

4. Meetings can now be held in a variety of ways. What format for meetings would you like.

	Online only	County Hall only	Hybrid meeting i.e. online and in County Hall	No preference
Full Council	2	11	22	
Planning, Taxi Licensing & Rights of Way	1	4	17	6
Scrutiny Committees	5	2	19	6
Employment & Appeals	5	5	9	8
Democratic Services Committee	4	1	13	7
Governance & Audit	5		11	7
Finance Panel	6		12	7
Pensions & Investment	5		12	7

5. Use the box below to add any comments:

Comment

- ❖ I think the having the first meeting of the term for any committee or working group in person has merits.
- ❖ I would welcome an increase in evening meetings, we have made a step forward in diversifying council this time and having some meetings in an evening as online only would increase the potential for younger working members of the county to seek election.
- ❖ I feel that the full council is the only opportunity that we have to meet all the other councillors together and i believe it is important that we do meet face to face and have the opportunity to get to know each other over a cup of coffee. In respect to the other committees that I would prefer to be face to face, these are the ones where members of the public (Planning etc) or individual officers (Employment) will be present to present their individual case / point of view in respect to the issue being discussed and I feel we, as councillors, have the duty to afford them the opportunity to present their case to us in person and in the same room.
- ❖ I personally struggle with mornings but realise they may suit others better.
- ❖ I believe the PTRW committee should have a hybrid option because of the varied contributors from different locations. However, there is learning, insight and understanding that can be better gleaned from a well attended County Hall meeting. The agenda, however, is an important consideration for attendance.. As a member who resides an hour and twenty minutes from County Hall I am fully committed to my role but I would occasionally reserve the right to work from home due to local commitments.. There is also a Housing Scrutiny committee which includes, and is led by, tenants and serviced by PCC officers. It meets generally in the morning.

- ❖ Choice of County Hall with hybrid option for those who cant meet face to face. But not on line only.
- ❖ I believe Finance Panel Meetings every third meeting should be face to face only. I do wish to have later or evening meetings.
- ❖ We must continue to reduce travel where we can, it save time and carbon and increases opportunities to attend.
- ❖ The hybrid meetings are much better for me for two reasons, firstly the distance of travel, secondly I find hearing loops outside of the chamber lacking.
- ❖ It is difficult to manage childcare, work and council. If we don't have a hybrid system I would struggle and then I would need to make a choice if I stayed or not. This would be reflected and could mean only the retired or wealthy could be councillors as they would have the time.
- ❖ Full Council needs to start at 10am. Most other committees (besides Planning) are normally a few hours so could start at 2pm. I believe full council should be in the chamber as much as possible.
- ❖ Not meeting face-to-face is having a detrimental effect on the mental health of councillors and officers. Chief Planning Officer's response to a damning Audit Report includes the disadvantages of staff not being in the office together. Attending meetings means that councillors can also have valuable conversations with officers.
- ❖ I think meetings should return to County Hall. I don't know hal the Council as I never see them.
- ❖ As a disbaled cllr with limited mobility, being able to wok on a hybrid system enables me to attend meetings that I wouldnt be able to attend otherwise. Without the introduction of this hybrid system, I would not be able to work nor would i have the capcity to continue with my role as a cllr. For me it is an accommodation that is required, rather than a preference.