

**ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COUNTY COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>5 DECEMBER 2013</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>TIMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>TO AGREE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS</b>

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 at which meetings of a local authority are held. All local authorities should review the times at which meetings are held at least once every term, preferably shortly after the new Council is elected.

The views of Members and Co-opted Members have been sought on the timing of future meetings. Members were requested to rank in order of preference meeting times held at 10.00am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm and 6.00pm. Preferences have been summarised below:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Feedback in Order of Preference</b>
<b>Council</b>	
10.00am	<b>2</b>
2.00pm	<b>1</b>
4.00pm	<b>3</b>
6.00pm	<b>4</b>
<b>Executive</b>	
10.00am	<b>1</b>
2.00pm	<b>2</b>
4.00pm	<b>3</b>
6.00pm	<b>4</b>
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	
10.00am	<b>2</b>
2.00pm	<b>1</b>
4.00pm	<b>3</b>
6.00pm	<b>4</b>

<b>Quasi Judicial</b>	
10.00am	1
2.00pm	2
4.00pm	3
6.00pm	4
<b>Other Committees</b>	
10.00am	2
2.00pm	1
4.00pm	3
6.00pm	4

It is clear from the feedback received that there is a preference for meetings to continue be held at either 10.00am or 2.00pm. However, it is noted that some additional comments have been received as part of the feedback and these are summarised as follows:

- i. Meetings preferred at either 1.00pm or 1.30pm (1 Member);
- ii. Work commitments need to be acknowledged and consider some meetings before 10.00am and after 6.00pm (1 Member);
- iii. Pilot certain meetings at 4.00pm for one year e.g. a scrutiny committee (1 Member);
- iv. Some evening meetings should be held (1 Member).

### **Arrangements in other North Wales Authorities**

As a matter of information the arrangements in other Authorities can be seen below:

<b>Name of Authority</b>	<b>Arrangements</b>
Gwynedd	No evening meetings apart from Area Committees
Fflintshire	No evening committees apart from Standards at 6.00pm
Denbighshire	No evening meetings
Conwy	Licensing and two Scrutiny Committees held after 6.00pm. Majority of meetings held at 10.00am or 2.00pm
Wrexham	Full Council, Planning, 2 out of their 5 Scrutiny Committees held in the evening. Remainder held during the day including Cabinet meeting.

### **Current Arrangements**

There are approximately 100 meetings in the schedule of meetings published for 2013/14. However, there have been numerous other ad-hoc meetings held since the beginning of the municipal year. Current practice is for meetings to be held either morning or afternoon

with no evening meetings. This matter was last considered by the Council in May 2010 and a report was presented on the feasibility of conducting evening meetings and associated costs in terms of staff resources. The Council resolved to adhere to the existing practice of convening meetings during the day. Members will note that there are resource implications for convening evening meetings including staff time beyond core working hours of 7.00pm and building related costs.

The Group Leaders have considered the feedback received from Members.

### **Recommendation**

The Council is requested to consider whether to adhere to the current practice of convening meetings during the day or whether to agree some other arrangements.

**Huw Jones**  
**Interim Head of Democratic Services**  
**25/11/13**