

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting:	26 th November 2012
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Notice of Motion - Start Time of Council Public Meetings

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report invites the Committee to consider the following Motion, proposed by Councillor D Brickhill and seconded by Councillor A Moran, which has been referred by Council to the Committee for consideration:

“That in view of the increasingly bad traffic congestion in the morning rush hours all this Council’s public meetings, which cause additional traffic to travel in these periods, should never start before 10 am if held in Sandbach and not before 10.30 am if held elsewhere.”

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Committee consider the Motion and offer its advice to Council.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable Council to consider the Committee views on the matter.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 None

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Members are affected by this matter.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None identified.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)

- 7.1 None identified.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 None identified.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 None identified.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 On 12th October Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brickhill on the start time of Council public meetings.
- 10.2 Work has commenced on the Calendar of Meetings for 2013/14. The vast majority of meetings are scheduled to start at 2.00pm in the afternoon and would therefore be unaffected by the proposed motion.
- 10.3 For those meetings that commence in the morning the start times are either 10.00am or 10.30am. Using the current Calendar of Meetings there are two Overview and Scrutiny Committees that meet at 10.00am. There are no significant operational issues arising from the motion. The Committee might therefore wish to recommend that the start times of meetings in the Calendar of Meetings for 2013/14 be prepared having regard to the motion.
- 10.4 The Committee is asked to note that the scheduled slot for Portfolio Holder meetings is 9.00 am to 11.00 am Mondays and it is recommended that these be unchanged to allow flexibility in setting up the meetings.
- 10.5 For ad hoc or special meetings, efforts will be made to use the proposed start times. However, greater flexibility is required over start times to accommodate the work and diary commitments of members including Portfolio holders and the Chairmen of Committees.
- 10.6 If Members feel that further information is required then Committee might wish to invite officers to review the approaches in other local authorities and consult further with all members of the Council on this matter before submitting a comprehensive report on the matter.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer. There are no specific background documents.

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