

Timing of Council Meetings

# Timing of Council Meetings

This report was generated on 10/10/17. Overall 41 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

<b>Name of Councillor</b>	Edward Latham
Rachel Taylor	Sean Pursey
Dean Cawsey	Carolyn Edwards
Scott Jones	Alan Lockyer
Anthony John Richards	Simon Knoyle
John Warman	Sonia Reynolds
Chris James	Wyndham Griffiths
Robert Wood	Charlotte Galsworthy
Sandra Miller	Mike Harvey
Peter Rees	
Rosalyn Davies	
Helen Ceri Clarke	
Arwyn Woolcock	
Desmond William Davies	
Sian Harris	
Rhidian Mizen	
Doreen Jones	
Leanne jones	
Del Morgan	
Nicola davies	
Christopher John Jones	
Adam McGrath	
John Miller	
David Whitelock	
Angharad Aubrey	
Martin Ellis	
Susanne Renkes	
Steffan ap Dafydd	
Annette Wingrave	
Suzanne Paddison	
Christopher Williams	
Oliver Stewart Davies	
Matt Crowley	

Timing of Council Meetings

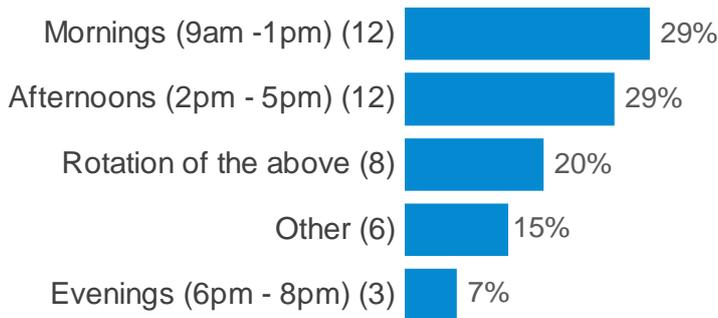
**Do you find the arrangements for the current cycle/timetable of meetings satisfactory?**



**(Please specify:)**

- It is ok, but it seems a lot of meetings are crammed into the first two weeks of a month.
- Often clashes with end of school day. Not always able to get time off work.
- Rotation maybe good
- Many arrangements are fine, but we do need to examine more flexibility for certain members.
- Yes but I can appreciate the difficulties for those who have full-time employment

**Please indicate your preference in relation to the timings of meetings:**

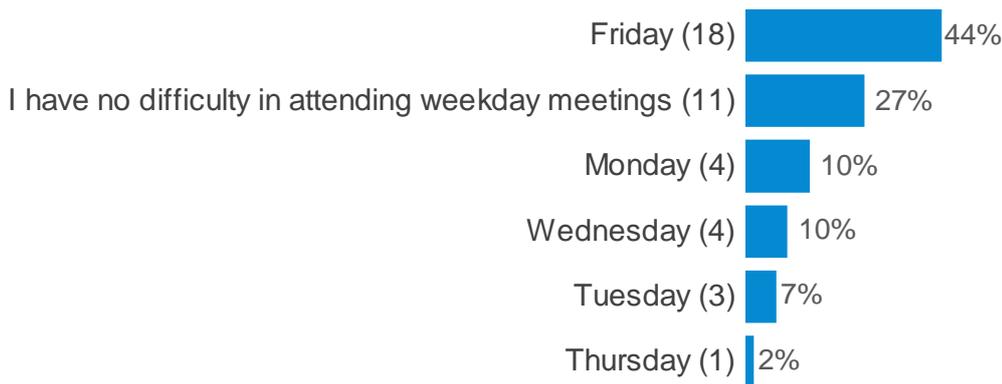


**(Please specify: )**

- 4-6pm/5-7pm
- Mornings or evenings but not afternoons.
- I support variance/rotation, but not necessarily the precise times shown (e.g. consider 4/5pm)
- Mornings/afternoons link won't work for ticking two
- I don't mind as long as I have reasonable notice.
- Anything to suit the majority & Staff

Timing of Council Meetings

**Is there a day of the week that you would find it difficult to attend meetings?**



**Do you have any other issues in relation to the attendance of meetings? Please specify:**

I've only selected Friday above because I couldn't submit when leaving it blank. There is no particular day of the week that I would find it difficult to attend meetings on.

N/A

None

I have other commitments during evenings so I would not be able to change the regime we have now

None

The date and time needs to be put in place with plenty of notice. i work flexi so can sometimes accommodate meetings but sometimes the pre meeting and meeting time has been changed with little notice.

I have no days of the week that give me issues. Morning or Afternoon as above. Did not want to choose any day but had to choose one to move on.

I work full time and have to use my own time to attend meetings, so 2pm onwards suits me as I can just have an early finish. I can sometimes do a Friday but as that is the busiest day for leave find this day hard to get off.

I can attend most meetings.

Thursdays and Fridays i am in uni but am free in the evenings

Unable to attend evening meetings

No

I work full time and my job is not a 9-5 type of job so I cant say from one week to the next which days I may be unavailable. As long as I have good notice of meeting dates I can manage my diary accordingly. However sometimes I'm away for several days during the week or have work commitments which cannot be altered because they involve a 3rd party. I have sufficient unpaid leave allowance to be able to attend meetings and do other council work. But it just doesn't always work out due to appointments etc

As I didn't expect meetings on Friday, I have arranged to provide free Welsh lessons on a Friday afternoon.

None

I Attend Fire Authority Meetings on Mondays generally

Timing of Council Meetings

**Do you have any other issues in relation to the attendance of meetings? Please specify:**

I am lucky in having a flexible job, but work Monday Wednesday and Friday currently. I have altered my days and hours to fit around regular meetings (Planning on Tuesdays for example). Mornings allow me to get a meeting 'out of the way' before going back to work on the days that I do work. Evening meetings would be problematic as there are various political meetings (4 a month) that take place as well as committee meetings for local groups I'm involved in. These already take up a lot of personal time in the evenings.

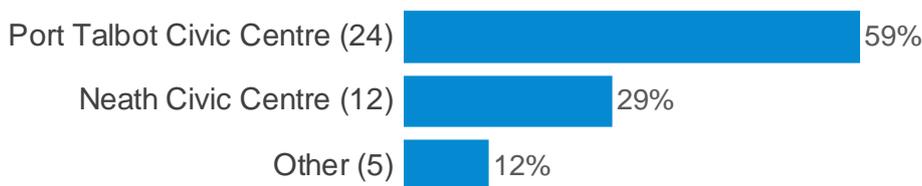
Many meetings , not only borough council meetings to attend so it would be better if the timing of the meetings were static or we had plenty of advance warning. E.g meeting this week changed at short notice to a pm meeting and i had arranged an appointment so couldn't attend

Monday and Wednesday evenings are not good for me

I have difficulties if meetings are changed at relatively short notice. This is due to organising other Board level commitments

Work full time.

**Please indicate your preference in relation to location of meetings bearing in mind the need for suitable arrangements to accommodate the larger Council/Committee meetings:**



**Any other comments: (Please specify:)**

Both

Either I have no preference.

No particular issues with either Neath or Port Talbot but would not be happy with just one site only

I don't mind where as long as the venue is specified.

I have a relatively long distance to travel to either of the Civic Centres. Neither venue is realistically accessible to me via public transport. I fully accept this and benefit from the facilities available to members to work between meetings at both centres. However, I would like to see just some meetings were possible held in community locations particularly in the Valleys. This could make the workings of the Council more accessible to members of these communities. It may also be appropriate to consider in the long term, remote access via electronic means to meetings should members find themselves unable to travel due to lack of transport or physical disability.

**Please indicate your preference in relation to the frequency of Council, its Committees or Sub Committee meetings:**



Timing of Council Meetings

**Please specify: (Other (please state your preference))**

I think Status Quo with the room to adapt to need if and when for improvement etc

Sometimes the agenda is so short you wonder why a meeting has been called. This isn't often but doe.

**Please indicate below how you feel about the improvements made to the facilities in the meeting rooms in Port Talbot and Neath Civic Centres:**

Being a new member, the facilities were improved before i was elected, so it's difficult to comment.

Excellent facilities in both Civic Centres, I particularly like the air-con in the committee rooms in Neath Civic Centre.

Excellent improvements. However, we could do with a small office/meeting room where Councillors could meet with constituents and or officers of the council as and when needed. If this could be achieved, could Councillors be able to book this office/meeting room online?

N/A

Although I have an office at home where I tend to do most of my work I think the recent improvements made are first class I sometimes use the anti –room in the Neath Civic which I find useful it's normally quiet I so it meets the members requirements.

I think the facilities are good.

All very good

The seating is too rigid for my needs at Port Talbot.

No comments

Much improved & user friendly.

I am only recently elected so have no experience of what they were like before to compare them to!

The refurbishment of the committee rooms, including new furniture and microphone system, is welcomed. However, the refurbishment of the Members room in Port Talbot, although sorely needed, has resulted in it being a more of a work station than somewhere to relax prior to, or after a meeting. Whilst I agree that access to PCs and telephones are essential, the traditional "Member" room element has been taken away.

Okay

Sorry I didnt know what it was like before to comment on what it is like now.

Very pleased with the improvements

The IT facilities in Port Talbot are an improvement but there are not enough leisure areas for members who have to attend meetings all day.

Facilities are fine.

The continued improvements are helpful

From what Ive seen as a newly elected councillor i have no complaints

I'm a new member and can't comment on the improvements

No improvement needed

Not impressed with sound systems

The acoustics and lighting in neath are still fairly poor.

Either Neath or Port Talbot is easy for me. Every thing seems suitable.

Timing of Council Meetings

**Please indicate below how you feel about the improvements made to the facilities in the meeting rooms in Port Talbot and Neath Civic Centres:**

Council chamber is useful for, larger scrutiny meetings when committee rooms are not sufficiently "round table" Neath rooms A and B often feel over large and perhaps if tables are on wheels rearrangement would allow bespoke settings for meetings Cabinet style single table arrangements are not useful as communications along sides work against facemtomface

They are good

I don't mind as long as there is a reasonable notice of time and place.

I find the seating improvements practical and adequate. I do have an issue with the height of the monitors in the members room and the fact that they are not easily adjusted. For people that use reading glasses or varifocals they are too high.

The addition of microphones is much better.

Excellent facilities. No issues.

I have not been a councillor long enough to comment on improvements or facilities in either civic centre. I do not know what was in place prior to me being elected.

Very good although i do not use them

I am more than happy with both Civic Centres.

Would comment that in the committee rooms, that a reminder to use the microphones be made at the start of meetings. There also often doesn't seem to be quite enough of the new microphones with some far out of reach when in Regen in Neath Civic for example.

Adequate facilities

Committee. Rooms 1 + 2 could be iritis from oval shaped table for all members/visitors. To have eye contact (especially helping hard of hearing if lip reading) and aid communication

The Facilities are fine

Portable Microphone system in Neath has limitations. As I have to travel for meetings I can often spend considerable time at one or other civic centre. I am unimpressed by the quality of the refreshments available to purchase in the civic centre. Very bread based with limited consideration given to those who may wish to eat or drink more healthily or have gluten or similar concerns.

As a new member I was not able to comment as I didn't know the previous arrangements

I like them as they are all I have ever known

Good.

**Please use the space below to make any other comments in relation to the timing of meetings:**

Meetings either at the start of the working day or right at the end of the working day would be best for me, so that I don't have to sacrifice too much time from my job travelling to and from meetings.

At the very start of the day (8-9am start) or at the end of the (4-5pm start) would be useful.

N/A

Due to many new members having a full time occupation as well as being a Cllr, I think evening meetings would be more suitable to ensure a good attendance.

I think the timings of meetings is good I am self employed so I find meetings in the morning are good and then members are free do constituency ward work and attend to personal matters. I personally do not like afternoon meetings and I don't know why the full council meetings could not be held in the morning.

N/a

I find the status quo fine

## Timing of Council Meetings

**Please use the space below to make any other comments in relation to the timing of meetings:**

I would not be able to attend evening meetings. And would be restricted on Fridays

The present arrangements are satisfi.

I understand that timing of meetings is a problem for those who are employed elsewhere & we should try to accommodate those who find it difficult to attend meetings in the day.

There does not seem to be enough consideration given to those with day jobs or childcare and caring responsibilities.

I believe that the existing times are correct i.e. 10.00 am and 2.00 pm for committee meetings, and 2.30 pm for full Council meetings.

It suites me to have 9 til 5 meetings but I do apprieciate some members work 9 til five. Those on shift work will be working what ever time of day meetings are called , afernoon ,night or morning.

I do not like morning meetings as they are difficult with work.

No comment

The timing of the meetings is appropriate.

I think it would be beneficial if timings of meetings were more flexible, as they have been a number of new councillors this year who are in employment it may work better

I'll just repeat my point that certain members need more flexibility, as they are working/caring/etc. - but I'd also add that council meetings are meant to be public meetings, and we need to take account of the public's accessibility as well

I am happy with meeting times and do not mind either Neath or Port Talbot civic centre

Due to my work commitments meetings after 2pm are best suited.

None

There is a legal requirement for employed councillors to time off work, the employer should be challenged if reluctant to release any councillors for meetings.

None

So far the times of meetings have been fine.

Generally works well but individually at times gives occasional overloads as to be expected. A range of times and days best all round

I have no other comment

See 7.

I am happy with the timing of meetings.

I am satisfied with the timing of meetings.

The meetings are well organised with timescales and excellent members of staff chairing the meetings.

I find timings quite well laid out.

Happy with the status quo arrangements

No other comments

None to make

See above, should remain the same time if already in schedule

Timing of meetings are workable as they are. It will never suit all. Evening meetings will have even more clashes as Cllrs constituency commitment / pact school performance and governance are at this time.

Timing of Council Meetings

**Please use the space below to make any other comments in relation to the timing of meetings:**

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I work 8-5 Monday to Friday and find it extremely difficult to attend Council meetings. I understand that this is not the same for everyone and that I am probably in the minority but these are my observations. I would refer meetings in the evenings 6-8 as indicated as these would suit me better so that I could attend more. Many thanks

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If the Council wishes to engage with the public and involve people of all ages and employment status as Councillors or in its work in general then timing of meetings must provide for ease of access to those in employment or with caring responsibilities almost in preference to those of us who no longer work full-time.

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I have no problem with the current arrangements in relation to Council meetings

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In social care sometimes I see need for more time for briefing discussions depending on Agenda.

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Nil