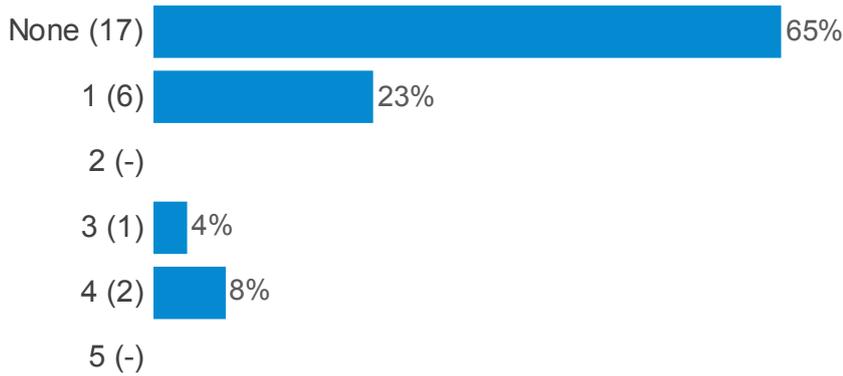


# Review of committee meetings

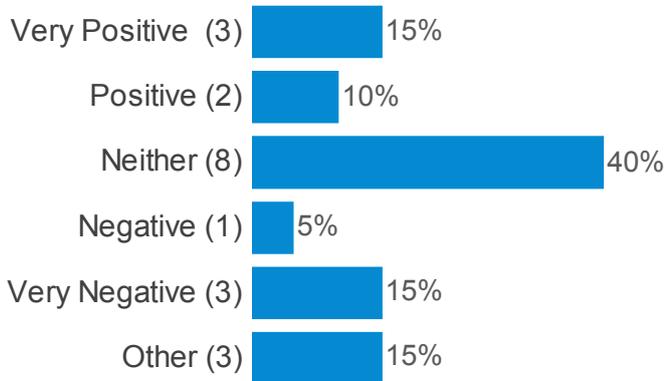
This report was generated on 05/01/18. Overall 26 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

## From June how many Governance and Audit Committee meetings starting at 7pm have you attended?



## What was your experience of the later start time of the committee meeting?



### Please use the space below to enter your experience

Did not attend.

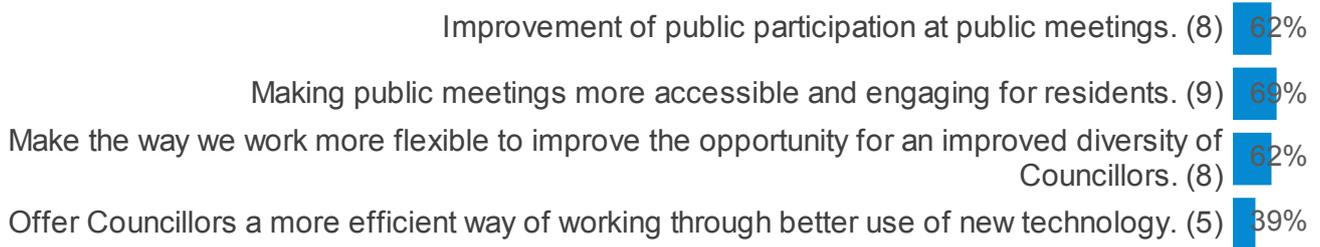
N/A

None

Review of committee meetings

**Review of meetings and ways of working objectives are listed below, which do you feel a 6pm meeting start time achieves?**

(select all that apply)



**Review of meetings and ways of working objectives are listed below, which do you feel a 7pm meeting start time achieves?**

(select all that apply)



**What would be your preferred start time for a committee meeting?**



**Why would you prefer a 6pm start?**

- A later start would just mean a later end to the meeting.

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- Easier for many of public and those with caring responsibilities to attend. Avoids wasted Officer time and better for quest soakers

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- More convenient and allows time to get to other meetings starting at 8pm or back home in time to eat something and have something of the evening left.

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- Earlier to start earlier to finish!

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- 6PM for committee meetings and maybe later for main council meetings. It should be up to the chair to discuss start times of their committee meetings.

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- The one hour is the difference between getting to bed at midnight or 1am ,as I always have stuff to do late evening that must be done or added to my work load the next day.

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- so you have more time to discuss items and not feel rushed to finish

**Why would you prefer a 6pm start?**

Those of us who have to travel a distance to get to a meeting prefer to be finished and home before 10 o'clock

As some meetings drag on

I really don't mind

The start time of 6pm was originally introduced to accommodate those councillors who lived and worked in or near Colchester. The same remains true today. The numbers who work out side Colchester are relatively few. Furthermore employers are expected to make reasonable provision for employees who under take civic duties in their own time.

It is a difficult balance but I believe that a 7pm start time could result in meetings ending much later. A 6pm start time is slightly more favourable to members of the public attending.

personal reasons--hearing impaired and the later the meeting starts the harder it is to hear

The earlier the start the earlier you finish, which means that meetings that tend to go on until late evening ( e.g. planning) could go beyond the 10.00pm threshold if they were to start at 7.00pm.

It allows councillors to attend both CBC meetings in the Town Hall at 1800h and then meetings of other organisations which tend to start later. I have 11 parish councils in my ward, most of which meet from 1930h, which gives one a reasonable chance of getting to them before they finish. If the CBC meetings didn't start until 1900h, there would be no chance at all of getting to a PC meeting held on the same night.

**Why would you prefer a 7pm start?**

I work full time and meetings at 6pm go on too long, if 7pm they will focus more as less time available.

So I can attend after my day job with a chance of eating.

As a Councillor with a full time job I am home by 6pm less than 50% of the time. A 7pm Start time gives me probably a 75% chance of being there. At present I have to take the day off work to ensure that I am at meetings on time. It is almost impossible to get to a meeting and eat before hand.

If working or out in the daytime, I have time for a meal before hand and meet less traffic problems than earlier.

For work

To allow full time workers greater opportunity to participate as members and residents

For those that work both residents and councillors making attendance easier

I finish work at 6pm. Increased representation - It is challenging to encourage candidates to come forward who have full time jobs and arrive in time for a 6pm start.

Easier to get to from work, better for residents who want to attend and speak

**What advantages would there be to you in retaining the 6pm start time?**

Finishing a meeting before 9pm.

None

Early finish times.. unless the agenda can be smarter

Better able to fit into lifestyle and caring responsibilities

Better able to fit into lifestyle and caring responsibilities

More time for complex meetings

More convenient and see above.

Finishing earlier.

Earlier finish, but with our committee, this is no problem; with some committees such as planning, it could mean finishing too late. By too late, I would say 9.30-10.00

Review of committee meetings

**What advantages would there be to you in retaining the 6pm start time?**

N/A

Earlier finish

I do not have a job of work so the earlier time suits me best.

It mean we can run an efficient meeting which sometimes have gone on until 11pm! If we start later would a Midnight finish be realistic?

As set out above

Meetings vinish earlier

none

I can travel in before rush hour, do bit of shopping, have a cup of tea then be home before my husband goes to bed.

Less pressure on councillors who work early Currently works

Easier to come straight from other town business

None

None

The main advantage is that with the new procedural rules, the meetings will end earlier.

Earlier finishes to meetings.

as above

As described above.

See above. Of perhaps lesser importance, the same reasoning applies to social activities such as theatre and concert-going. You can catch a show at 2000h from a meeting that started at 1800h but probably not from one that started 1900h.

**What disadvantages would there be to you in retaining the 6pm start time?**

Disadvantages those Councillors who have a full time job and non flexible working.

Rushed and unprepared as work full time,

Working members will struggle to make meeting start

None

None

Those who work (even in Colchester) let alone London might struggle to get to these meetings.

None

Less attendance. Hungry!

Having to either manage to have a lunch, difficult sometimes, or a late dinner after the meeting. Traffic is bad for me for 6.00 start. Probably doubles my travel time from 20 minutes to 40 or more.

Problems with work

Limited time to get from work to meeting. No opportunity to eat.

It can mean people who work in London cannot attend but the Local Plan for instance always gets a very good turnout and participation with a 6PM start.

Traffic congestion

Too early for most people

none

None

Perhaps less residents participate but I doubt this improves with a 7pm meeting

Review of committee meetings

**What disadvantages would there be to you in retaining the 6pm start time?**

None

Carry on as I am, trying to rush to 6pm start, and missing any pre-meet. Also no chance to father thoughts or reread papers before the meeting (or even have some refreshment in between).

Having to leave work early to get to meetings.

None.

as above

None.

**What advantages would there be for you in changing Committee meetings to 7pm?**

None.

More relaxed on entry to meeting, pre meeting time

More relaxed journey into town as traffic will be less

None

None

People can grab a quick bite to eat.

None

Greater attendance. Greater chance of eating first.

Better meal times. Better travel.

Help balance life with my wok

A break between work and council activities. Opportunity to have a quick meal beforehand.

Only that more people may engage, but it would depend on the meeting content and the actual committee.

Ease of journey

Gives more time and less stress.

none

None

Easier for some who commute

None

A break to eat. Time for pre-meet and prepare papers.

Being able to remain longer at work or having a chance to get home properly between work and meetings to eat, change etc.

Absolutely none.

Slightly easier to balance work commitments and attending committee meetings

None that I can think of save avoiding traffic jams on the way in, which is not a very good reason because one can always park and walk.

## Review of committee meetings

**What disadvantages would there be for you in changing the Committee meetings to 7pm?**

Later end. County Councillor meetings are during the day so could mean a 9am start - meetings starting later would mean later end time meaning more days would be 12 hours + long.

Less time if big agenda items

CBC staff will work longer hours Later finish times

Later finish times. Less public participation. Unable to combine a Council meeting with any other event in the ward. Allowing for travelling times would not be back for second meeting until after 9pm which would not suit the majority of my constituents

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Less time for lengthy meetings but this can be turned into a positive because people might be better prepared / focused.

More inconvenient and not in the best interests of members, staff or the public.

Later finish times.

None

Later finishing

Later finish

The later the meeting starts the later it will finish thus it can make it feel like a very long day!

Even later finish times - we may not get through business on the agenda. Could lead to more meetings with smaller agenda items.

As set out in question 1

If you start later you finish later

none

It is too early to eat beforehand , leave one hour for travel in rush hour then be home too late for a meal.

Later finishing times

Gap between daytime business and evening meetings. Later finish time

None

None

Vide supra. Generally, I am concerned that moving the time back to 7pm will mean that meetings will finish later, unless CBC adheres to the new termination time of 10pm. In which case there will be even less time for discussion than there is now. The new procedural rules were introduced with the 6pm start in mind. They will to be rewritten to accommodate a later start. I am also concerned by the possible impact on officers servicing meetings, they will have to finish later. I am also concerned by the possible impact on Planning Committee meetings. These require site visits that must be conducted during the hours of daylight only. A 7pm start will mean an additional hour hanging around the Town Hall. It is not an efficient use of time.

A later start time will result in a later end time. My experience is that the longer meetings go on into the evening, the less productive they become.

For a committee that I sat on, the potentially very late finish. For all committees, that the quality of debate and decision-making deteriorates as the evening progresses. No-one can be expected to be giving their full attention to a complex subject after 2100h but a meeting start time of 1900h will lead to late night working time after time.

## Review of committee meetings

**If you have any further comments on the start time of meetings please use the space below**

We need to listen to all members and staff to ascertain impact

I would have said the same factors as I find positive in a 7.00 start apply equally to the majority of residents wishing to attend. However, I recognise everyone has different circumstances. I also recognise Council meetings have started at 6.00 for a long time and a change will need considerable publicity.

Offer the option to call into meetings and use technology.

I can see this would work for main council meetings but committee meetings less advantageous.

Whilst I appreciate it is a balance between the two times, I personally go for 6 pm

By starting later members may concentrate more so meetings do not go on too long

Reinstate the cafeteria so that we could avoid the rush hour and have a meal before the meetings and socialise like civilised human beings.

If necessary, chairs should be given more training, specifically on how to keep meetings shorter and on point.

I should be remembered that when a meeting has finished and on return home it usually takes about an hour or so to unwind. A later finish will have an impact on the performance of both officers and members the following day. So there is a well being issue at stake.

I have long felt that our meetings should be held earlier rather than later. Other authorities seem to manage satisfactorily with member meetings during the normal working day which would certainly be helpful to, say, parents of primary school age children who can't be left during the late afternoon or evening.

**If you have any other comments about the Review of Meetings and Ways of working, please provide them below**

I consider a 7.00 start time will help working councillors and especially those working in London. Also, it may make recruitment of councillors rather easier and may attract a wider range and age of candidates.

I am still of the view that all councillors should be offered a piece of up-to-date IT hardware at induction. This would ensure all members have the capability to electronically work. There would be savings from bulk purchase also. If cost to taxpayers is an issue councillors could repay this over a period of months or years.

I would prefer committee meetings to start at 6PM and that it would be up to the chair to decide on whether it would be better to start later.

A good chairman can make so much difference to the smooth running of a meeting

Members should be using technology rather than paper copies

7pm is still too early for someone working outside Colchester so there would be no benefit

I have no problem with paperless technology, in principle, but the product does require further work.