

<b>Report on</b>	Special Council Meetings Receiving Deputations
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	A Tohill, Chief Executive

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>																						
1.1	To consider and review the practice of convening meetings of council to receive deputations from a range of statutory agencies, government bodies and public authorities.																						
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>																						
2.1	Since the establishment of Mid Ulster District Council up to 5 special meetings of council have been scheduled annually to receive deputations from a range of statutory agencies, government bodies and public authorities. These are held in addition to the monthly meetings of council on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7pm.																						
2.2.	Deputations have been received from the organisations as listed below by thematic area: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th><th>Organisation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infrastructure</td><td>Transport NI</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>NI Water</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Northern Ireland Electricity</td></tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td><td>Northern Ireland Housing Executive</td></tr> <tr> <td>Health</td><td>Southern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Northern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td></tr> <tr> <td>Economy</td><td>Invest NI</td></tr> <tr> <td>Education</td><td>South West College</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Northern Regional College</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Department for Education</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Theme	Organisation	Infrastructure	Transport NI		NI Water		Northern Ireland Electricity	Housing	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Health	Southern Health & Social Care Trust		Northern Health & Social Care Trust	Economy	Invest NI	Education	South West College		Northern Regional College		Department for Education
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<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																						
3.1	The convening of special council meetings to receive deputations from various agencies, bodies and public authorities has been the practice of council since its establishment in April 2015. However, attendance at these meetings since March 2016 has fluctuated between 65% and 25% with the average attendance over this period to date being 45% (i.e. 18 Members)																						
3.2	It has also been noted that on occasions meetings have come close to becoming inquorate with some members leaving during them, and in some instances Members are being asked to remain to allow meetings to remain quorate for the transaction of business. On one occasion a meeting only achieved a quorum of 10 Members present to commence the meeting (one-quarter of the whole Council).																						

3.3	Attendance at monthly council meetings remains consistently high.
3.4	<p>It is proposed that deputations, which have been received at special council meetings, be now scheduled to be heard at monthly meetings of Council The benefits being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in 5 meetings per annum to which Members will be summoned attend</li> <li>• Business will still be transacted but as part of monthly council meetings</li> <li>• Avoidance of any doubt over whether senior officers from agencies/bodies are being brought to a meeting which could be inquorate or have a low attendance</li> <li>• Reduction in the number of evening meetings to which officers will be required to attend and service</li> <li>• Reduction in the number of minutes which Members will be required to consider</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: Reduction in the costs associated with convening and managing meetings</p> <p>Human: Time freed up for Members to undertake other council/constituency business</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That the Committee agree that monthly meetings of Council receive deputations from statutory agencies, government bodies and public authorities, discontinuing the practice of convening special meetings of council to receive same.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None.