

Report on	Council Meetings: August
Date of Meeting	Thurs 6 th June 2019
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To consider the continuing business need to convene full Council in August each year to transact business.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council at its first meeting held on Monday 20 th May 2019 approved a schedule of meetings for the period 2019-2020, commencing June. The schedule was, however approved subject to Policy & Resources Committee providing consideration to the business need for a meeting in August in each year, going forward.
2.2	The Council, during its 2015-2019 term, held Council meetings in July and August opting not to go into a summer recess, with only a Planning Committee being convened on the first week of the month. The other committees Policy & Resources, Development and Environment do not meet in August.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Although Mid Ulster Council during its first term resolved not to take a summer recess for council meetings, it was agreed that the continued business need of this practice be reconsidered.
3.2	The legacy councils of Cookstown, Dungannon & South Tyrone and Magherafelt traditionally took a one month recess in either July or August, where no council meetings were held.
3.3	Throughout the 2015-2019 term of the council, business transacted in August was limited to receiving (i) minutes of Planning Committee; (ii) routine monthly reports brought before council; and (iii) any other business as identified. On a review of the business transacted it has been identified that routine monthly reports and the other business as identified, as referred, was not essential business and could wait until the September round of committees and/or September council for it to be considered.
3.4	Additionally, Planning Committee has delegated authority on development management matters (planning application determinations) and, as such, minutes of this meeting held on first Tuesday of the month do not require adoption by Council before action can be taken on planning applications determined. August Planning Committee minutes can therefore be brought to September Council for their adoption.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the council does not convene a meeting in the month of August and should consider going into a summer recess following the Planning Committee meeting held on the first Tuesday of that month.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	None