

REPORT FOR CONSERVATION ADVISORY WORKING PARTY

SUBJECT : START TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE WORKING PARTY

When the Council Calendar was approved in 2016 the start time for meetings of the Working Party was set at 7pm, to facilitate attendance by those in employment. Your officers have approached the Chair asking whether it would be possible to start the meetings at 6.30pm instead. One officer is present at each meeting of the Working Party. The officer is entitled to apply for compensatory leave for any attendance at a meeting of the Working Party after 7pm. Such leave has to be taken within 6 months and regular attendance by an individual at such meetings can lead to the building up of a backlog of such compensatory leave entitlement which in turn can then lead to work management issues for the Planning Service. The Working Party will understand that such service requirements are a challenge for the Planning Service particularly at a time when resources are becoming more and more restricted. Starting the meeting at 6.30pm would help make the current arrangements for CAWP more sustainable.

The Chair does have the right to amend the starting time of a meeting but in this case she has indicated that she considers that it would be appropriate for the Working Party itself to decide whether or not to permanently change the start time from 7pm to 6.30pm

The Working Party are asked to make such a decision, which would come into effect from Thursday 16th March (the date of the next meeting) and last for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.