
MEETING: THE COUNCIL
DATE: 26 MARCH 2008
SUBJECT: TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2008/2009
REPORT FROM: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
CONTACT OFFICER: DAVID HANSON, HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

TYPE OF DECISION: COUNCIL DECISION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/ STATUS: This paper is within the public domain

SUMMARY:

To consider the meeting arrangements and agree the Timetable of Meetings for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year as set out in the Appendix A in accordance with the Council Constitution.

OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTION:

1. The report and its Appendix sets out a suggested Timetable of Meetings based largely on the 2007/2008 Municipal Year which comprises 6 cycles of meetings each of approximately 6 weeks in length. (Recommended Option based on consultations with all political parties).
 2. To consider alternative meeting arrangements.
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IMPLICATIONS -

Corporate Aims/Policy Framework: Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Not applicable

Financial Implications and Risk Considerations There are no additional costs inherent in these proposals. The costs of meetings will be met from within existing resources.

Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government: Not applicable

Equality/Diversity implications Yes No (see paragraph below)

The draft Timetable of meetings takes account of the principal Holy Days in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim Faiths.

Considered by Monitoring Officer: Yes Comments – These proposals comply with the Council Constitution

Are there any legal implications? No

Staffing/ICT/Property: Not applicable

Wards Affected: Not applicable

Scrutiny Interest: Resource and Performance Scrutiny Commission

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Management Board	Executive Member/ Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Commission	Executive	Committee	Council

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 An extensive review of meeting arrangements was undertaken prior to the 2005/2006 Municipal Year leading to the introduction of the current year’s Timetable. One of the original objectives of the new political management structures was to reduce the number of meetings Members attend in order to allow more time to concentrate on their community leadership and representational roles. The current year’s Timetable achieved that objective compared with previous years.

2.0 ISSUES

2.1 Consultations on the operation of the current year’s meeting arrangements have identified general satisfaction with no adverse comments received.

2.2 Specific regard in the 2008/2009 Timetable has been taken of:-

- Principal religious holy days in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim Calendars
- Political Party Conferences
- Strategic Forward Planning Event
- School holidays
- Local Government Association Conference

- A summer Recess of three weeks in August
- Ensuring that, subject to the outcome of the ongoing review of the Area Initiative, no two Local Area Partnerships will meet on the same evening. These meetings have been included in the Timetable for information purposes only as these bodies are no longer Committees of the Council.
- The meetings of the Elected Member Training Working Group are now included in the Timetable
- The Elected Member Training Days are again included in the Timetable. **No other meetings involving Members are to be organised on these days**

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 There is widespread support for the proposals in the attached Timetable which the Council is asked to approve.

COUNCILLOR ROBERT A BIBBY
Leader of the Council

List of Background Papers:-

None

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