

**TITLE OF REPORT: SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015/2016**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2015/2016.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the following programme of ordinary meetings of the Council be approved for the Civic Year 2015/2016:

Thursday, 16 July 2015;  
Thursday, 3 September 2015;  
Thursday, 26 November 2015;  
Thursday, 21 January 2016;  
Thursday, 11 February 2016; and  
Tuesday, 12 April 2016.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2015/2016.

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 A number of alternative dates were considered during consultation.

**5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the prospective incoming Chairman of the Council.

**6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

**7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 Standing Order 4.4.1(r) requires the Council, at its Annual meeting, to approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing Civic Year.

## **8. ISSUES**

- 8.1 Following consultation with the prospective incoming Chairman of the Council, the following dates are recommended for ordinary meetings of the Council during the Civic Year 2015/2016:

Thursday, 16 July 2015;  
Thursday, 3 September 2015;  
Thursday, 26 November 2015;  
Thursday, 21 January 2016  
Thursday, 11 February 2016; and  
Tuesday, 12 April 2016.

- 8.2 Should circumstances dictate that any extraordinary meetings of the Council are required to deal with time critical issues in addition to the above programme of meetings then these will, of course, be arranged as necessary.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The terms of reference for the Annual Council include “approving a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year”.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 No financial implications arise directly from this report. A schedule of meetings forms part of the Council’s usual business arrangements.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 9.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.

- 12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give **due regard** to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 12.3 The advance notification of proposed dates for ordinary meetings of the Council should increase the opportunity for councillors to participate in public service, and by ensuring adequate prior notification to the public, for the Council’s decision-making to be transparent to the local community throughout the Civic Year.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 As the recommendation made does not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of ‘social value’ as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There are no human resource implications.

**15. APPENDICES**

15.1 None.

**16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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**17. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

17.1 None.

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