

TITLE OF REPORT: SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2016/2017

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 2016/2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the following programme of ordinary meetings of the Council be approved for the Civic Year 2016/2017:

Thursday, 14 July 2016;
Thursday, 1 September 2016;
Thursday, 24 November 2016;
Thursday, 19 January 2017;
Thursday, 9 February 2017; and
Tuesday, 11 April 2017.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2016/2017.

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 2016/2017:

Thursday, 14 July 2016;
Thursday, 1 September 2016;
Thursday, 24 November 2016;
Thursday, 19 January 2017;
Thursday, 9 February 2017; and
Tuesday, 11 April 2017.

- 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. At the time of writing, one extraordinary meeting of the Council has been arranged to take place on Wednesday, 20 July 2016 in order to consider the North Hertfordshire Local Plan.

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 1st October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5th 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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