

**COUNCIL**  
**THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2026/27**

REPORT OF: Director - Governance

COUNCIL PRIORITY: Accessible Services; Thriving Communities; Sustainability; Responsible Growth

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2026/27.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1. That the Calendar of Meetings for 2026/27, as attached as Appendix 1, be approved.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1. To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2026/27.

3.2. To enable Members to agree the Calendar of Meetings for 2026/27.

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

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

5.1. Consultation had been undertaken with the political Group Leaders and Senior Officers.

**6. FORWARD PLAN**

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

**7. BACKGROUND**

7.1. Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(xi) requires the Council, at its annual meeting, to approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing Civic Year.

## **8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1. Following consultation with the political Group Leaders, the following dates are recommended for ordinary meetings of the Council during the Civic Year 2026/27:

Thursday, 16 July 2026, 7.30pm  
Thursday, 8 October 2026, 7.30pm  
Thursday, 10 December 2026, 7.30pm  
Thursday, 28 January 2027, 7.30pm  
Thursday, 25 February 2027, 7.30pm  
Thursday, 15 April 2027, 7.30pm

- 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 be arranged, as necessary.
- 8.3. Following consultation with the political Group Leaders, the Calendar of Meetings for 2026/27, as attached as Appendix 1, is recommended for the Civic Year.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. Paragraph 4.8.1(a) (xi) of the constitution provides in the terms of reference for the Annual Council meeting to include amongst other things “approving a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year”.
- 9.2. Provisions for calling meetings, enabling the public to be present and making documents available are contained in two principal pieces of legislation: the Local Government Act 1972, ss 100A to 100K for meetings of the full council and for non-executive committees and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 for executive meetings, in particular cabinet.
- 9.3. The Local Government Act 1972 requires members to be physically present in order for a meeting to take place.

## **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. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 11.2. There are no risks arising directly from this report. Failure to agree a calendar of meetings would impact the Council’s ability to approve key decisions.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their 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.
- 12.2. There are no equalities implications in the report.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

## **15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 There are no Human Resources implications relating to this report.

## **16. APPENDICES**

- 16.1 Appendix 1 – Calendar of Meetings 2026/27

## **17. CONTACT OFFICERS**

James Lovegrove	Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager,	james.lovegrove@north-herts.gov.uk Tel: 01462 474204
Melanie Stimpson	Democratic Services Manager	Melanie.Stimpson@north-herts.gov.uk
Isabelle Alajooz	Director – Governance	Isabelle.Alajooz@north-herts.gov.uk
Tim Everitt	Performance & Risk Officer	Tim.Everitt@north-herts.gov.uk

## **18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 18.1 None.