

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 19 January 2017

ITEM 7

Title: Programme of Meetings 2017/18

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): Mrs Norma Redfearn

Report from Service Area: Law and Governance

Responsible Officer: Vivienne Geary,
Head of Law and Governance

Tel: (0191) 6435339

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report presents a draft programme of Council and committee meetings for the 2017/18 municipal year. It also requests the Council to determine which Council meetings during 2017/18 should be designated for the purposes of public question time.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) Agree the programme of meetings for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix A to this report; and
- (2) Agree that the meetings of the full Council proposed for 20 July 2017, 23 November 2017 and 18 January 2018 be those at which questions will be taken from members of the public.

1.3 Forward Plan:

This report first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 19 December 2016.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to any priorities identified in the Our North Tyneside Plan.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 The Council is requested to consider a programme of meetings for the Council and its committees for the 2017/18 municipal year, attached as Appendix A to this report. The Authority's Constitution states that where possible the Council will set a programme of ordinary meetings of its committees and sub-committees for each year ahead. The timetable of meetings is normally agreed each year at the January Council meeting to allow Members and officers to plan ahead.

1.5.2 The draft programme provides for:-

- a) A timetable of meetings of the Council, its overview and scrutiny, regulatory and other committees and sub-committees;
- b) The majority of these meetings have been scheduled to meet on a monthly cycle but with a minimal number of meetings being scheduled in August, April and the later weeks in December and no meetings on key religious days;
- c) The commencement times of meetings based on the times determined by each committee and sub-committee during 2016/17;
- d) The provisional dates of Cabinet meetings are included in the timetable for information. These are determined by the Elected Mayor;
- e) With the exception of May and August, two Member briefings per month, one in the afternoon and one in the evening;
- f) Member development including the provision of training for regulatory committees taking place between the Annual Council Meeting and the first meeting of these committees.

1.5.3 The Council is requested to specify those Council meetings during the year at which questions from members of the public will be taken. For Members' information, in the current municipal year, three meetings were specified for that purpose.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

To agree or not to agree the dates of meetings of the Council and its committees for the 2017/18 municipal year as set out in Appendix A.

Should the Council decide not to agree the dates, a further programme of meetings would be prepared and submitted to a future meeting of the Council for approval taking into account the reasons given by Council for not agreeing the programme.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

To have in place scheduled meeting dates to enable the Authority's committees to transact their business during the Municipal Year and to enable Members and officers to plan ahead for individual committee work programmes.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Programme of meetings of the Council and its committees for the 2017/18 municipal year.

1.9 Contact officers:

David Brown, Democratic Services Manager (0191) 643 5358
Alison Campbell, Financial Business Manager (0191) 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Report to Council on the Programme of Council meetings – 19 May 2016
- (2) The Authority's Constitution

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The running costs associated with the committee meetings held in 2017/18 can be contained within current budgets.

As a number of committee and sub-committee meetings commence at 6:00pm there are implications in terms of work-life balance for those officers who are frequently required to attend and support evening meetings.

2.2 Legal

The Authority's Constitution requires a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year to be approved by the Council. The Council has agreed that the timetable of meetings of the Council and its committees/sub committees should be agreed each year at the January Council meeting to allow Members and officers to plan ahead and to enable the decision making processes to be complied with.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Consultation on the proposed timetable of meetings for 2017/18 has taken place with the Elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Group Leaders, Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Heads of Service and officers within Democratic Services, Finance and Community Engagement.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

Failure to put in place a schedule of meetings will put at risk the ability of the Authority to transact its business efficiently.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy