

REPORT OF THE INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016/17

Reason for this report

1. To seek Council approval to the full programme of all Council and Committee meetings for the period July 2016 to May 2017.

Background

2. The Constitution Council Procedure Rules provide that the Council approves a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and its Committees annually.

Issues

3. The Council on 29 January 2015 agreed a programme of Full Council meetings for 2015/16 and 2016/17 municipal years based on the number and frequency of meetings as agreed by the Constitution Committee, 19 March 2014.
4. Annual Council on 26 May 2016 agreed a programme of Cabinet & ordinary Committee meetings to August 2016.
5. Appendix A (marked to follow) sets out a programme of Council & Committee meetings from July 2016 to May 2017, taking into account the requirements of individual Committees and their Chairs.

Legal Implications

6. Welsh Government issued guidance under Section 6 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 that by virtue of Section 6(2) of the Measure, Local Authorities must have regard to this guidance when considering the times and intervals at which meetings of a local authority are held.
7. In summary, the guidance states that:
 - Work and other commitments make setting a programme of meetings that suits all Members difficult;
 - Welsh Government does not wish to proscribe the number/timings of meetings; and
 - it is important that Authorities proactively review their meeting arrangements, by way of example the guidance states that "What may have been tradition or

an arrangement which suited the previous generation of councillors will not necessarily serve the interests of the new intake.”

8. The guidance requires the Council to survey its Members in respect of times and interval in which meetings of the local authority are held at least once a term and preferably shortly after the new council is elected. This was done in May 2012 and as part of the Constitution Committee Review in 2013/14

Financial Implications

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report apart from the potential for administrative savings, if as recommended by the Constitution Committee the number of full Council meetings is reduced to nine per year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council approves

- (1) the programme of Council and Committees for July 2016 to May 2017;
- (2) delegated authority to the Interim Monitoring Officer to make further amendments, if required, in consultation with Chairs of Committee.

DAVID MARR
Interim Monitoring Officer
24 June 2016

The following Appendix will follow:

Appendix A Programme of Meetings, July 2016 to May 2017