

Covering Report Draft Calendar of Meetings 2021-23

Annual Council	13 May 2021
Report Author	Committee Service Manager
Portfolio Holder	Deputy (Acting) Leader of Council
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	Yes
Ward:	Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

Before the end or at the beginning of each municipal year the Council ought to agree a calendar of meetings for the following year in order to help plan the council's business more efficiently. The council could even go further if Members so wish and set out a schedule of Council meetings for more than one year. The purpose of this report is therefore to present proposals for a calendar of meetings to cover the period beginning May 2021 to May 2023.

Recommendation(s):

That Council agrees the updated calendar of meetings for May 2021 to May 2023 as set out at Annex 1 to the report.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Legal

There are no financial legal implications arising directly from this report. However it should be noted that only Full Council can finalise the decision on adopting an annual schedule of council meetings.

In making any decision, the Council must give due regard to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Corporate

In order to enable the efficient administration of council business and delivery of council services, there needs to be planned activities that cover the period of a municipal/financial year. Planned schedule of meetings advises both officers and Members on when to carry out given council activities and to that end enhances the decision making process..

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -
(Delete as appropriate)

- *To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.*
- *To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it*
- *To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.*

There are no equity and equality issues arising directly from this report but the Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Growth*
- *Environment*
- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Although it has been the tradition on previous occasions that a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year was approved by Council at any one time, suggestions have been offered before by officers and agreed by Members to approve a programme that had more than one year's schedule of meetings.
- 1.2 This approach would enable Council service areas to plan their work ahead of time. The current multi-year calendar of meetings was approved by Council on 16 May 2019.
- 1.3 It is therefore proposed in the report that Members agree the calendar of meetings at this Annual meeting.

1.4 Council has the ability to make in year changes to this work programme.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 The current calendar of meetings runs up to the end of May 2023.

2.2 Council is asked to approve the amended calendar of meetings for 2021 to 2023 as set out in Annex 1.

3.0 Options

3.1 That Council agrees the calendar of meetings for May 2021 to May 2023.

3.2 That Members suggest any appropriate amendments to the proposed calendar of meetings for 2021 to 2023.

Contact Officer: Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel: 01843 577186
Reporting to: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager, Tel: 01843 577208

Annex List

Annex 1: Calendar of council meetings for May 2021 - May 2023

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell, Director of Financial Services

Legal: Estelle Culligan, Director of Law and Democracy