

COUNCIL

20 JANUARY 2022

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022/23

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Author: Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services

Summary

This report asks the Council to consider a provisional programme of meetings for the 2022/23 municipal year, as set out in Appendix 1, for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18 May 2022.

1. Budget and policy framework

1.1. The programme of ordinary Council and Committee meetings is a matter for formal approval by the Council at its annual meeting in May each year.

2. Background

2.1. The Council is being asked to consider a draft programme of Council and Committee meetings for the 2022/23 municipal year in advance of a decision being made at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, in order to provide some certainty for Members on the schedule of dates for key meetings during 2022/23.

2.2. The proposed schedule of meetings for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 1 and is broadly consistent with the pattern and frequency of meetings in 2021/22. The final version of the timetable of meetings will be reported to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18 May 2022 for approval.

2.3. An informal meeting between Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Opposition Spokespersons took place on 5 January 2022 with support from relevant officers. There were discussions on a range of issues regarding the length of meetings and Task Groups, including the overall number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the schedule and whether a more dynamic approach to the setting of meeting dates could be taken, to take account of the workloads of each O&S Committee.

2.4. Whilst it has been agreed to take some matters forward on a trial basis, this particular suggestion, along with various other matters raised at the informal meeting, will be kept under review.

- 2.5. A report shall be presented to the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board on 10 February 2022 regarding an update on the development of the Integrated Care System for Kent and Medway, and in particular the Integrated Care Board (to be known as NHS Kent and Medway) which will succeed the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and the Integrated Care Partnership (likely to be known as the Kent and Medway Health and Care Partnership Committee) which will in effect incorporate two existing Boards – the Kent and Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integrated Care System Partnership Board. This is part of a number changes being proposed in the Health and Care Bill.
- 2.6. Members can be assured that the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board will continue under its current guise and the report to the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board will detail the working arrangements under the emerging Integrated Care System architecture, which was originally due to take effect from April 2022, although this has now been delayed until at least 1 July 2022 to allow for the Health and Care Bill's progress through Parliament. With regard to Integrated Care Partnership meetings, these will be added to a future version of the schedule of meetings.

3. Risk management

- 3.1. There are no risk management implications arising at this stage from this report.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Group Whips, Directors, and other lead officers from each Directorate have been consulted on the proposed meetings schedule. Group Leaders have also been kept informed as the timetable for 2022/23 has been developed.

5. Financial and legal implications

- 5.1. The current number and pattern of member level meetings and activity reflects the staffing capacity within the existing Democratic Services structure. Any increase in the overall number of meetings could not be achieved without a commensurate increase in staffing resources in Democratic Services.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. The Council is asked to agree a provisional programme of Council and Committee meetings for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18 May 2022.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft schedule of meetings 2022/2023

Background papers

None