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**Subject:** **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS 2014/15**

**Meeting and Date:** **Council – 29 JANUARY 2014**

**Report of:** **David Randall, Director of Governance**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

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**Purpose of the report:** The Constitution requires that the Programme of Ordinary Meetings be set at the Annual Meeting of the Council. This report seeks to gain an indication of Council's view prior to formal adoption at the AGM to facilitate arrangements being made.

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**Recommendation:** Council is requested to approve in principle the Programme of Ordinary Meetings for 2014/15 subject to final ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2014.

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## 1. **Summary**

In order to provide Members, Officers, other partner local authorities and the general public with as much notice as possible, a provisional Programme of Ordinary Meetings is presented to the Council in January each year prior to its final ratification at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

## 2. **Introduction and Background**

2.1 The Programme of Ordinary Meetings for 2014/15 is based on a 6-8 week cycle that commences with a meeting of the Cabinet and ends with a meeting of the Council. In between those two points all other committee business takes place.

2.2 Wherever possible efforts have been made to avoid school holiday dates.

2.3 When the Programme of Ordinary Meetings for 2013/14 was set by Council, the date of the European Parliamentary Elections was not known and an Annual Meeting of the Council was set for 2 April 2014. Now that the date has been set for European Parliamentary Elections it is proposed to move the date for the 2014 Annual Meeting to 7 May 2014.

2.4 It should be emphasised that the programme set out in Appendix 1 only applies to Committees with scheduled meetings. It does not apply to any Committees that are called on an ad-hoc basis as business warrants, such as the General Purposes Committee.

## 3. **Identification of Options**

3.1 There are three options available to the Council:

3.2 Option A - To approve in principle the Programme of Ordinary Meetings for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 1 for ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council to be held in May 2014.

3.3 Option B – To approve in principle the Programme of Ordinary Meetings for 2014/15 with amendments.

3.4 Option C – To not approve the provisional Programme of Ordinary Meetings for 2014/15.

#### 4. **Evaluation of Options**

4.1 The recommended option is Option A as this supports the existing decision route cycle and avoids wherever possible school holidays and significant local Elections and Party Conferences.

4.2 Options B and C are not recommended as it may require adjustments to the existing decision route cycle.

4.3 In the event that any Member wishes to propose Option B, thereby changing the provisional Programme of Ordinary Meetings, they are asked to contact the Democratic Services Manager prior to the date of the meeting at which this report is considered in order that the feasibility of rearranging the meeting can be established.

#### 5. **Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications arising from this report as set out. However, if significant changes were to be made to the Programme of Ordinary Meetings then this may need to be re-evaluated.

#### 6. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Programme of Ordinary Meetings 2014/15

#### 7. **Background Papers**

None.

Contact Officer: Louise Cooke, Democratic Services Manager