

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Proposed Meetings Timetable 2012/13
Date of Meeting: 20th March 2012
Report of: Director of Resources
Contact Officer: Name: Mark Wall Tel: 29-1006
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To look at the proposed schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2012/13 based on the proposed new governance arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the proposed timetable of meetings for 2012/13 be approved.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The proposed timetable for 2012/13 provides for an eight week cycle of meetings, taking into account school terms, a summer break and public holidays. In summary, the proposals are:-

Full Council and Committees:

6 Ordinary Council meetings, plus the Annual Council and Budget Council

Policy & Resources:	8 weekly
Adult Care & Health	8 weekly
Children & Young People	8 weekly
Economic Development & Culture	8 weekly
Housing	8 weekly
Environment & Sustainability	8 weekly
Transport	8 weekly
Audit & Standards:	Quarterly
Corporate Parenting Sub	Quarterly
Personnel Appeals:	Panels arranged as required

Regulatory Committees

Planning:	3 weekly
Licensing:	3 meetings a year
Licensing Panels	As required (average 40)

Overview & Scrutiny:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee:	8 weekly
Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee:	8 weekly

Partnerships:

Joint Commissioning Board:	One
Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board	Quarterly
Housing Management Consultative Sub	8 weekly
Community Safety Forum	Quarterly

- 3.2 The proposed timetable for 2012/13 provides for a total of 108 meetings, excluding meetings of the Licensing Panels, Personnel Appeals and the Community Safety Forum (see Appendix 1).

Governing Principles for the Meetings Timetable

- 3.3 The following guidelines have been applied in reviewing the meetings timetable:

- As far as possible clashes of meetings have been avoided. However, inevitably, given the constraints of avoiding school/public/religious holidays and the number of meetings to be accommodated on specific days of the week, there are occasions where there are overlaps of meetings.
- What appear at the moment to be “free” days will be filled by Licensing Panel hearings, Personnel Appeals and the various Chairs’ and political group meetings.
- As far as possible meetings have not been scheduled on Fridays.
- As far as possible school holidays, religious holidays and party conference weeks have been avoided, although it has not been possible to keep those weeks completely clear.
- Meeting start times generally are scheduled for 4pm or later to encourage public attendance, unless a preferred time is otherwise known e.g. Planning and Licensing Committees. However, Committees can determine whether to continue with the programmed start time or if an alternative time would be more appropriate for their particular meeting.

- 3.4 There must be a sufficient number of meetings to enable the council business to be transacted. The schedule of Council and Committee meetings is designed to ensure that:

- Committee and Scrutiny reports can be received without undue delay;
- Consideration of the various plans and strategies to be adopted by Full Council can be accommodated;
- there is scope to accommodate city-wide debates if necessary; and
- Public interest and participation through questions, deputations and petitions continues to be facilitated.

- 3.5 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is programmed to meet once a cycle in line with the Overview and Scrutiny rules.

- 3.6 Whilst every effort will be made to keep meetings on the dates listed there may be a need to alter them and additional meetings may be required for dedicated debates on key issues or particular plans and strategies.

- 3.7 As usual, a number of further meetings, which are not part of the formal meetings cycle, have been programmed to meet on a regular basis e.g. the Community Safety Forum and the Housing Management Consultative Sub-Committee.
- 3.8 The time table also lists the dates and times of other meetings such as the Police and Fire Authorities and the LSP; and as such there are occasional clashes with council meetings which are unavoidable.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Leaders Group and appropriate officers have been consulted on the proposed timetable and appropriate committee and council dates set to meet statutory requirements.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

Finance officer consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 08/03/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The proposed timetables of meetings does not prevent the calling of Special Meetings or the use of Urgency Sub-Committee meetings should circumstances arise, however it does enable a more fluent scheduling of meetings to be maintained throughout the municipal year.

- 5.3 The proposed timetable allows for continued compliance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 7.1 of the Constitution

Lawyer consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis Date: 08/03/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 The majority of meetings are scheduled for 4pm or later to encourage public attendance and interest. Holiday periods are also avoided as far as is feasible.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 There are no crime & disorder implications arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 The scheduling of meetings aims to accommodate the decision-making processes for the year, but there is always the possibility of additional meetings having to be called.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.8 There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.9 The scheduling of meetings accommodates the Council priority for open and effective city leadership.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Proposed Timetable for 2012/13

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Timetable of Meetings for 2011/12