
Report to: Cabinet
Council

Date of Meeting: 14 January 2016
28 January 2016

Subject: Programme of Meetings – 2016/17 Municipal Year

Report of: Head of Regulation and Compliance

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
No

Exempt/Confidential

No

Purpose/Summary

To seek approval of a Programme of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

Recommendations:

Cabinet

That the Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet, Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2016/17 as set out in Annexes A and E of the report be approved; and

Council

That

1. the Programme of Meetings for the Council, Member Briefing Sessions; Regulatory Committees; Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Area Committees for 2016/17 as set out in Annexes B, C and D of the report be approved; and
2. the Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet, Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2016/17 as set out in Annexes A and E of the report be noted.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	

7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To enable the business of the Council and its various Committees/bodies to be conducted during the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None.

(B) Capital Costs

None.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal	
Human Resources	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

The Programme of Meetings for 2016/17 will be published on the Council’s website for the benefit of the residents of Sefton and the wider general public. This will raise awareness of the Council’s political management system and allow the opportunity for the public to engage in the Council’s democratic processes.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Chief Finance Officer (FD 3937/15) has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD3220/15) is the author of this report and will also be the author of the report referred to in Paragraph 3 below.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

No. The Council has to produce a timetable of meetings.

Implementation Date for the Decision

In respect of the Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet, Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board the implementation date will be upon the expiry of the call-in period of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

In respect of the Programme of Meetings for the Council, Member Briefing Sessions; Regulatory Committees; Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Area Committees; immediately following the Council meeting.

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The Council is required to establish a Programme of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

1.2 The following annexes are attached to the report:

- Annex A - Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet in 2016/17
- Annex B - Programme of Meetings for the Council, Members' Briefing Sessions and Regulatory Committees in 2016/17
- Annex C - Programme of Meetings for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2016/17
- Annex D - Programme of Meetings for the Area Committees in 2016/17
- Annex E - Programme of Meetings for the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2016/17.

1.3 Similar to the arrangements put in place last year once the programme of meetings have been approved, an "in-house" diary will be produced for Members of the Council to purchase through their Group Whips.

2. Programme of Meetings 2016/17

2.1 The key principles of the Programme of Meetings are as follows:

- Five Ordinary Council Meetings to be held every 8 weeks on a Thursday commencing at 6.30 p.m. plus the Budget Council Meeting to be held on 2 March 2017.
- Council will not meet on the same day as Cabinet.
- Members' Briefing Sessions to be held at 5.00 p.m. prior to the five Ordinary Council Meetings.
- No meetings will be held:
 - In the period between Christmas and New Year (Dec 2016/Jan 2017).
 - In April 2017 except for the meetings of the Planning Committee, Cabinet and Council.
- As far as possible no meetings will be held during the school half term holiday weeks.
- The venues for all meetings (other than Area Committees) alternate between Bootle and Southport Town Halls.
- Cabinet Meetings to be held on a Thursday at 10.00 a.m. The first meeting to be held on 26 May 2016.
- Planning Committee to meet every four weeks on a Wednesday, commencing at 6.30 p.m.
- Planning Visiting Panel to meet 2 days prior to each meeting of the Planning Committee to undertake site visits as agreed by the Committee.
- Each of the 4 Overview and Scrutiny Committees to meet bi monthly, 5 times during the year commencing at 6.30 p.m. – the main Overview and Scrutiny work will be done by the Working Groups to be established on an ad hoc basis.

- Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) to be held on 14 February 2017 to scrutinise the Cabinet budget process.
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to meet 5 times per year, commencing at 4.30 p.m.
- Licensing and Regulatory Committee to meet quarterly on a Monday commencing at 6.30 p.m.
- Meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee to be convened as and when required.
- Audit and Governance Committee to meet every quarter (4 meetings per year) on a Wednesday commencing at 3.00 p.m. in order to meet statutory requirements etc.
- Pay and Grading Committee to be convened as and when required.
- Each Area Committee to meet quarterly and commence at 6.30 p.m. The meetings will be held at venues across the Committee's geographical area at suitable venues.
- Health and Wellbeing Board to meet 4 times per year.
- The dates for the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, which are not public meetings are included in the Corporate Calendar.

3. Area Committees

- 3.1 Annex D sets out a recommended programme of Area Committee meetings for 2016/17. Consultation is currently being undertaken on the future of the Council's three Area Committees; and the Central Sefton Area Committee meeting on 18 January 2016 will conclude such consultation. Following receipt of the views from each of the Area Committees, the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services will consider a report on the next steps. If the decision is taken to retain the Area Committees in their current format then, subject to the approval of Council, the programme set out in Annex D could be adopted. If an alternative model of engaging members of the public in Council business is approved following the consultation exercise then the programme of meetings set out in Annex D can be abandoned or revised as appropriate.

4. Calendar of Meetings

- 4.1 A copy of the Calendar of Meetings for 2016/17 and associated annexes are attached.