

SUBJECT: DIARY OF MEETINGS FOR 2026/27

MEETING: Full Council

DATE: 22 January 2026

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: N/A

1. PURPOSE:

To approve the diary of meetings for 2026/27.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council approve the diary of meetings for 2026/27 to ensure good governance arrangements are in place and meet the requirements of the Councils Constitution.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Some Committees set their own dates during the year eg SAC, Appointment of LEA Governors Committee, Corporate Parenting Panel and these will be added to the diary in due course if we have not already received those dates.
- 3.2 The diary includes, for information only, dates of meetings for political groups and outside bodies that are not agreed by Council and are subject to change by the organising bodies.
- 3.3 As per previous years, as far as is practicable meetings have not been scheduled during school holidays as requested by Councillors. There is an inevitable need to hold some meetings during school holidays so that the diary does not become too congested and avoids clashes with other meetings and priorities, but these have been kept to a minimum.
- 3.4 The diary for 2026/27 will cover the election period for the local authority elections in May 2027. There is nothing preventing the council from carrying out its normal business during the pre-election period and councillors remain in their roles until after the election itself. Meetings have been scheduled as normal to allow for business to be carried out as normal. Forward work programmes will need to be reviewed closer to the time to consider the business to be debated at the meeting and consider whether it is appropriate for that item to be considered during the pre-election period.

4. REASONS:

The Council calendar needs to be approved annually to ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place for the year and enables Members and officers to forward plan effectively.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None as a direct result of this report.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

There are no sustainable development or equality impacts arising from this report.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTEES:

SLT

Political Group Leaders

Committee Chairs

Scrutiny Manager

Democratic Services Committee

9. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Feedback was received from councillors during the consultation on the draft diary with concerns to the November 2027 Full Council Meeting being scheduled for the 5th November 2026 which would clash with councillors' commitments for community events. As such the date of this meeting has been moved on a week to the 12th November 2026. Consideration was given to moving the meeting earlier however a week earlier would have fallen within the school holidays and earlier again would have pushed the meeting closer to September.

The need for a Full Council meeting in April 2027, ahead of the local elections and whilst councillors will be campaigning, was questioned as to whether it was required. Councillors will remain in their posts until just after the election in May 2027 and can carry out their normal course of business during the pre election period. If it is decided it is not appropriate to hold the meeting, or there is no business to debate at that meeting, then a decision to postpone can be taken closer to the time but including it in the diary allows for members to plan their schedules accordingly.

Feedback was also received from officers relating to the cabinet meetings for January and March 2027 which have both been adjusted by a week to better accommodate the anticipated budget setting process at that time.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

11. AUTHOR:

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