

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2022/23

REPORT OF: Tom Clark, Head of Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer: Lucinda Joyce – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Email: lucinda.joyce@midsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01444 477225
Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No
Report to Annual Council – 11 May 2022

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the Programme of Meetings for 2022/2023.

Recommendations

2. **It is recommended that the Programme (attached to this report as Appendix 1) be approved.**
-

Background

3. Each year the Council sets a Programme of Meetings, as attached at Appendix 1.
4. Five training sessions for all Members have been included throughout the year.
5. Since approval at the Council meeting on 30 March 2022 there have been two amendments to the programme. A Cabinet meeting has been rescheduled from 9 May 2022 to 16 May 2022, and an Audit Committee has been rescheduled from 7 March 2023 to 21 February 2023.
6. Decision making meetings of the Council are required to be held in person. All meetings will be live-streamed for the public to view.
7. Non decision making meetings can be held virtually. Virtual meetings have been used across the entire organisation, including officers-only meetings. This was enabled by significant investment in technology as well by the Council's aspiration to move towards modern ways of working. Benefits of retaining virtual meetings include practical efficiencies gained by remote working and a reduction in travel requirements.
8. The timings of meetings reflect the current arrangements in place for in-person, off-site and virtual meetings.

Risk Management Implications

9. HM Government expired most Covid legislation on 24 February 2022; however, it has replaced it with guidelines and guidance. HM Government acknowledges that expiring legal protections might cause virus resurgence, and it expects further Covid variants.

10. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requires that the Council completes a risk assessment to ensure it takes reasonable steps to manage the remaining risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) while we learn how to live with the virus. This assessment must reflect the public health regulations, guidelines and guidance on the measures that remain for COVID-19.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

11. The streaming of Council meetings live does enable people who have limited mobility to view those meetings without needing to come to the Council offices. Being able to view meetings from home is beneficial to a lot of people in the Community. It is easier for most Councillors to take part in virtual meetings.

Other Material Implications

12. The course of the pandemic is uncertain in particular relating to the arrival of a virus variant in the Country to which the current Vaccine Programme is less effective. The programme may require adjustment to accommodate such circumstance.

Sustainability Implications

13. Virtual and livestreamed meetings minimises the need for travel.

Financial and Other Material Implications

14. This report has no financial or other material implications.

Background Papers

15. None.