

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Urgent Business - Revisions to Committee Timetable 30 May 2024

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that the Council Business Committee considers cancelling certain meetings in the run up to the general election on 4 July 2024.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That the Committee considers whether to cancel a number of meetings in the pre-election period as detailed in 2.1 of the report.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the announcement on 22 May 2024 of a General Election being called for Thursday 4 July 2024 the Council Business Committee is asked to consider whether to cancel certain meetings within the pre-election period.
- 1.2 Under its terms of reference, the Council Business Committee has the remit to 'agree the annual timetable of Lancaster City Council meeting and any other timetabling issues that may arise.'

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The run up to the general election will impact on Democratic Support staff and councillors who may be canvassing for their political parties and therefore Council Business Committee are asked to consider cancelling JCC and Overview & Scrutiny Committee scheduled for Wednesday 3 July, Standards Committee scheduled for Thursday 4 July and Full Council scheduled for 19 June 2024.
- 2.2 It is not proposed to cancel either the Planning Committee scheduled for 24 June, or the Licensing Committee scheduled for 27 June unless there are no items of business or unless the Committee feel that these should be cancelled.
- 2.3 Group Leaders and the Mayor have been consulted with regard to the proposal to cancel the June Council meeting. The Chairs of the Standards Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee have been advised of the proposal to cancel those particular meetings.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be some small savings with regard to the costs of servicing meetings.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 officer has been consulted and has no comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a principal council may (in addition to their annual meeting) hold such other meetings during the year as they may determine. Such other meetings shall be held at such hour and on such days as the Council may determine. It is clear from Schedule 12, therefore, that it is entirely the remit of the Council as to when its meetings are held. Any provision for changes to approved dates would therefore have to be contained within the Constitution.

It is important that the Council has full regard to the implications on members' other constitutional rights, particularly the right to put motions on notice and questions on notice (for this reason group leaders have been consulted with).

Whilst there is no officer delegation in the Constitution, Council Business Committee has, within its ToR, "To agree the annual timetable of Lancaster City Council meetings and any other timetabling issues which may arise.". Given the snap election I am of the opinion they therefore have to power to cancel meetings.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

n/a

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