

ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

31 OCTOBER 2018

REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Council Meetings – Run Up to Elections

Summary

To consider proposals to manage essential Council business to be transacted at full Council meetings in the lead up to the local elections in May 2019.

Recommendation

1. That Council approve the following additional meetings of Council in order to manage essential Council business in the lead up to the local elections in May 2019:-
 - An **additional** Ordinary Council meeting be scheduled to take place immediately following the conclusion of the Special Council Meeting on **27th February 2019**;
 - The Council meeting scheduled for 6th March 2019 be rescheduled to take place on **Tuesday 5th March 2019**

Detail

2. Meetings of full Council in the lead up to the local elections are currently scheduled to take place as follows:-
 - 12th December 2018 – Ordinary Council
 - 13th January 2019 – Ordinary Council
 - 27th February 2019 – Special Council (MTFP)
 - 6th March 2019 – Ordinary Council
 - 22nd May 2019 – Annual Council Meeting (post-election)
3. Given that the volume of business to be transacted at Annual Council will be more substantial this year due to the need to appoint members to both Committees and Outside Bodies for a four year term; and the high number of civic, business and staff awards presented at the Annual Meeting, it is proposed that the date at which these awards are presented be changed and that they be held much earlier in the calendar avoiding the run up to the election period.
4. The first opportunity for doing so would therefore be at the Ordinary Council meeting in March. However, in order to facilitate the presentation of award

winners, it will be necessary to find an appropriate venue for the occasion as the Council Chamber would lack sufficient capacity to accommodate.

5. The Point in the Arc has been used successfully in the past for meetings of Council on occasions when several Aldermen/Freemen presentations have been made, and therefore it is proposed that it used again for this occasion. Unfortunately, the venue is not available on the scheduled date of Council (6th March 2019) but is available on the **5th March 2019** and therefore it is proposed that the date of Council be changed to that date. It should be noted that as it is an Ordinary Meeting of Council, in addition to the presentation of awards, agenda items will still include Member and Public Questions, Council Motions (if any are received), as well as any recommendations to Council, presentations and other items required.
6. There are several Scrutiny Reviews due to report to Cabinet in January/February 2019 which may, or may not, require Council approval. Therefore to mitigate against the likelihood of the agenda for the 5th March containing a high volume of business emanating from the conclusion of the reviews in the immediate run up to the elections, it is proposed that an extra Ordinary Council Meeting be added to the diary.
7. If so, rather than seek to have a meeting on an additional date, the preferred option would be to have an Ordinary Council Meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Special Council Meeting (27th February 2019) convened to consider solely the setting of the Medium Term Financial Plan/Council Tax. (The business transacted by Ordinary Council cannot be considered at Special Council as that meeting is restricted to considering the business for which it was convened, e.g. Medium Term Financial Plan/Council Tax.)

Conclusion

8. Council are invited to consider the proposed arrangements to manage essential Council business to be transacted at full Council meetings in the lead up to the local elections in May 2019.

Financial and Legal Implications

Financial

9. There will be a hire cost in respect of the use of facilities at the Arc.

Legal

10. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Consultation

11. Undertaken with the Mayor.

Margaret Waggott

Contact Officer: Assistant Director of Administration, Democratic & Electoral Services

Telephone No: 01642 527064

Email Address: Margaret.waggott@stockton.gov.uk