

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE - 26 MAY 2020**

**INTERIM TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

This Report sets out proposals to extend the current interim arrangements for Council committee meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) agrees that the timetable of Council and Committee meetings from 2 June 2020 up to 30 June 2020 be cancelled;
- (ii) notes dates of the scheduled meetings of this Committee and the Scrutiny and Audit Committee in June; and
- (iii) notes that a meeting of this Committee may require to be called over the "summer recess".

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

This Report contributes to the achievement of our priority that the council is efficient and effective as detailed in our Council Plan for 2017 – 2022.

**3. BACKGROUND**

Reference is made to Report No 121/20 which was agreed at the special meeting of Angus Council on 3 April 2020. A range of interim measures were agreed including the cancellation of the timetable of Council and Committee meetings up to 1 June 2020.

The Council also agreed that the newly established Special Arrangements Committee would have the authority to extend this cancellation period.

Under the current interim arrangements the following meetings are scheduled to take place:-

- Special Arrangements Committee: 26 May and 23 June
- Scrutiny and Audit Committee: 16 June

Meetings of the Civic Licensing Committee, Development Standards Committee, Development Management Review Committee and Special Education Committee will take place remotely as and when required.

**4. PROPOSALS**

It is proposed that given the ongoing situation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the timetable of meetings from 2 June 2020 up to 30 June 2020 also now be cancelled.

Members will also be aware that traditionally Angus Council, along with most other local authorities, have what is referred to as a "summer recess", where no formal Council meetings take place. While it is not proposed to hold any Council committee meetings over this recess period, given that time critical business may still require consideration, members are asked to note that a meeting of the Special Arrangements Committee may require to be called over the summer recess. All statutory timescales will of course be complied with in terms of giving notice of any such meeting.

As per the timetable of meetings for 2020/21, meetings of service committees are due to commence on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Officers will however keep these arrangements under review taking advice from Scottish and Westminster Governments on social distancing restrictions that are in place at the time.

Members should note that organising remote meetings requires a significant input from a range of staff. While some members may wish that these arrangements be extended to all service committees, Officers are currently dealing with a significant number of COVID-19 related tasks along with homeworking which has its own challenges. Consequently, there is no capacity within current resources to allow this to be taken forward.

Officers are however considering future models for committee meetings whilst social distancing measures and non-essential travel are in place. They are also taking into account models which will enable all members to participate should a percentage of our population require to shield themselves for longer periods of time.

When national guidance is available, officers will align their thinking and bring models back to members for consideration.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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