



cp City of Westminster

General Purposes Committee

Date: 10 January 2018

Classification: For General Release

Title: Programme of Council Meetings: amendment relating to 7 March 2018

Wards Affected: Not Applicable

Financial Summary: There are no financial implications

Report of: Head of Committee and Governance Services

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is submitted following the Extraordinary Council meeting on Wednesday 8 November which enabled a full debate on the budget proposals to be held. It was necessary in order to facilitate sufficient time at the Extraordinary Council meeting to defer much of the business at the Ordinary Council meeting. This report therefore sets out a recommendation to change the programme of Council meetings so that the Extraordinary council meeting arranged for Wednesday 7 March 2018 becomes an Ordinary Council meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council be recommended to change the programme of its meetings so that the Extraordinary Council meeting programmed for Wednesday 7 March 2018 is replaced by an Ordinary Council meeting also to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 7 March 2018.
- 2.2 That in view of the need to formally adopt the Council Tax resolution this appears as a separate agenda item on the agenda for the proposed Ordinary Council meeting on 7 March 2018.
- 2.3 That subject to the adoption of 2.1 and 2.2 above Standing Orders 4(2) and 20 be not applied at the meeting on 7 March 2018.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Whilst the Council meeting on 7 March 2018 will still receive a report from the Cabinet on the Council Tax and be required to formally adopt the Council Tax resolution prior to the statutory deadline of 11 March, it is likely that the

substantive debate which took place at the meeting on 8 November will have covered many of the issues. In order to maintain the same number of Council meetings at which Questions and Councillor Issues are taken it is proposed that the March meeting be converted to an Ordinary meeting rather than hold an Extraordinary meeting specifically for budget purposes. Given that it will be necessary to consider the formal Council Tax Resolution provision will be made for this to appear as a separate agenda item.

- 3.2 There will be a shorter debate with formal votes but much shorter than the usual budget debate and Members will comply with Standing Order 14 (3). Therefore it is proposed that the March meeting be held as an Ordinary Council meeting, encompassing the formal Council Tax resolution and also all of the business usually conducted at an Ordinary Council meeting.
- 3.3 The Chief Whips of both the Majority Group and the Minority Group have been consulted and indicated their support to the proposals set out in this report.
4. **Financial Implications:** None.
5. **Legal Implications**
 - 5.1 The Council may determine the programme of its meetings. It must formally adopt a Council Tax resolution prior to 11 March each year and hold an Annual meeting in March, April or May.
6. **Other Implications:** None.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact Mick Steward: 7641 3134

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None