

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS: JANUARY – APRIL 2012
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 OCTOBER 2011
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 6 October 2010, Council approved the current programme of meetings for the period to December 2011. In accordance with established practice, a report would normally be submitted to this meeting with a proposed timetable for the following year. The Council's current term of office ends at midnight on 2 May 2012, however, with the local Government elections taking place the following day. Consequently, the timetable of meetings proposed with this report extends only to that date. Future meetings will be decided by the new Council at its statutory meeting in May 2012.
- 1.2 A proposed programme of meetings covering the period from January to April 2012 is attached for consideration. The programme features one complete committee cycle and ends with Council on 14 March 2012. A further diet of meetings of policy and strategic committees could be accommodated but may be considered to conflict with other demands on members during the election nomination period. This will start on or around 13 March and traditionally marks commencement of the period of "purdah".
- 1.3 In recognition of the fact that the Council's regulatory business (planning and civic licensing) will continue to accrue, the proposed programme includes meetings of those committees during the months of March and April.
- 1.4 Members will note that the proposed programme has a longer lead-in to the cycle post New Year than in recent years and accommodates a free week around the budget setting meetings on 8 February 2012 (traditionally Policy and Resources Committee meets the day before budget setting and, depending on the business at this meeting, it can impact on members' pre-budget considerations).
- 1.5 It should be noted, too, that, in addition to the proposed programme of meetings, there may be a requirement to call other meetings (for example, the Appeals Committee) as necessary in the period up to 3 May. There may also be amendments to the programme in the event that changes are made to the committee structure consequent upon the review thereof.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to agree the proposed programme of meetings for the period January to April 2012 and to note the terms of paragraph 1.5 hereof.**

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Chief Governance Officer

Date: 27 September 2011

Contact Officer: Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager, Ext. 01324 506110

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.