

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
7 April 2008

From: Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Betton

Ward Member(s): All

Subject: COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2008/09

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents a proposed timetable of Council meetings for 2008/09.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Council be recommended to approve the proposed timetable of meetings for 2008/09.

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE KEY PRIORITIES/AMBITIONS

3.1 **Priority:** Improving Together: Community Leadership improvement project.

3.2 **Ambition:** To be a local authority which operates on the principles of community leadership and sound decision making supported by effective and transparent processes.

3.3 **Outcome:** Public awareness of the Council's decision making schedule for 2008/09.

4.0 PROPOSED TIMETABLE

4.1 Each year the Council approves a programme of meetings for the following year. The coming year, 2008/09, will be the final year for this District Council, following the decision to abolish the existing local government structure in County Durham and its replacement with a single unitary council. The proposed timetable, therefore, covers the period from May 2008 to the end of March 2009.

4.2 The programme provides for an additional meeting of Planning Committee on 30 April 2008.

4.3 The Audit and Governance Committee has requested that this committee meets later in the cycle. Accordingly, this committee

has been moved to week 4, with Overview and Scrutiny Committee moving to week 3.

- 4.4 In accordance with recent years' practice, the June Council meeting is scheduled for the last day of the month (a Friday) to enable maximum time to prepare the Statement of Accounts to meet the end of June deadline.
- 4.5 Final meetings of committees are scheduled for March 2009 with a final Council meeting on 25 March 2009. At this stage, it is not known whether this will be sufficient or unnecessary. Any additions or deletions can be made nearer the time if necessary.

5.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications: None

5.2 Risk:

Risk	Category	Implications
Council does not set an annual programme of meetings.	Reputation Legal	Lack of public awareness of decision making process, reduction in transparency. It is a statutory requirement to prepare and publish an annual programme of meetings.

- 5.3 Equality and Diversity: Meetings are programmed to take place at times ranging from afternoon to evening designed to enable most sections of the community to be given reasonable access to Council meetings.
- 5.4 Human Resources: Nil
- 5.5 Community Safety: Nil
- 5.6 Legal Issues: It is a statutory requirement to prepare and publish an annual programme of Council meetings.

Background papers: None

Author:

Mike Dennis
Chief Governance Officer
01833 696202

