



Full Council (AGM)	Tuesday, 04 May 2021	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: Addendum | Schedule of Council & Allied Meetings (2021/22)

Report Author(s): Emily Byrne (Democratic Services Officer)
Steven Tucker (Democratic & Electoral Services Manager)

Purpose of Report:	This report seeks Council's approval of the Schedule of Council and Allied Meetings ("the Schedule") for the municipal year 2021/22.
Report Summary:	The Schedule has been prepared following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Senior Leadership Team subject to the below-mentioned guidelines (set out at paragraph 3.2. of this report).
Recommendation(s):	That the Schedule of Council and Allied Meetings for the municipal year 2021/22 (as set out at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report) be approved and adopted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Steven Tucker (Democratic & Electoral Services Manager) (0116) 257 2605 steven.tucker@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Samuel Ball (Assistant Solicitor) (0116) 257 2643 samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Emily Byrne (Democratic Services Officer) (0116) 257 2729 emily.byrne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Corporate Objectives:	Not applicable.
Vision and Values:	Not applicable.
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	The implications are as set out at paragraphs 1 of this addendum.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.

Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader of the Council, Councillor John W Boyce • Senior Leadership Team
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press Release entitled 'Application to the High Court in Relation to Virtual Meeting Provision Outcome' (Published 28 April 2021) • Hertfordshire County Council & Ors v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government [2021] EWHC 1093 (Admin) (28 April 2021)
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule of Council & Allied Meetings (2021/22) (Calendar) 2. Schedule of Council & Allied Meetings (2021/22) (Table)

1. Application to the High Court in Relation to Virtual Meeting Provision Outcome

- 1.1 The application to the High Court made jointly by the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO), Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) in relation to virtual meeting provision for local authorities was dismissed on 28 April.
- 1.2 The High Court concluded that:

<p>89. (...) the Secretary of State was correct in November 2016 and July 2019 to say that primary legislation would be required to allow local authority "meetings" under the 1972 Act to take place remotely. In our view, once the Flexibility Regulations cease to apply, such meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location; attending a meeting at such a location means physically going to it; and being "present" at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location.</p> <p>90. We recognise that there are powerful arguments in favour of permitting remote meetings. But, as the consultation documents show, there are also arguments against doing so. The decision whether to permit some or all local authority meetings to be conducted remotely, and if so, how and subject to what safeguards, involves difficult policy choices on which there is likely to be a range of competing views. These choices have been made legislatively for Scotland by the Scottish Parliament and for Wales by the Senedd. In England, they are for Parliament, not the courts.</p> <p>- Dame Victoria Sharp, President Of The Queen's Bench Division, and Mr Justice Chamberlain - Hertfordshire County Council & Ors v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government [2021] EWHC 1093 (Admin)</p>

- 1.3 The ability to hold remote meetings under [section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020](#) ("the 2020 Act") and the [Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels \(Coronavirus\) \(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2020](#) ("the 2020 Regulations") will expire on Wednesday, 7 May 2021 (exclusive).

- 1.4 As such, all meetings of the following decision-making Council bodies scheduled on/after 7 May 2021 will be held in-person in the Council Chamber and/or Committee Room etc.
- Audit Committee
 - Development Control Committee
 - Full Council
 - Licensing and Regulatory Committee
 - People Committee
 - Policy, Finance and Development Committee
 - Service Delivery Committee
- 1.5 All other meetings of non-decision-making Council bodies (i.e. working groups, forums, facilitated outside and partnership bodies etc.) will continue to be held remotely.
- 1.6 A verbal update will be provided by the Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer at the AGM itself if required.