

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee / Council
Date: 2 December 2022 / 7 December 2022

Title of report: Proposed Change to Date of Budget Council Meeting 2023

Purpose of report: To consider a proposed change to the date of the Council Budget meeting 2023.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports) ?	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	No
Signed off by Director	Rachel Spencer-Henshall
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Financial Management, IT, Risk and Performance?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning	Julie Muscroft
Cabinet Member portfolio	Not applicable

Electoral wards affected: Not applicable

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or Private Status: Public

GDPR Implications: Not applicable

1. Summary

Council Procedure Rule 2 (1) advises that the dates of ordinary Council Meetings in each Municipal Year will be determined by the Council following recommendations made by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee considered a report setting out dates for 2022-23 at its meeting on 11 March 2022 and recommended the proposed schedule of meetings be approved by Council. The following dates/times were subsequently approved at the Council's Annual Meeting:

Date	Council Meeting
2022	
Wednesday 13 th July	Holding Executive to Account
Wednesday 7 th September	Key Discussion
Wednesday 12 th October	Holding Executive to Account
Wednesday 9 th November	Key Discussion
Wednesday 7 th December	Holding Executive to Account
2023	
Wednesday 11 th January	Key Discussion
Wednesday 22 nd February	Budget Council
Wednesday 15 th March	Holding Executive to Account
Wednesday 24 th May	Annual Council

As a result of the particular economic circumstances this financial year and the lateness of receiving the financial settlement (likely to be 21st December 2022) it would be helpful for officers and members to both have more time to consider the impact of the current challenging conditions to prepare and / or consider (as appropriate) the draft budget. As a result of that and following discussions with Group Leaders it is proposed to change the date of the Council's Budget Meeting from 22 February to 8 March 2023 as set out in this report.

2. Information required to take a decision

Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the Council has to set its budget before 11 March in the financial year preceding the one in respect of which the budget is set. This requirement prevents simply switching the February and March meetings to use the 15 March for the purpose of setting the Council Budget.

In order to facilitate the proposed change of the date of Budget Council, there are consequential changes to the schedule of Council meetings set out above, which would require the January meeting to become a holding executive to account meeting and the February meeting, originally the budget meeting, now becoming a key discussion Council meeting.

Subject to the approval of these changes, the meeting on the 15th March would not be required, with the changes resulting in no change to the overall number of Council meetings.

A proposed schedule of upcoming Council meetings for the remainder of the Municipal Year is appended to the report.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Not applicable

3.2 Working with Partners

Not applicable

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

3.5 Improving Outcomes for Children

Not applicable

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

Not applicable

3.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the council has got to set its budget before 11 March in the financial year preceding the one in respect of which the budget is set.

4. Consultees

Group Leaders have been advised of the proposed change of date.

5. Next steps

That the report be considered at the Meeting of Council on 7 December 2022 seeking approval of the proposed change of date for the Council's Budget Meeting and the consequential changes in respect of schedule of outstanding Council meetings.

6. Officer recommendation

That the report be considered at the meeting of Council on 7 December 2022 with a recommendation to change the date of the Council's Budget Meeting from 22 February to 8 March 2023, along with the consequential changes in respect of the schedule of outstanding Council meetings, as set out in the report.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not applicable.

8. Contact officer

Samantha Lawton, Head of Governance

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Dates of Council Meetings – 2022 to 2023 Municipal Year (CGA 11 March 2022)

10. Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Appendix

2023	
Wednesday 11 th January	Holding Executive to Account
Wednesday 22 nd February	Key Discussion
Wednesday 8 th March	Budget Council
Wednesday 24 th May	Annual Council