

Agenda Item No:

Report No:

Report Title: Running of Council business during May 2015 election period

Report To: Council

Date: 17 July 2014

Ward(s) Affected: All

Report By: Catherine Knight, Assistant Director of Corporate Services

Contact Officer(s)-

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Purpose of Report:

To ensure the smooth running of the Council's business during the period immediately following elections next year.

Officers Recommendation(s):

- 1** To recommend to Council that the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, the Leader of the Council (Elect) and the Leaders of the Minority Groups, be given power to deal with any urgent matters arising between the cessation of office of former members (12 May 2015) and the Annual Council Meeting (20 May 2015).

Note: The occupier of the post of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council will be the Chair and Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2014/2015 who hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council on 20 May 2015, the Leader of the Council (Elect) will be the person elected by the relevant political group after the elections on 7 May 2015 prior to that person's formal appointment by the Council on 20 May 2015 and the Leaders of the Minority Groups will be the person appointed by the relevant political group immediately after the elections on 7 May 2015.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2** To facilitate the smooth running of the Council's business during the May 2015 election period.

Information

- 3** The District Council elections take place on Thursday, 7 May 2015. The whole Council will retire on Tuesday, 12 May 2015 and the newly-elected councillors will come into office on the same day. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, for the 2014/2015 municipal year, however, will continue in office until their successors become entitled to act ie. until the Annual Meeting of the Council on

20 May 2015. During this period, the Chair of the Council may, if necessary, call an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

- 4 The Meetings Timetable for 2014/2015 was agreed at the meeting of Full Council on 26 February 2014. The last scheduled meeting of Council would normally have been 25 February 2015 with the Annual Council Meeting taking place on 20 May 2015. In order to deal with any business arising from the meetings of the Cabinet scheduled for 19 March and 13 April 2015, an additional meeting of Full Council was timetabled in for 23 April 2015.
- 5 Council and Cabinet will be able to deal with any urgent business which may arise in relation to their respective functions up until 12 May 2015 (when the new councillors come into office).
- 6 In order that urgent business can continue to be dealt with from 12 May onwards, it is suggested that the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, the Leader of the Council (Elect) and the Leaders of the Minority Groups, be authorised to deal with any urgent matters between 12 May 2015 (the cessation of office of former members) and the Annual Council Meeting on 20 May 2015 (see diagram at Appendix).

Financial Appraisal

- 7 There are no significant financial implications arising from this recommendation.

Legal Implications

- 8 None over and above those set out in the body of this Report.

Sustainability Implications

- 9 I have completed the Sustainability Implications Questionnaire and there are no significant effects as a result of this recommendation.

Risk Management Implications

- 10 There are no risk management implications arising as a result of this Report. If the recommendation is not implemented, the main risk will be that the Council will not have made provision for urgent business to continue to be dealt with during that period.

Equality Screening

- 11 I have completed the initial Equality Impact Assessment screening exercise and no potential negative impacts were identified as a result of this recommendation. Therefore, a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Background Papers

- 12 Meetings Timetable 2014/2015 Report and Appendices:
<http://cmispublic.lewes.gov.uk/Public/Binary.ashx?Document=6726>

Appendix (as set out below)

13 Appendix – Election Period 2015 – Principal Dates

APPENDIX

**ELECTION PERIOD 2015
Principal Dates**

