



Belfast City Council

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| Report to | Strategic Policy and Resources Committee |
| Subject: | Frequency of Meetings |
| Date: | 19th June, 2014 |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314) |

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| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
| 1.1 | Members will recall that there have been several reports submitted to the Committee over the past year in order to prepare the organisation for the Shadow Council term which commenced recently. |
| 1.2 | One of the issues which has been discussed is the call there will be on Members' time over the period from now until 31st March when the existing Term of Office will come to an end. This is particularly the case for the 36 Members who are serving both on the existing Council and on the Shadow Council. |

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| 2 | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | Members have discussed previously the necessity of prioritising their time so as to allow them to prepare for the assumption of the new functions in April, 2015 whilst not impacting adversely upon service delivery during the remainder of the existing Term. |
| 2.2 | Given that one of the key tasks which the Committee usually spends a considerable amount of time on – namely the discussions around the striking of the District Rate – will this year be a responsibility of the Shadow Council, it is suggested that it might be possible for the existing Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to revert to routinely only holding one meeting each month. |
| 2.3 | Officers are currently trying to design a monthly Committee schedule to incorporate the meetings of the four Shadow Committees into an already busy meeting schedule. It will be important that the scheduling of meetings is prepared in such a way as to allow issues which have to be raised both with the existing Council and with the Shadow Council to happen in an orderly way so that there is not any undue delay in decisions being actioned. |

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| 2.4 | Accordingly, it is suggested that the Committee consider reverting to a single meeting each month initially for the months of August and September with that situation being reviewed after that time. |
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| 3 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | None. |

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| 4 | Equality and Good Relations Implications |
| 4.1 | There are not any equality or good relations considerations connected to this report. |

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| 5 | Recommendation |
| 5.1 | The Committee is recommended to meet once on a monthly basis for the months of August and September with the situation being reviewed after that time. |