



Belfast City Council

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| Report to | Strategic Policy and Resources Committee |
| Subject: | Date of the Annual Council Meeting in June, 2012 |
| Date: | 17th February, 2012 |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314) |
| Contact Officer: | |

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| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
| 1.1 | The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) Act 1972, at paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 2, requires that the Annual Meeting of the Council be held in June each year with the exception of the year of the Local Elections. |
| 1.2 | The Council's Standing Orders provide that the Annual Meeting of the Council must be held in each year in accordance with the provisions of the Act. In addition, the Standing Orders provide that other monthly meetings of the Council " <i>shall not.... take place on a Bank Holiday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday but shall be held on the next following weekday instead.</i> " |
| 1.3 | Although, traditionally, these restrictions have been applied when considering the date of the Annual Council Meeting each year, there is not any legal requirement to do so and the Annual Council Meeting can be held on any day in June. |

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| 2 | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | In June, 2012, there will be an additional Bank Holiday to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee which would mean that, should the normal restrictions be applied, the Annual Meeting of the Council would not take place until Wednesday 6th June. |
| 2.2 | However, that date coincides with the arrival at the City Hall at 5.00pm of the Olympic Torch and a large-scale civic event will be held with an estimated crowd of over 30,000 people in attendance. Obviously, it would not be appropriate to schedule the Annual Council meeting for 6.00pm on that evening. |

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| 2.3 | It would be possible to hold the Annual Meeting on Friday, 1st June. This would not be in breach of any legal obligation as it would meet the provisions of the Local Government Act. It is, however, outside of the Council's normal procedure and would require the Committee's approval. |
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| 3 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | None. |

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| 4 | Equality and Good Relations Implications |
| 4.1 | None. |

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| 5 | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | The Committee is recommended to agree that the Annual meeting of the Council in 2012 will take place on Friday, 1st June and to determine the appropriate time of the meeting. |

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| 6 | Decision Tracking |
| Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services manager April, 2012 | |