



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Meetings of Committees, Working Groups etc During May, 2014
Date:	21st February, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At a recent meeting of the Committee, the Chairman suggested that it might be appreciated by the political parties on the Council if the meetings of Committees and Working Groups, including meetings of the PCSP and the 4 DPCSPs, and the several Party Briefings, were to be cancelled during the month of May to allow the politicians to concentrate on the forthcoming European Parliament and Local Council elections

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Party Leaders have been spoken to on their views over the past few weeks and the general view was that this would be helpful and that they would support the idea.
2.2	I have attached at Appendix 1 the scheduled meetings which are due to take place during May and which would be affected if the Committee supports a proposal to cancel them. Essentially, the last meeting to take place before the elections would be the full Council meeting on 1st May.
2.3	If the Committee agrees to the suggestion then for the month of May the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders, the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the appropriate Committee Chairman, would exercise the general delegated authority to take any urgent decisions which is routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.
2.4	If this is supported by the Committee, a report will be presented to each of the other Standing Committees requesting that they agree to cancel their meetings and any meetings of Working Groups established by those Committees during

	the month of May. It would be necessary for a similar report to be considered by the PCSP and also by the STC which is scheduled to meet on 14th May.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	None.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are not any equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to agree to the cancellation of meetings in May and for delegated authority to be extended to the Chief Executive for that month in consultation with the Party Leaders, the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the appropriate Committee Chairman.

6	Abbreviations
	PCSP – Policing and Community Safety Partnership DPCSP – District Policing and Community Safety Partnership STC – Statutory Transition Committee

6	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Scheduled meetings during May, 2014