



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Committee Schedule August – October 2014
Date:	22 nd August 2014
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager ext 6314

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At its first meeting the Shadow Council agreed to adopt a traditional committee system, with four standing committees as the governance structure for the Shadow Council term from June 2014 – March 2015.
1.2	The purpose of this report is to outline the committee and council meeting dates for the next three months of this term and to seek approval to bring a further report in October with the dates for the remainder of the year

2	Key Issues
2.1	Members will be aware that up until the 31 st March 2015 Belfast City Council is effectively running two committee structures, one for the current Belfast City Council and one for the Shadow Council. A number of members sit on committees in both councils and others also continue to serve on Lisburn or Castlereagh Council. Therefore in developing a committee schedule for the shadow Council for the coming year it is necessary to be aware of members' time commitments, the schedule of meetings for the current council and the dates of both Lisburn and Castlereagh Council meetings.
2.2	The attached timetable (appendix 1) details all the known committee meetings for August – October including dates for the council meetings in November for both councils. The dates for the shadow committee meetings have been scheduled to take account of the legislative requirement to publish papers five days before any meeting and the need to allow time between the committee and council meeting to comply with the new requirements under 'call in'.
2.3	It is anticipated that the work of the shadow committees will increase as the year progresses to consider legislation and guidance from central government and to make decisions in relation to setting the rate. At the same time it is hoped that

	the business conducted by the current council will begin to reduce and it may be possible to reduce the frequency of these committee meetings and give primacy to the shadow committees. It is therefore recommended that the meetings for both councils will be considered together for the second half of the year and an updated schedule brought back to committee in October 2014
--	--

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The committee is asked;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to agree the dates of the committee and Council meetings August to November 2014 and • to agree that officers will take back a further schedule of meetings in October for the remainder of the shadow council term.

6	Decision Tracking

7	Key to Abbreviations

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Schedule of Meetings August – November 2014