

## **Amendment - Matters Requiring Approval (Item 10 C)**

**Cabinet – 27 February 2017**

**Minute 99 – Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year**

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

**Seconded** by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council considers that the draft Calendar proposed:

- (a) provides insufficient opportunities for Members to debate issues in a timely manner;
- (b) provides insufficient opportunities for Members to question the Cabinet and hold them to account.

Council notes that Members have resorted to seeking Extraordinary Council meetings intended to secure adequate opportunities for debate.

In order to improve the levels of accountability and opportunities for debate, Council suggests that additional meetings should be added to the diary on 11 September 2017, 13 November 2017 and 5 February 2018. Whilst the Pensions Committee scheduled for 13 November 2017 would need to be rescheduled, the advantages of additional accountability outweigh the inconvenience.

Council requests that Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee should consider the Calendar each year. This should be done with a view to securing agreement on the number of meetings, with the objective of improving the democratic process. The Working Party associated with this Committee would provide a forum for a frank discussion about the use of extraordinary meetings and would be helpful in tackling the current unease.

Council further considers it desirable that Budget Monitoring Reports should be available more frequently than at present. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members should receive the most recently available information, rather than be confined to the quarterly reporting arrangement.

Council requests officers to draw up a timetable for the release of financial information that is, in any case, being collected and analysed by officers on a regular basis. Nevertheless, Council understands the pressures that officers and members face in the months of January and February and is content that any timetable should recognise that.