

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 18 June 2018

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2018/19 & 2019/20

Contact for further information:

Diane Brooks – Principal Member Services Officer - Tel No (01772) 866720

Executive Summary

A programme of meetings for the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to agree the programme of meetings for 2019/20 as set out in the report now presented, and agree to delegate authority to undertake budget consultation to the Chairman, in consultation with the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer.

Information

At the meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held on the 19th June 2017, the CFA agreed a programme of Meetings for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

It is now necessary to agree a programme of dates for 2019/20.

In considering suitable dates, the following points have been taken into consideration: -

- i. A preference previously expressed that meetings of the CFA be held on Mondays commencing at 1000 hours at the Training Centre, Euxton.
- ii. Standing Order No 2.2 of the CFA which states that the Authority must hold an Annual Meeting between 1st April and the 30th June each year.
- iii. Standing Order 2.3a of the CFA, which states that a programme of meetings for the Authority should be determined annually by the Authority and additional meetings of the Authority held as determined by the Authority or at the discretion of the Chairman.
- iv. Previous concerns raised by Members about initial consideration of the draft budget at the December meeting, prior to the draft Local Government Finance Settlement announcement. As such the Authority has three options:-
 - Continue with current system, reporting a draft budget in December and authorising consultation on this, despite the lack of the draft settlement, followed by the main budget meeting in February;

- Hold an additional CFA meeting in early January, following release of the draft Local Government Finance Settlement, for Members to give initial consideration to the draft budget and authorise consultation on this, followed by the main budget meeting in February;
- Delegate approval to undertake consultation on the budget to the Chairman in consultation with the Treasurer and the Chief Fire Officer. This maintains Members' involvement but enables consultation to take place prior to main budget meeting in February. In essence this would mean moving to just one budget meeting in February, at which Members will consider and agree a final budget and the resultant council tax implications.

Historically the Authority has received very few responses to its budget consultation process, hence delegating approval to undertake consultation to the Chairman, Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer is the preferred option.

For information the following dates have previously been agreed for 2018/19: -

2018/19

23 April 2018
 18 June 2018 (Annual Meeting of the CFA)
 17 September 2018
 17 December 2018 (1st Budget Meeting)
 18 February 2019 (2nd Budget Meeting)

Proposed dates for 2019/20 are:-

2019/20

29 April 2019
 17 June 2019 (Annual Meeting of the CFA)
 16 September 2019
 16 December 2019
 24 February 2020

Business Risk

None

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
CFA Constitutional Standing Orders	18 June 2012	Diane Brooks Principal Member Services Officer
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		N/A