

9. ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the adoption by the Council of the attached schedule setting out the times and dates of ordinary Council meetings and seminars for 2006.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In order that the business of the Council can be conducted in an orderly manner, and that public notification of Council meetings can be given in compliance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, it is necessary for the Council to adopt a schedule of Council meetings for 2006.
3. The attached schedule (Schedule A) assumes the continuation of the existing arrangements for weekly Council meetings commencing at 9.30am each Thursday, and with seminars being held each Tuesday at both 9.30am and 1pm.
4. The dates shown for LTCCP seminars and Council meetings are tentative only at this stage, pending finalisation of next year's LTCCP hearings/meetings programme. The finally agreed dates for these will be the subject of a separate report to the Council.
5. Some preliminary consideration has also been given to the possibility of holding fortnightly (rather than weekly) Council meetings. Schedule B (attached) therefore gives two alternatives for such meetings, beginning on either the first or the second Thursday of each month.
6. In recent months, there have been some weeks when it has proved necessary to also hold seminars on a Wednesday, as well as on the Tuesday. Depending on the Council's future workload, it will probably prove necessary to continue holding some seminars on a Wednesday in 2006, as and when required.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no direct financial considerations. Clause 19 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides that:

If a local authority adopts a schedule of ordinary meetings,-

(a) the schedule-

- (a) may cover any future period that the local authority considers appropriate; and*
- (b) may be amended.*

(b) notification of the schedule or any amendment to that schedule constitutes a notification of every meeting on the schedule or amendment.

8. The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requires the advance public notification of local authority meetings. In order to permit such notification to be given pursuant to section 46(1) of LGOIMA, it is necessary for the Council to formally adopt a schedule of Council meetings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Decide whether it wishes to hold weekly or fortnightly Council meetings in 2006.
- (b) Then adopt either Schedule A or Schedule B attached to this report (and, in the case of Schedule B, decide whether fortnightly Council meetings are to be held beginning on the first or the second Thursday of each month).
- (c) Note that the dates of the 2006 LTCCP meetings/seminars will be the subject of a separate report to the Council.