

14. ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND SEMINARS



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941-8549
Officer responsible:	Secretariat Manager
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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 from January to October 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In order that the business of the Council can be conducted in an orderly manner, and to allow public notification of Council meetings to 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 2007. The next triennial Christchurch City elections will be held on Saturday 13 October 2007, and the schedule therefore lists meetings from January to October 2007 inclusive. It will be up to the incoming Council to decide on its preferred governance and meeting arrangements, following the elections.
3. The attached schedule 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 1.30pm.
4. At its meeting on 30 November 2006, the Council adopted a report by the General Manager Corporate Services, setting out a recommended process for developing and approving the 2007/08 Annual Plan, as well as any amendments to the current Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) resulting from the new Development Contributions Policy (DCP). The draft timetable therefore assumes that:
 - The draft Annual Plan will be the subject of an all day Council seminar on Tuesday 13 February 2007, with the draft plan being submitted to the Council meeting on Thursday 15 March 2007 for adoption.
 - The hearing and consideration of submissions on the draft Annual Plan will be held over three full days, from Wednesday 23 May to Friday 25 May 2007 inclusive.
 - Hearings regarding the Development Contributions Policy (only) will be held over three full days, from Friday 1 June to Tuesday 5 June 2007 inclusive.
 - Council seminars to discuss the submissions on the draft Annual Plan will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 7 June, all day on Friday 8 June and in the afternoon on Thursday 14 June 2007.
 - The draft plan (incorporating any amendments resulting from the public submissions) will be submitted to the Council meeting on Thursday 28 June 2007 for adoption.
5. At the request of the Mayor, Council seminars and a Council meeting have also been scheduled on the following dates, to interview the applicants for the Chief Executive's position, and make an appointment to that position:

1.30pm-5pm	Wednesday 31 January 2007 (seminar, to interview applicants)
1.30pm-5pm	Thursday 1 February 2007 (seminar, to interview applicants)
9.30am	Friday 2 February 2007 (Council meeting, to discuss the interviews with the shortlisted applicants, and make an appointment to the position)

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. 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.

7. 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 adopt the schedule of meetings as attached to this report.