



Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Council

Date: 13th September 2006

Subject: Council Meeting Arrangements 2006/07

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

1. The following two proposals have been agreed in relation to Council meeting arrangements and require formal approval by Council:
 - 1 That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be held at 11.00 am on Wednesday 13th December 2006 for the specific purpose of approving a Gambling Policy for Leeds.
 - 2 That the 2007 Annual Meeting of Council be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 24th May and not on 21st May as previously agreed.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To seek formal approval of Council to two proposals in relation to Council meetings in the current year

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The papers approved at the Annual Meeting identified the need for an extraordinary meeting of Council in December 2006 for the purpose of approving a Gambling Policy for Leeds under the Gambling Act 2005. It was also agreed at the 2006 Annual Meeting that the 2007 Annual Meeting would be held on 21st May.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 It is a legal requirement for the Council to adopt and publish a Gambling Policy at least four weeks prior to 31st January 2007. The scheduled meeting of Council on 1st November is too early in terms of consultation requirements and Budget and Policy Framework Rules.
- 3.2 There are requirements as to when the Council holds its Annual Meeting and the proposed variation is within the timescales required by statute.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 The requirements to adopt a policy and publish it at least 4 weeks before 31st January 2007 is a legislative requirement. If the Council fails to meet the deadline then it will be in breach of its statutory duties.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The timescales imposed by the legal requirement to adopt the Gambling Policy make the resource implication associated with the calling of the extraordinary meeting unavoidable

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The proposed arrangements facilitate compliance with legal requirements placed upon the Council

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be held at 11.00 am on Wednesday 13th December 2006 for the specific purpose of approving a Gambling Policy for Leeds.
- 7.2 That the 2007 Annual Meeting of Council be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 24th May and not on 21st May as previously agreed