

West Sunderland Area Committee

10 September 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

Options to Change Committee Meeting Dates

1. Why has it come to committee?

1.1 At its workshop in June, the committee asked for a report as to the options available that could enable a change to its meeting dates.

2. Background

2.1 Members will recall that some concern had been expressed that the existing dates for the West Area Committee were proving difficult for all members to attend and fully contribute.

2.2 Whilst the Chief Solicitor in consultation with the Chairman is authorised to make such changes as may be deemed necessary or expedient with regard to the dates and times of meetings, it was felt appropriate that the Committee should receive a report.

2.3 Members will be aware that the already crowded nature of the Council Diary limits the possibilities to change committee dates.

3. Options

3.1 Following consultation with the Committee Chair and with Democratic Services a small number of potential alternative dates have been identified.

3.2 If the meeting was moved to another day in its scheduled week, the only available day would be the Wednesday before however, this is the same day as the Cabinet (Decision Making), which can impact on attendance at the Committee, particularly if meetings continue to be held out of the Civic Centre. In addition, the March meeting would coincide with the budget setting meeting.

3.3 Moving the Committee to the following week, from that scheduled, would be difficult due to the prevalence of Scrutiny Committees.

3.4 Moving the Committee forward one week would enable the Committee to be held on the Wednesday of that week. This would be with the exception of the meeting scheduled for 7th January, as this would be between Christmas and New Year. This meeting could be held the day before it is currently scheduled, Wednesday 6th January.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Should the Committee wish to change its meeting date, it has not proved possible to identify a repeated day throughout the year, that is the same day the week before or during the same week that it is currently scheduled.

4.2 The most viable option for a change of date is 3.4. This would leave the remaining Committee meetings as follows:

- Wednesday 28 October 2009;

- Wednesday 6 January 2010;
- Wednesday 24 February 2010;
- Wednesday 7 April, 'End of Year' report presented.

5. Background papers

- Council Diary

6. Contact Officer:

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