

## REPORT TO EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

22 July 2020

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Programme of Committee Meetings 2020/2021</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour</b>
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Elaine Newsome Service Manager Democracy

### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That approval be given to the programme of committee meetings for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix 1.

#### 1 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To submit for consideration, the programme of committee meeting for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

#### 2 **IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION**

2.1 The Council's decision making structures are designed to support the delivery of Sandwell's Vision 2030 and the Sandwell Corporate Plan.

#### 3 **STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from the approval of the committee programme.

## 4 **LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the Remote Committee Regulations") came into force on 4th April 2020.

4.2 The Regulations;

- Enable the Council to determine the day and time of meetings, and alter the frequency, move or cancel meetings without requirement for further notice.
- Remove the need to hold an Annual Meeting (until 7th May 2021) and allow the Local Authority to hold such meetings as it requires.
- Extend any appointments that were due to be made at the Annual Meeting until the next Annual Meeting (eg Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairs, Vice-Chairs, appointments to Outside Bodies etc).
- Allow Local Authority meetings to be held virtually via webcasting, or telephone conferencing.
- Allow the Council to publish documents on the website where there is a requirement to publish information, or make documents available to the public for inspection at its offices.

4.3 Council committee/board (including Cabinet) meetings will be held remotely pursuant to the Remote Committee Regulations.

## 5. **BACKGROUND DETAILS**

5.1 On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Emergency Committee approved an interim calendar of committee meetings up to September 2020.

5.2 Initially, Cabinet, Scrutiny Boards and Licensing and Planning Committees were rescheduled. All other committees are now proposed to meet.

5.3 The Council has been hosting meetings via a software platform to enable elected members to attend and participate in a reduced programme of committee meetings in line with the Remote Committee Regulations which came into force on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

- 5.4 All Members now have the software capability to attend committee meetings and it is recommended that a full programme of committees is now agreed for the remainder of the municipal year. The proposed programme of meetings is attached as Appendix 1. This does not propose a date for the annual meeting of Council.
- 5.5 As the impact of Covid 19 reduces, the provisions for the convening of the Emergency Committee have similarly reduced and it is proposed that the Committee should now cease to meet, and business conducted through regular decision making channels. Should emergency issues or concerns arise as a result of Covid-19 in Sandwell, there may be a future need to enact the same constitutional provisions.

## **APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 - Programme of Meetings 2020.

### **Surjit Tour**

Director of Law and Governance  
& Monitoring Officer