

Item No. 6.3	Classification: Open	Date: 25 January 2012	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Date of Council Assembly in February	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly considers whether it wishes to reschedule the 22 February council tax setting meeting of council assembly to 29 February 2012.
2. That should council assembly wish to set an alternative date, the meeting resolves to suspend council assembly procedure rule 2.1 (Dates and frequency of meetings).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Last year the budget was considered by council assembly on 22 February 2011. The Greater London Assembly (GLA) set its precept on 23 February, later than anticipated; therefore council assembly had to establish a committee for setting the council tax for 2011/12. In order to avoid a similar situation occurring this year, officers have reviewed the forthcoming calendar for other organisations which are now more readily available. It is suggested that the council tax setting council assembly meeting be rescheduled to Wednesday 29 February 2012. This will allow additional time to include the GLA precept and accommodate any late changes to the timetable.
4. The finance director has been consulted on the suggested new date for the council tax setting meeting and has advised that the revised timetable would ensure that the council tax notices can be published within the required deadline.
5. In addition this change will bring the council more in line with when other boroughs set their council tax. Both Lambeth and Lewisham Councils will be holding their council tax setting meeting on 29 February and therefore it would be beneficial to coincide with neighbouring boroughs.
6. The council tax setting meeting is scheduled to be held at Southwark Town Hall.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The annual meeting of council assembly in May 2011 set the dates for ordinary meetings in 2011/12, and only council assembly can consider changes to these dates.
8. It should be noted that if a change of date was agreed this would have some impact on the council calendar. However if meetings displaced by council assembly do have any business they could be accommodated on other days.

Legal implications

9. If council assembly wishes to set an alternative date it would have to suspend council assembly procedure rule 2.1, which states "Meetings (or ordinary meetings) shall take place on such dates agreed by the annual meeting..."

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.1, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	
Report Author	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	10 January 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	N/a	N/a
Finance Director	Yes	Incorporated
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	10 January 2012	