

Committee: Strategic Development	Date: 25 th June 2009	Classification: Unrestricted	Agenda Item No: 5
Report of: Service Head, Democratic Services		Title: Proposed New Schedule of Dates 2009/10 & Terms of Reference Report	
Originating Officer: Simmi Yesmin, Senior Committee Officer		Ward(s): N/A	

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the proposed Schedule of Dates for meetings of the Strategic Development Committee for the Municipal Year 2009/2010 and the Terms of Reference. Revised

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Schedule of Dates as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- 2.2 That Members agree a start time for evening meetings of the Strategic Development Committee.
- 2.3 That the Terms of Reference detailed in Appendix 2, be noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (Section 97)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE DRAFTING OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of *background paper*

Tick if copy attached

If not supplied, name and telephone number of holder

Council Meeting
Agenda & Minutes –20/05//09

Simmi Yesmin
Democratic Services

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 20th May 2009, Council considered a schedule of dates for all its principal meetings for the Municipal Year 2009/10, which was subsequently approved.
- 3.2 The dates of the Strategic Development Committee have been revised after consultation with the Chair of the Strategic Development Committee, whilst taking into consideration Member availability and other commitments in the corporate diary. The revised Strategic Development Committee meeting dates are detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. Details regarding Functions, Terms of Reference, Membership and Quorum and are also set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
- 3.3 Paragraph 5.1 of Part 4 of the Constitution states that "All Council meetings will start at 7.30pm unless the Council or the Chair decides otherwise." The report also suggests that meetings of the Strategic Development Committee start at 6.30pm as Members had previously expressed concern that a starting time of 7.30 pm did not always allow sufficient time for planning applications to be considered in one evening, particularly if there were a number of objections to take into account.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that a 6.30 pm start time for meetings would achieve the best compromise in giving all parties reasonable time to attend and allow potentially long meetings to end at a reasonable time.
- 3.5 The statutory period for the determination of planning applications is thirteen weeks in the case of a strategic application. To meet these time scales eight Strategic Development Committee meetings have been scheduled for the Municipal Year 2009/20010.

4. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

The rules governing the meetings of the Council are included in the Local Government Act 1972 and also in the Council's Constitution. Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to hold an annual general meeting and such other meetings as the Council considers necessary.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

There are no immediate finance implications arising out of this report.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

In drawing up the schedule of dates, consideration was given to avoiding school holiday dates and known dates of religious holidays and other important dates where at all possible.

7. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

There are no obvious anti-poverty implications arising from the report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

There are no immediate SAGE implications arising from the report.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Council needs to have a programme of meetings in place to ensure effective and efficient decision making arrangements.

SCHEDULE OF DATES 2009 – 2010 (Revised)

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday 25th June 2009
Tuesday 4th August 2009
Wednesday 23rd September 2009
Tuesday 10th November 2009
Tuesday 15th December 2009
Tuesday 2nd February 2010
Tuesday 16th March 2010
Tuesday 20th April 2010

APPENDIX 2

EXCERPT FROM THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS CONSTITUTION

3.3.5 Strategic Development Committee Functions and Terms of Reference

<p>Membership: Nine Members of the Council, three of whom shall also be members of the Development Committee and two of whom shall be members of the Cabinet. Up to three substitutes may be appointed for each Member.</p>	
<p>Functions</p>	<p>Delegation of Functions</p>
<p>To consider any matter listed within the Terms of Reference of the Development Committee where any one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) applications for buildings exceeding 30m in height (25 m on sites adjacent to the River Thames); (ii) applications for schemes with more than 500 residential units, or for residential development on sites exceeding 10 hectares; (iii) applications for employment floor space on sites of more than 4 hectares; (iv) major infrastructure developments; (v) applications not in accordance with the development plan involving more than 150 residential units or more than 2,500 sqm of floor space; (vi) applications on metropolitan open space involving buildings of more than 100 sqm; (vii) applications for developments including 200 or more car parking spaces; (viii) legal proceedings in relation to the matter are in existence or in contemplation; (ix) three or more members of the Development Committee are disqualified in some way from participating in the decision; (x) on an exceptional basis, the Development Committee has decided that a particular application should stand referred to the Strategic Development Committee; and (xi) a proposal raises significant issues of local or borough-wide interest. <p><i>It shall be for the Corporate Director Development & Renewal to determine whether a matter meets any of the above criteria.</i></p>	
<p>Quorum 3 Members of the Committee</p>	