

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 2015**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Gillian Troughton  
**LEAD OFFICER & REPORT AUTHOR** Lindsay Tomlinson, Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer

### **Why has this report come to the Council?**

The introduction of the elected mayor model of governance in May 2015 will necessitate some intensive work on the council's governance structures after the elected mayor takes office on 13 May 2015 and additional time will be needed in order to prepare these proposals for submission to the annual meeting.

**Recommendation:** That Council agrees that the Annual Meeting 2015 will be held on Monday 1 June.

### **1 Introduction**

1.1 The Council's constitution, Chapter 5 Rule 1 states that "The Council will hold its Annual Meeting at a place and time and on a day in May which it will decide at or before its last meeting prior to the Annual Meeting. In the absence of decision or statutory provision to the contrary, the day will be the second Tuesday in May, but, in Borough Election year, the second Tuesday after the Council elections.

### **2 The Annual Meeting 2015**

2.1 On May 7 2015 elections will be held for all 51 seats on Copeland Borough Council, therefore in accordance with the constitution and in the absence of any decision as to the timing of the annual meeting, it will take place on Tuesday 19 May 2015.

2.2 In addition to the Borough Council elections there will also be an election on 7 May 2015 for the first directly elected Mayor for Copeland. It is apparent from the work currently being undertaken in preparation for this change of governance model that many of the potential changes, for example the number of Executive Councillors and the level of their delegated responsibilities, will not be known until after the elected mayor takes office on Monday 11 May 2015.

- 3 Reports for an Annual Meeting on 19 May would need to be published by the statutory deadline of Monday 11 May which is clearly impractical given that the elected mayor will take office on that date.
- 4 Paragraph 1 of schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 states:  
“(2) The annual meeting of a principal council . . . shall be held  
  
(a) in a year of ordinary elections of councillors to the council, on the eighth day after the day of retirement of councillors or such other day within the twenty-one days immediately following the day of retirement as the council may fix;”  
  
Section 26(3) of the Act, in connection with the day of retirement states that  
  
“(3) On the fourth day after any such ordinary election— (a) the persons who were councillors immediately before the election shall retire; and (b) the newly elected councillors shall assume office.”
- 5 The retirement date is Monday 11 May 2015 and therefore in accordance with the legislation the last date that the Annual meeting can be held is Monday 1 June 2015.
- 6 It is therefore proposed that the Annual Meeting be held on Monday 1 June 2015; the statutory publication date for the meeting is Thursday 21 May which will allow a little over a week for the necessary work to be undertaken with the elected mayor to inform the reports.

### **3 Conclusions**

- 3.1 The change to the elected mayor model of governance requires a decision by Council to defer the Annual Meeting of the Council 2015 to Monday 1 June.

Consultees: Chief Executive; Section 151 Officer; Lead Executive Member

Monitoring Officer comments: Included in report

S151 Officer comments: No comments

EIA comments: No comments