

Recommendation to Council on 12 June 2014	From: General Purposes Committee on 29 May 2014	Item 10
	Revised Calendar of Meetings – Eight Week Cycle	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendation:-	
	that the proposed revisions to the 2014-15 Calendar of Meetings, as set out at Appendix A, be approved and adopted.	
	Background	
2.	The General Purposes Committee considered a report by the Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer which set out the proposed revisions to the Council's adopted Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2014-15.	
3.	The Committee noted that the revisions would introduce an eight week cycle for the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committees with the aim of reducing the overall number of meetings without giving rise to a negative impact on effectiveness or efficiency. Discussions on the proposed eight week cycle had been held with senior officers and Members and by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Panel and support for the proposal had been given.	
4.	If adopted, the proposed revisions would be introduced from September 2014. This would allow the full range of changes arising from an eight week cycle to take effect from the beginning of the September/October cycle of meetings. Members were advised that, as a result of adopting the new cycle, it would also be necessary to reschedule meetings of the Audit and the General Purposes Committees (22 September from the morning to the afternoon, . and 12 March to 5 March respectively). In addition a second meeting of the General Purposes Committee would need to be rescheduled (from 4 December to 20 November) to enable the Chairman to attend in view of his commitments in the December period. A draft revised Calendar of Meetings showing the proposed new meeting dates (marked in red) and those dates previously agreed by Council in January 2014 (marked in blue) is attached at Appendix A.	
5.	During discussion on the impact of the proposed revisions, reference was made to the presumption that all members of the Development Management Committee, together with nominated substitutes, would attend that Committee's site visits. Concern was expressed that, despite recent amendment to the site visit schedule, clashes remained in the revised Calendar between the site visit dates and those dates proposed for some Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. A request was made that officers ensure that such clashes did not arise	

	when drafting the Calendar of Meetings for 2015-16. Further discussion then took place on the possible impact of the revised meeting cycle on the management of the Council's business.	
6.	In response to the concerns raised the Chairman assured Members that their comments had been noted and would be fully considered.	
Appendices	Appendix A	Central Bedfordshire Council Calendar of Meetings 2014-15 (Part) Proposed Eight Week Cycle