

## London Borough of Waltham Forest

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Report Title	Meetings Programme 2026/27
Meeting / Date	Council, 21 May 2026
Directorate	Resources
Report author/ Contact details	Mark Hynes, Director of Governance and Law, Governance and Law
Wards affected	None specifically
Public access	Open
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Draft Programme of Meetings 2026-27

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1. Summary
  - 1.1. Council is asked to approve the programme of meetings for 2026-27 Meetings of the Council for the year.
  
2. Recommendation
  - 2.1. To approve the meetings programme for 2026-27 as set out in Appendix 1; and
  - 2.2. Agree that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Party Whips be authorised to agree any subsequent changes to the programme arising from clashes of membership following the appointment of committee memberships at this meeting.
  
3. Background
  - 3.1. The Council Procedure Rules state that the programme of meetings of the Council must be finalised at the Annual Meeting.
  - 3.2. A draft programme of meetings was taken to the February 2026 Full Council meeting for noting by Council.
  
4. Proposal
  - 4.1. The proposed dates of Council, Cabinet, Committees, and other bodies in 2026/27 are set out in the attached schedule (Appendix 1). It is possible that changes may need to be made to the schedule following approval, any amendments will be made in consultation with the Chief Executive, Group Whips and the Committee Chair.
  - 4.2. It is also proposed, where appropriate, to submit to the first meeting of a committee following the AGM a list of its meeting dates for the following

12 months. Consequently, there will be further opportunities for changes to meeting dates if required.

- 4.3. The number of meetings of each council body scheduled in the 2026/27 Municipal Year (i.e. between June 2026 and May 2027) is as follows:

Council	4 Ordinary Meetings; the Council AGM and a Special Meeting (End February/Early March) to determine the budget and Council Tax level.
Cabinet	11 meetings (monthly, except August)
Shareholder Committee	4 meetings
Audit & Governance	5 meetings
Planning	12 meetings (monthly)
Licensing (General)	No meetings are scheduled but will be convened as and when required.
Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling	No meetings are scheduled but will be convened as and when required (Sub-committees will be convened as and when required.)
Co-ordinating Scrutiny Committee	6 meetings
Scrutiny Committees	5 meetings of each Committee: Children & Families Climate Communities and Public Protection Health and Adult Social Care Inclusive Growth and Housing
INEL JHOSC	4 meetings
ONEL JHOSC	4 meetings
Pension Committee	4 meetings
Pension Board	3 meetings
Group Whips	6 Meetings (each in the week of Council)
Health and Wellbeing Board	4 meetings

Staffing	No meetings are scheduled but will convened as and when required.
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5. Consultation

5.1. The Group Whips and senior officers have been consulted on the schedule.

6. Implications

6.1. Finance, Value for Money and Risk

6.1.1. The number and frequency of meetings is balanced with the need for efficient decision-making and monitoring of Council performance.

6.2. Legal

6.2.1. The schedule satisfies legal requirements in respect of statutory meetings and the duties of councillors, and the provisions of the Council's Constitution in respect of meetings.

6.3. Equalities and Diversity

6.3.1. A number of additional faith days are noted in the schedule, reflecting the multi-cultural make-up of the Borough, although only the faith dates and cultural events significantly observed in the Borough as a whole are kept free of meetings.

6.3.2. The significant dates noted in the schedule are not exhaustive or indicative of all events recognised or celebrated by the Council.

6.4. Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder).

6.4.1. The schedule reflects current arrangements and consequently there are no significant implications.

6.5. Council Infrastructure (e.g. human resources, accommodation or IT issues)

6.5.1. The schedule reflects current arrangements and consequently there are no significant implications.

Background Information (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

None