

## Calendar of COSLA Meetings to May 2022

### **Summary and Recommendations**

The purpose of this report is to present the draft calendar of COSLA Leaders, Leadership Sounding Board, Policy Boards, and Convention meetings up to the Local Government Elections in May 2022, as well as the dates for the Annual Conference and Excellence Awards.

This paper invites Leaders to:

- i. Agree the proposed calendar of COSLA meetings as set out in the Appendix;
- ii. Note that a further calendar will be issued following the post-election Convention, which will take place on 17 June; and
- iii. Note that further consideration will be given to the practicability of returning to in-person and hybrid meetings in the new year, based on the public health guidance at that time.

### **References**

Previous Reports:

- No previous reports

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## **Calendar of COSLA Meetings to May 2022**

### **Purpose**

1. This report provides Leaders with the draft calendar for COSLA Policy Board, Leaders and Convention meetings up until the Local Government Elections on 6 May 2022, including the date of the Annual Conference and Excellence Awards in February 2022. The draft calendar is provided at Appendix A.

### **Key Points for Consideration**

2. Following the Local Government elections, a meeting of Convention will be convened on 17 June to formally appoint all office-bearers and agree the governance structures for the next term. Therefore, dates for meetings can only be agreed up until the elections at this time. Indicatively though Leaders will continue to meet on the last Friday of the month and Convention will return to a March/October cycle, with Boards beginning to meet in August by which time all councils will have been able to nominate representatives.
3. Leaders previously agreed that all meetings would be conducted virtually until the end of 2021. COSLA staff have not yet returned to the office on a full-time basis, although a small number of external events are running in Verity House, and official guidance remains that employers should continue to support home working where possible. COSLA officers have provisionally indicated that hybrid meeting facilities may be available from the end of January 2022, but a final position can be taken in the new year.

### **Convention, Annual Conference and Excellence Awards**

4. We are currently working on the basis of an in-person Joint Annual Conference with the Improvement Service on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 February 2022, with the Excellence Awards held on the evening of Thursday 24 February. The meeting of the COSLA Convention that would have been expected to take place at end March 2022 will instead take place at the end of Conference on Friday 25 February 2022.

### **Next Steps**

5. Leaders are asked to consider and approve the draft calendar. Once approved, the dates will be communicated to the relevant representatives of member councils.

**November 2021**