

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 27 February 2019

Report Title

Appointment of Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2019-20 Municipal Year

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report is submitted to invite the Council to appoint a Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect, who will then be nominated for election as Mayor and appointment as Deputy Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 17 May 2019. The report also proposes that the Constitution Working Group is tasked with developing a protocol to codify the process for the appointment of a Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect in future years.

Recommendations

1. That, after receiving nominations from the political groups of the Council, consideration be given to the appointment a Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2019-20 municipal year.
2. That the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect be nominated for election as Mayor and appointment as Deputy Mayor at the Annual Meeting on 17 May 2019.
3. That the Constitution Working Group develop and recommend to Council a protocol to codify the process for appointing the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for ensuing municipal years.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Appointment of Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2019-20 Municipal Year

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is required annually to elect a Mayor and appoint a Deputy Mayor in accordance with Sections 3 and 5 respectively of the Local Government Act 1972. The Local Government Act 2000 also provides that the Council's chairman or vice-chairman (the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) cannot serve on the Executive.
- 1.2 Custom and practice in Rotherham is that nominations are received and voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Council held each May. In view of the potential for more than one nomination to be received for the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, this report discusses the benefits of appointing a Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect prior to the formal election of the Mayor and appointment of the Deputy Mayor at the Annual Meeting.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Following the revisions made to the Council Procedure Rules in 2017, the Annual Meeting of the Council has been split into two parts held on different dates in May each year. The first part of the Annual Meeting is for "Mayor Making", which is effectively a ceremony to elect the incoming Mayor, pay tribute to the councillor who is the outgoing Mayor and appoint a Deputy Mayor. The "Business" meeting is then held five days later to conduct the formal business of the Annual Meeting, which would include noting the operation of political groups, entitlement to and appointment of councillors to seats on committees.
- 2.2 The benefit of this approach is that it has established the first part of the Annual Meeting as a civic and ceremonial occasion, where the election of the incoming Mayor is celebrated.
- 2.3 The operation of two political groups on the Council during the current term has increased the likelihood of multiple nominations to the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- 2.4 The Council does not presently have a protocol in this area, but there are good reasons for establishing arrangements for the appointment of a Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect outside of the civic and ceremonial Annual Meeting:-
 - The selection of a Mayor-elect in good time before the annual Meeting would allow the person selected sufficient time to make adequate arrangements for his/her year of office
 - Reaching agreement between all Members of the Council to ensure that the formal decision at the Annual Meeting of the Council is unanimous
- 2.5 At this stage, the Council may wish to request the Constitution Working Group to develop a specific protocol to govern this process, whilst resolving to appoint a Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2019-20 municipal year.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This report asks Council to agree which Members will be put forward for election as Mayor and Deputy Mayor, at the Annual Council meeting. The reasons for the recommendations are to ensure that appropriate arrangements can be made for the Mayor Making ceremony on 17 May 2019 and to agree a process to ensure that matters affecting the Mayoralty can be dealt with in a timely manner, with appropriate Member input.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Political Group leaders have been consulted on the proposed approach and have been supportive of the recommendations outlined in the report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 If Council is minded to support the recommended approach, it will determine which Members will be appointed as Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2019-20 municipal year at the meeting on 27 February 2019. The Mayor will then be formally elected and the Deputy Mayor formally appointed at the Annual Meeting on 17 May 2019.
- 5.2 The Constitution Working Group will submit a report on a number of proposed constitutional amendments to the Council meeting on 22 May 2019. This report would include the proposed protocol to codify the process for the appointment of a Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect.
- 5.3 The Head of Democratic Services will be accountable for the implementation of the Council's decision.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.
- 6.2 There are no procurement implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Beyond the requirement to elect a Chairman of the Council as the first item of business at the Annual Meeting of the Council, there are no legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults arising from the recommendations within this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications directly arising from this report.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 There are no implications for partners arising from this report.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 There are no risks in respect of the recommendations. There is advantage in Council designating Members as Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect in advance of the Annual Meeting, in order for there to be certainty prior to the beginning of the new civic year.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services

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