

Council

24 January 2024

Arrangements for 2024/2025 Municipal Year – Selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Schedule of Meetings

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Summary

This report sets out the results of the calculations under Council Rule 20 to select the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2024/2025 municipal year.

The report also sets out the provisional programme of meetings for the 2024/25 municipal year.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. The Council is asked to note the entitlement of the Labour and Co-operative Group to nominate a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2024/2025 municipal year and that the entitlement is accepted or declined at the Council meeting on 29 February 2024.
- 1.2. The Council is asked to agree a provisional programme of Council and Committee meetings for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2024.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1. The selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor is a matter for Full Council, as set out in section 20 of the Council Rules.
- 2.2. The programme of ordinary Council and Committee meetings is a matter for formal approval by the Council at its annual meeting in May each year.

3. Background

- 3.1. Council Rule 20 sets out the procedure for the selection of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Members' attention is drawn to paragraph 20.1 which states that each political group as constituted in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 shall be credited on 1 January every year with a number of points equivalent to the number of members of the Council within that group.

- 3.2. To qualify as a political group, a group must comprise of at least two members. Council Rule 20.8 states that any group that is not represented on the Council for a continuous period of 15 months or more, shall be eliminated from the points system. There are two political groups that currently qualify under both the regulations and Council Rules: the Labour and Co-operative and Conservative Groups.
- 3.3. Council Rule 20.2 requires that a report setting out the outcome of the calculations in accordance with the scheme is submitted to the first meeting of the Council scheduled after 1 January each year. The calculations for 2024/2025 are set out at appendix 1.
- 3.4. In accordance with the calculations set out in appendix 1, the Labour and Co-operative Group has the highest number of points and is invited to nominate a candidate for the Mayoralty in the 2024/2025 municipal year and shall also have the right to nominate a candidate for Deputy Mayor. Council Rule 20.3 provides for the group to accept or decline the nomination at the first ordinary Council meeting following qualification, which will take place on 29 February 2024.
- 3.5. The formal election of Mayor and appointment of the Deputy Mayor will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2024.
- 3.6. The Council is also asked to consider a draft programme of Council and Committee meetings for the 2024/2025 municipal year in advance of a decision being made at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, in order to provide some certainty for Members on the schedule of dates for meetings during 2024/2025.
- 3.7. The proposed schedule of meetings for is attached at Appendix 2 and is broadly consistent with the pattern and frequency of meetings in 2023/2024, taking account of any comments following consultation (see paragraph 5.1 below).

4. Risk management

- 4.1. There are no risk management implications arising at this stage from this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1. Group Whips, Directors, and other lead officers from each Directorate have been consulted on the proposed meetings schedule. Group Leaders have also been kept informed as the timetable for 2024/2025 has been developed.

6. Financial and legal implications

- 6.1. The current number and pattern of member level meetings and activity reflects the staffing capacity within the existing Democratic Services structure. Any increase in the overall number of meetings could not be achieved without a commensurate increase in staffing resources in Democratic Services.

6.2. The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Calculations for the entitlement to the Mayoralty 2024/2025

Appendix 2 – Draft schedule of meetings 2024/2025

Background papers

None