

Council

23 January 2025

Arrangements for 2025/2026 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 2025/2026 municipal year.

The report also sets out the provisional programme of meetings for the 2025/26 municipal year.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. The Council is asked to note the entitlement of the Conservative Group to nominate a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2025/2026 municipal year and that the entitlement is accepted or declined at the Council meeting on 27 February 2025.
- 1.2. The Council is asked to agree a provisional programme of Council and Committee meetings for 2025/2026 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 14 May 2025.

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 three political groups that currently qualify under both the regulations and Council Rules: the Labour and Co-operative, Conservative and Independent 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 2025/2026 are set out at appendix 1.
- 3.4. In accordance with the calculations set out in appendix 1, the Conservative Group has the highest number of points and is invited to nominate a candidate for the Mayoralty in the 2025/2026 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 27 February 2025.
- 3.5. The formal election of Mayor and appointment of the Deputy Mayor will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 14 May 2025.
- 3.6. The Council is also asked to consider a draft programme of Council and Committee meetings for the 2025/2026 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 2025/2026.
- 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 2024/2025, taking account of any comments following consultation (see paragraph 5.1 below). In particular, the schedule takes account of key activities during the year including party conferences and the LGA conference. The schedule also includes a special Council meeting for 26 June 2024, for the specific purpose of seeking approval at the Regulation 19 stage - Publication of the Pre-Submission draft Local Plan.

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 2025/2026 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 2025/2026

Appendix 2 – Draft schedule of meetings 2025/2026

Background papers

None