

**REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR**

**TO: COUNCIL**

**DATE: 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

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## **MAYORALTY**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To consider the protocol for the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That at the forthcoming Annual Council meeting the political group with the largest number of councillors be entitled to nominate the Mayor for 2021/22; and that the group with the second largest number be entitled to nominate the Deputy Mayor.
- (2) That for future years the present protocol be retained.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To take account of the reduced Council size and to maintain the arrangement for the rotation of the Mayoralty across the political groups.

1. Councillors will be aware that the Council has a long standing protocol for the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. In summary, the numbers of seats held by the political groups from year to year are accumulated and the group with the largest number is entitled to nominate the Deputy Mayor who then becomes the Mayor in the following year. That group's number is then reduced to zero and starts to accumulate over the following years until it again becomes the group with the largest total.
2. The protocol has worked very satisfactorily and ensures a reasonable rotation of the Mayoralty across the groups based on their respective strengths over time.
3. For over twenty years the protocol has been based on a Council of 49 councillors. This will of course reduce to 33 following the elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Also, in 2020/21 the Council did not appoint a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor but asked Councillors Hartley and Butterworth to continue in the limited circumstances permitted by the coronavirus pandemic.

4. The all party Governance Working Group has considered the matter and recommends the Council to continue with the protocol but to reset it to take account of the reduced number of Councillors and the particular circumstances of 2020/21.
5. This will mean that at the forthcoming Annual Council meeting the group with the largest number of Councillors will nominate the Mayor and the group with the second largest number will nominate the Deputy Mayor. From then on the protocol will operate as before.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None arising from the report

**Financial:** None arising from the report

**Legal:** None arising from the report

**Risk Management:** None arising from the report

**Health and Safety:** None arising from the report

**Sustainability:** None arising from the report

**Community Safety:** None arising from the report

**Equality and Diversity:**