

Report of the Director of Governance

Portfolio of the Executive Leader

Lord Mayoralty 2020/21

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to invite the Executive to consider the points system for the annual nomination of the Lord Mayor for the City of York Council. The Executive will be asked to formally confirm the Group with the most points to qualify for nomination of the Lord Mayor for the coming municipal year, 2020/2021. The Executive is reminded that the Lord Mayor allowed the nomination of the Lord Mayor and Sheriff for 2020/21 to be announced at Full Council in December 2019, in advance of the Executive's consideration of this report, due to the cancellation of the scheduled Executive meeting in December 2019 owing to the General Election.

Recommendations

2. Members are asked to:
 - (i) consider the accumulated points system as set out in paragraphs 3-6 below; and to
 - (ii) invite the Liberal Democrat Group to nominate the Lord Mayor for 2020/2021, in line with the accumulated points system.

Reason: To ensure that the Council adopts an appropriate method by which to nominate Lord Mayors for office.

Background

2. The system for nominating the Lord Mayor is based on an accumulation of points determined by the number of seats held by each particular group on the Council. The party having the largest cumulative total of points on Lord Mayor's Day each year is invited to nominate the Lord Mayor for the following year. A party loses 47 points when nominating the Lord Mayor. It should be noted that currently a nominee for Lord Mayor requires at least five years' service as a City of York Councillor, or four years in an election year (see minute 74 of the Executive Meeting on 29 November 2018).

Current Points System

3. Should a party lose all its seats on the City Council, it may have any accumulated points frozen until seats are once again gained by that party on the Council.
4. Under the current points system, the number of points accumulated by each party is as follows:

PARTY	POINTS at LM Day 2019	LOSS FOR LM	POINTS at LM Day 2020	Total
Labour	14	- 47	-33 + 17	-16
Lib Dem	7		7 + 21	28
Green	-7		-7 + 4	-3
Conservatives	48	- 47	1 + 2	3
Independent	8		8 + 1	9
York Independents	2		2 + 2	4

***Note:** The Conservatives were invited to nominate a Lord Mayor for 2019/20 but were unable to do so. Labour had the next highest points total and were therefore asked to nominate the Lord Mayor.

5. The above table shows that the Liberal Democrats, with a total of **28** points, will qualify for the Lord Mayoralty in 2020/2021 under the existing points system.

6. Traditionally, the outgoing Lord Mayor assumes the mantle of Deputy Lord Mayor the following year. This is to ensure there is an experienced Member to chair meetings of Full Council, should the incumbent Lord Mayor be absent for any Council meetings during their term. Otherwise, the role of Deputy Lord Mayor is very minimal, given that the civic standing of York requires it to have a Sherriff to work alongside and share duties with the Lord Mayor during their year of office.

Options

11. Under the existing points system, the available option to Members is:

To invite the Liberal Democrat Group to nominate the Lord Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/2021 based on the existing accumulated points system, set out in paragraphs 3-6 above.

Analysis

12. The nomination of a Lord Mayor is an annual event which is undertaken by way of a points system to ensure a fair and robust outcome. This system has been in place for some considerable time and has operated successfully in terms of rotating the role and honour of becoming Lord Mayor on a cross party basis.

Council Plan 2019 - 23

13. The appointment of the Lord Mayor in York is a fundamental part of the city's continuing historic traditions. The role of Lord Mayor is firmly enshrined in the Council's Constitution, as an ambassador for the city and its cultural and economic ambitions. As such, the appointee will promote all of the Council's priorities.

Implications

14. There are no direct implications in relation to financial, human resources, legal or equalities arising from the recommendations in this report.

Risk Management

15. Failure to appoint a Lord Mayor in the second most traditional city outside of London could have a significant impact on the Council's

reputation in terms of maintaining its civic heritage. It is important that an equitable and robust system is applied to the nomination process.

Contact Details

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Wards Affected: All			√
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Background Papers/Annexes: None