

Executive

4 December 2007

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

LORD MAYORALTY 2008/2009

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Executive to consider which of the political groups should be invited to appoint the Lord Mayor for the municipal year 2008/2009 and to consider an amendment to the current scheme.

Background

2. Members will be aware that 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 a nominee for Lord Mayor requires at least five years' service as a Councillor. Service on the former District or County Councils also count towards the five years.
3. This current policy agreed by Members at a meeting on the 5th January 1996 makes no provision to permit a party which loses all its seats on the Council to hold over any unspent points which may have been accumulated by that party until the party once again wins seats on the Council.
4. Under this current scheme the points system is as follows :

PARTY	POINTS FOR 2007/2008	LOSS FOR LM	POINTS FOR 2008/2009
Labour	18		$18 + 18 = 36$
Lib Dem	34	-47	$34 - 47 + 20 = 7$
Green	8		$8 + 2 = 10$
Conservatives	0		$0 + 7 = 7$

5. The above table shows that the Labour group with a total of 36 points qualify for the Lord Mayoralty in 2008/2009.

- 6 Members may also wish to consider amending the 1996 policy to allow a party which loses all its seats on the City Council to have any accumulated points frozen until seats are once again gained by that party on the council.
- 7 Under this proposed scheme the points system would be as follows:

PARTY	POINTS FOR 2007/2008	LOSS FOR LM	POINTS FOR 2008/2009
Labour	18		$18 + 18 = 36$
Lib Dem	34	-47	$34 - 47 + 20 = 7$
Green	8		$8 + 2 = 10$
Conservatives	21 points carried forward from 2003		$21 + 7 = 28$

- 8 The above table shows that the Labour group with a total of 36 points qualify for the Lord Mayoralty in 2008/2009.

Consultation

- 9 A draft of this report has been circulated to the political groups for their information.

Options

10 Option 1

To invite the Labour group to nominate the Lord Mayor for 2008/2009 and to amend the current policy to allow a party which loses all its seats on the City Council to have any accumulated points frozen until seats are once again won by that party on the Council.

Option 2

To invite the Labour Group to nominate the Lord Mayor for 2008/09 and make no amendments to current policy

Analysis

- 11 Option 1 implements a new process which represents a change in the Council's agreed procedure

Option 2 is in accordance with the agreed procedure.

Corporate Priorities

- 12 The appointment of the Lord Mayor forms part of the Council's civic leadership and assists in the improvement of leadership at all levels to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation.

13 Implications

- **Financial** – None
- **Human Resources (HR)** – None
- **Equalities** – None
- **Legal** – None
- **Crime and Disorder** – None
- **Information Technology (IT)** – None
- **Property** – None
- **Other** – None

Risk Management

- 14 Failure to properly appoint a Lord Mayor would have a significant impact on the Council's reputation in terms of undertaking its important civic functions.

Recommendations

15. To invite the Labour group to nominate the Lord Mayor for 2008/2009 and to amend the current policy to allow a party which loses all its seats on the City Council to have any accumulated points frozen until seats are once again won by that party on the Council.

Reason: To ensure that the Council secures the necessary leadership to undertake it's civic functions and provides continuity for future selection

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Policy and Resources Committee minutes 5th January 1996

Annexes

None