

Report of the Cabinet Leader

LORD MAYORALTY 2015/16

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to consider the points system for the annual nomination of the Lord Mayor for the City of York Council and confirm that the Group with the most points under that system should be invited to appoint the Lord Mayor for the coming municipal year, 2015/2016.

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 City of York Councillor.
3. Under the system, a party which loses all its seats on the City Council 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 ACCUMULATED AT AGM – MAY 2013	LOSS FOR LM	POINTS ACCUMULATED AT AGM – MAY 2014
Labour	26		$26 + 24 = 50$
Lib Dem	-3		$-3 + 9 = 6$
Green	22		$22 + 2 = 24$
Conservatives	32	-47	$32-47 + 9 = - 6$
Independent (Cllr Warters)	3		$3 + 1 = 4$
Independent (Cllr Wiseman)	1		$1 + 1 = 2$
Independent (Cllr Watson)	0		$= 1$
Independent Labour (Cllr King)	0		0
Independent Labour (Cllr Scott)	0		0

5. The above table shows that the Labour Group with a total of **50** points will qualify for the Lord Mayoralty in 2015/2016.
6. In May 2015, there will be Unitary and Parliamentary elections in York and clearly any nominee for the position of Lord Mayor in the ensuing Municipal Year is dependent upon that person being returned as a Councillor. In the event of the nominee (Lord Mayor Elect), not being returned to Council after the May elections, naturally Council would need to agree alternative arrangements.
7. Traditionally, the Outgoing Lord Mayor assumes the mantle of Deputy Lord Mayor the following year. Again, if the outgoing Lord Mayor is not returned as a Councillor following the District elections in May next year, then the last Lord Mayor re-elected as a Councillor would become Deputy Lord Mayor.

Consultation

8. The political groups are aware that this is the process usually applied to select the mayoralty for the year ahead. Beyond this, there is no specific need for consultation.

Options

9. The options available for consideration are either to invite the Labour Group to nominate the Lord Mayor for the municipal year 2015/2016 or to consider reviewing the points system currently adopted for nominations.

Analysis

10. 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. If Members wish to make changes to this process they would need to consider the development of a new process, which would require the approval of Council as a change to a previously agreed procedure.

Council Plan 2011-2015

11. The appointment of the Lord Mayor forms part of the Council's civic leadership and assists in the improvement of leadership at all levels, which contributes to one of the Plan's core capabilities in providing a confident and collaborative organisation.

Implications

12. There are no specific direct implications in relation to financial, human resource, legal or equalities arising from the recommendations in this report, which is concerned with the process for and invitation to nominate for the appointment of a Lord Mayor.

Risk Management

13. 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.

Recommendations

14. Members are asked to invite the Labour Group to nominate the Lord Mayor for 2015/2016, in line with the existing accumulated points system.

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

Contact Details

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Wards Affected: All			√
For further information please contact the authors of the report			

Background Papers/Annexes: None