

## **Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and ICT**

Portfolio of the Executive Leader, Finance & Performance and Deputy Leader, Economic Development & Community Engagement

### **Lord Mayoralty 2016/17**

#### **Summary**

1. The purpose of this report is to ask Executive 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, 2016/2017.

#### **Recommendation**

2. Members are asked to invite the Green Group to nominate the Lord Mayor for 2016/2017, 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.

#### **Background**

3. 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.

4. 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.
5. Under the current points system, the number of points accumulated by each party is as follows

| PARTY                      | POINTS ACCUMULATED AT AGM – MAY 2014 | LOSS FOR LM | POINTS ACCUMULATED AT AGM – MAY 2015 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Labour                     | 50                                   | -47         | $50 - 47 + 15 = 18$                  |
| Lib Dem                    | 9                                    |             | $6 + 12 = 18$                        |
| Green                      | 24                                   |             | $24 + 4 = \mathbf{28}$               |
| Conservatives              | -6                                   |             | $-6 + 14 = 8$                        |
| Independent (Cllr Warters) | 4                                    |             | $4 + 1 = 5$                          |
| Independent (Cllr Hayes)   | 0                                    |             | $0 + 1 = 1$                          |

6. The above table shows that the Green Group with a total of **28** points will qualify for the Lord Mayoralty in 2016/2017.
7. Traditionally, the Outgoing Lord Mayor assumes the mantle of Deputy Lord Mayor the following year.

### 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 Green Group to nominate the Lord Mayor for the municipal year 2016/2017 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 2015-2019**

11. 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 the Council's priorities in general but specifically will have the opportunity to promote a 'prosperous city for all'.

## **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.

## Contact Details

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| <b>Author:</b>  | <b>Executive Members and Chief Officer Responsible for the report:</b>  |   |                              |
| Anne Platt<br>Civic Service Co-ordinator<br>Civic Services<br><i>Tel No. 01904 551011</i> | Councillor Chris Steward, Executive Leader, Finance & Performance<br><br>Councillor Keith Aspden, Deputy Leader, Economic Development & Community Engagement<br><br>Andrew Docherty<br>Assistant Director, Governance and ICT |   |                              |
|   | <b>Report Approved</b>  | √ | <b>Date</b> 30 November 2015 |
| <b>Wards Affected:</b> All  |   |   | √                            |
| <b>For further information please contact the authors of the report</b>                   |   |   |                              |

**Background Papers/Annexes:** None