

CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
5 FEBRUARY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Rachel Edwards, Head of Constitutional Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor John Howard - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Rachel Edwards, Head of Constitutional Services	Tel. 452277

PROCESS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR APPOINTMENTS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Head of Constitutional Services	Deadline date:
<p>It is recommended that the Constitution and Ethics Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note the process for appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as per the Constitution 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- This report is submitted to the Constitution and Ethics Committee following a request from members of this committee to note the process for the selection of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the recommendation from CfGS report that the Council confirms, or otherwise, its current processes for selecting the Deputy Mayor. This could be done by the Constitution and Ethics Committee at a future meeting.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- The purpose of this report is for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to note the process for the selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor as per the Councils Constitution.
- This report is for Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.7.2.1

3. TIMESCALES *[If this is not a Major Policy item, answer **NO** and delete the second line of boxes.]*

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
Date for relevant Council meeting		Date for submission to Government Dept. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i>	

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- At the Constitution and Ethics Committee meeting on 14 December 2023 members requested that a report be brought back to the next meeting to note the process for selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

4.2 The Councils Constitution, Civic Protocol, Part 5, Section 6 states 'How the Mayor is appointed'.

Section 4.1

'The procedural rules set out in the Council's Constitution, governing the conduct of Council business, describe the procedure for identifying a 'Mayor-Elect' each year, to allow the person selected sufficient time to make adequate preparations for the year of office well in advance of actual election at the Annual Council Meeting. Councillors remain after the closure of a Council meeting early each New Year, for a private meeting of all members. The usual practice is for the Chief Executive to facilitate the meeting by inviting councillors to propose a candidate. This is usually done with a short speech, and duly seconded. Any further nominations are made in the same manner. The Chief Executive then invites councillors to vote for each candidate in turn. Thus, the candidate most likely to receive Council's formal support at the Annual Council Meeting is identified, but the resulting nomination has no official status, no minutes are taken, and the result is not binding upon the Annual Meeting.'

Section 4.2

'Peterborough City Council appoints Mayors on the basis of their length of service with the Council. The Council may take into account factors such as experience at chairing meetings, the need for the Mayor to have time to attend many daytime as well as evening appointments, and the range of duties which the Mayor will be required to undertake. It is also usual for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to represent two different political parties, although this is not obligatory. Mayors serve a one-year term of office.'

Part 5, section 8

'Following the elections, a list will be compiled and an order of seniority drawn up. This order of seniority will reflect the actual number of years served by each Member, regardless of any breaks in service.'

The Member at the top of the list of seniority will be eligible for the role of Mayor, provided that they have not previously served as Mayor, and the Member and Group Leaders will be notified accordingly.

Once the Member has accepted the role, a proposer will be sought to nominate the Member at the Annual Council Mayor Making Meeting.

Neither the Leader, nor any Cabinet Member can be elected as Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

4.3 The appointment of Deputy Mayor will be undertaken in accordance with the order of seniority list, following the same procedure for the selection of Mayor. Part 5, Section 8 – February 2019.

4.4 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny have recently undertaken a review of Support on Governance Renewal. As part of their report, they noted the following in respect of the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor follows: -

'In the course of carrying out this work it has become apparent that there is confusion about the operation of the process by which the Mayor and Deputy Mor are appointed. The Council's Constitution sets out a process, but it has been suggested that custom and practice has, for some time, been different. To avoid the risk of confusion officers have undertaken to provide a report to members to clarify the position.'

It is important to have a clear process which is marshalled by Democratic Services and political groups. Some Councils operate somewhat opaque processes in which nominations are handled solely within the majority group and in some cases, the Mayor is selected only from within that group.'

Appointment appears to be based on a seniority principle. If the Council wished to make changes it could consider removing the tradition of long service from the process to open the role of First Citizen to a wider range of candidates.'

Recommendation 12: That the Council confirms, or otherwise, its current processes for selecting the Deputy Mayor. This could be done by the Constitution and Ethics Committee at a future meeting.'

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 Sustainable Future City Council
- How we Work
 - How we Serve
 - How we Enable

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here -

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Group Leaders, CPF and the current Mayor have been consulted.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 For the Committee to note the current process for selection of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as per the Councils Constitution.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 To continue with the process for selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor as per the Councils Constitution.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 That the committee do not agree with the current process for the selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This would need to be discussed and vote on at the committee and then the recommendation taken to Full Council.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 There are no legal implications in respect of what is proposed in the report which is setting out the procedure to be followed in respect of the appointment of the Mayor which is set out in the Council's constitution for noting.

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 There are none,

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 Peterborough City Council – Civic Protocol (Updated March 2023)

Protocol on the selection of the Mayor – Part 5, Section 8

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 - Peterborough City Council – Civic Protocol (Updated March 2023) – Part 5, Section 6 (4.1 and 4.2)
Appendix 2 - Protocol on the selection of the Mayor – Part 5, Section 8

This page is intentionally left blank