



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	12 September 2024

The process for appointing the Mayor

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval to amend the process for appointing the Mayor.

2. Council priorities

2.1 A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That the Council approve a revised process for appointing the Mayor as set out in section 5 of the report.

4. Background

4.1 At the Full Council meeting held on 14 September 2023, the Council established a Mayoralty Working Group. The Working Group reported to Council with their recommendations on 25 January 2024.

4.2 The recommendations from the Group were approved by the Council. One recommendation focused specifically on the selection process for appointing the Mayor. The agreed new appointment process was used to appoint the Mayor for 2024/25. The process required the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the (main opposition) Labour Group and the Chief Executive to meet as an Appointment Panel. Having tested the new process for one year, it was acknowledged that it had the potential to place the Chief Executive in a difficult position. The Panel propose that the selection process be reviewed in light of this experience.

4.3 It remains desirable, in line with the Working Group's recommendation, that any appointment process allows for consideration of more than length of service alone. The historic appointment process was determined by length of service and the councillor's seniority (by age).

4.4 It is recognised that length of service is still a key consideration, amongst others, in the appointment process. However, as the Working Group identified, in recent years several councillors at, or near the top, of the seniority list had declined the position on multiple occasions. This failure to attract candidates prompted the broadening of the criteria to allow any councillor to put themselves forward for the role.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 It is proposed that the Appointment Panel be disbanded and that nominations for the appointment of the Mayor be considered and voted on annually at a scheduled meeting of Full Council held in the Autumn.

5.2 At this meeting, the Mayor may move that Procedure Rule 16 be suspended to limit the debate to discuss why any candidate is a suitable candidate rather than why a candidate may not be suitable.

5.3 The Annual Meeting will then confirm the appointment of the Mayor and shall be the first item of business conducted by the Council in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 and the Constitution. This meeting is regarded as an important civic and ceremonial celebration where family and friends of the nominated Mayor and special guests are in attendance, therefore it is preferable that the election of the Mayor at that meeting is uncontested. The revised appointment process will help negate the potential for a contested election for the Mayor at the Annual Meeting.

5.4 When making nominations members should take account of the responsibilities of the role as set out in the Mayoralty Protocol (Appendix 1). Names should be submitted to the Chief Executive in advance of the autumn Council meeting, so that they can be included in the agenda of the meeting. The deadline for nominations will be provided to members annually by email. Once the agenda is published, 5 working days before the meeting, no further nominations will be accepted.

5.5 In the event that the councillor nominated as the Mayor elect in the year before a local election is not re-elected, then new nominations will be submitted and a vote will be required at the Annual Meeting. The Council may agree that it is preferential for the current Mayor, if re-elected, to remain in office for another year.

5.6 The councillor nominated as the Deputy Mayor will remain the choice of the individual Mayor.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 It was considered that the revised appointment process remained as recommended by the Mayoralty Working Group, but having trialled the process for one year, further improvements were identified.

Financial, Legal/MO, and Climate Change implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal/MO	None arising directly from this report.
Climate Change	None arising directly from this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Mayoralty Working Group – final report	25 January 2024	https://wyre.moderngov.co.uk/document/s/s21714/Version%20following%20final%20meeting%20-%20Mayoralty%20Working%20Group%20cover%20report%20v5.pdf

List of appendices

Appendix 1- Mayoral Protocol, amended November 2023.