

Council

11 December 2014

Agenda Item 47

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor Designate for 2015/16		
Date of Meeting:	11 December 2014		
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis	Tel: 29-1500
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 To seek the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect for the municipal year 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council appoints a Mayor Elect and a Deputy Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2015/16
- 2.2 That the appointments be subject to confirmation at the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at annual Council in May 2015.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The practice of the Council in the past has been to appoint the Mayor elect in December and confirm it formally at Annual Council. The outgoing Mayor was usually appointed as Deputy Mayor at Annual Council.
- 3.2 The current Mayor has indicated that he will not be standing for election in 2015, which means the option of the outgoing Mayor becoming Deputy Mayor will not be available. It is therefore proposed that Council appoints a Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect at this meeting.
- 3.3 The arrangements for the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were reviewed and a report submitted to the Leaders Group on 2nd April 2014. There was broad support, though not unanimous, to amending the Mayoral protocol to provide for the Deputy Mayor for the preceding year to be elected as Mayor. This would give them the opportunity to shadow the Mayor and undertake some functions in preparation for taking on the role of the Mayor.
- 3.4 Section 4 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the election of the Mayor shall be the first business to be transacted at Annual Council. That is when the legal, formal appointment takes place confirming the Mayor elect and Deputy Mayor elect as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The alternative option is to continue with current practice whereby the Mayor becomes the Deputy-Mayor following their year of office. This was not favoured by the majority of the Leaders Group.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The proposed changes were discussed with relevant Members and Officers, including the incoming and outgoing Mayor. Their views have been incorporated, where appropriate, into the protocol or factored into the ways of working of the Mayor's Office.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 That the process for the succession to the office of Mayor should be amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Leaders Group and majority views of the Members that were consulted.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis

Date: 02.12.14

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council is required to elect a chair (the Mayor) annually from among its Members and the chair remains in office until such time as his/her successor becomes entitled to act as chair. The election of the chair is required by law to be the first business transacted at the Annual Meeting.

Lawyer Consulted:

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis

Date: 01.12.14

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The proposed change of process for the Deputy Mayor to become the Mayor in the subsequent municipal year reflects that used by the majority of local authorities. There is an intention to keep the process under review and as such there are no direct equalities implications arising from the report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 There are no other significant implications arising from the report.