



TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

TO/ON: FULL COUNCIL 30TH MARCH 2005

BY: MARK WESTON, HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

LEAD MEMBER: DAVID HANCOCK

STATUS: FOR PUBLICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of a proposed procedure for the appointment of Deputy Mayor.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the revised procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Mayor, as set out at paragraph 3.3, be adopted and that, subject to approval of the new procedure, the Labour Group be requested to select the Deputy Mayor for 2005/2006 in accordance with the revised criteria.

3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 On the 30th March 1977 the Full Council, Minute No. 1821, resolved as follows:-

“The Chief Executive Officer reported receipt of a letter from Councillor J. I. Holt suggesting a formula for the selection of Deputy Mayor in the future which was:-

1. Seniority of Rossendale Councillors.
2. Exclusive of past Mayors of Rossendale.
3. Each eligible person have two year service on the Council still to run.

The formula was an attempt to make the appointment none political but it was recognised that in early years there would be a number of members of the Council who would be eligible under the formula and in the circumstances it was suggested that there should be a ballot to select the Deputy Mayor.

Resolved : (i) That the formula now presented be adopted by the Council for the selection of Deputy Mayor in the future, and

(ii) That the Chief Executive Officer make appropriate arrangements in accordance with the formula for a ballot to be held to select the Deputy Mayor for 1977/78 for appointment at the annual meeting of the Council”.

3.2 At the Council meeting on the 24th September 2003 a notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Neal concerning the procedure of the appointment of Mayor. The notice of motion was as follows:-

“That this Authority reaffirms its commitment to the 30th March 1977 resolution as at Full Council where it was so moved that whomever serves and is appointed to the office of Deputy Mayor will also be appointed to the office of Mayor for the following year and this should be purely on the length of the Member’s service and for no other reason”.

It was resolved that the notice of motion be approved.

3.3 A new proposal for the selection of Deputy Mayor is now being proposed, which is as follows:-

3.3.1 That the Deputy Mayor is selected by each political group in turn by whatever method that group sees fit from amongst a list of eligible Members. For this purpose, a political group is one with more than three Members serving on the Council.

3.3.2 That an eligible Member is a Councillor who:-

- (a) has at least the two years service before re-election;
- (b) is in at least their second consecutive term; and
- (c) has not previously been the Mayor of Rossendale.

3.3.3 If the group whose turn it is to make the selection is unable to nominate an eligible candidate, the responsibility for selection will transfer to the next political group and the annual rotation will recommence from that point.

3.3.4 The Deputy Mayor will automatically be voted Mayor in the following year.

3.4 It is proposed that for the year 2005/2006 the Labour group select an eligible Member to be Deputy Mayor, in accordance with the above criteria, and for the year 2006/2007 the Conservative Group select a Member to be Deputy Mayor Thereafter, except in the circumstances described at paragraph 3.3.3 above, the selection of Deputy Mayor rotates between those two parties until such time as another procedure is adopted by Full Council.

3.5 Attached as Appendix 1 is a table setting out the length of the Councillors’ years of service, identifying whether they are in at least their second consecutive term of office, whether they have been Mayor before, and whether in 2005/2006 they still have one year to serve.

4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1.1 The Mayor's budget was approved at Council on 22nd February.

4.2 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.2.1 As set out above.

4.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

4.3.1 None.

4.4 ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.4.1 None.

5. RISK

5.1 None.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT

6.1 None.

7. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

7.1 None.

8. WARDS AFFECTED

8.1 All.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 None.

Background documents: None.

For further information on the details of this report, please contact: Mark Weston, Head of Legal and Democratic Services on 01706 244502 markweston@rossendalebc.gov.uk