

Birmingham City Council

Council Business Management Committee

29 August 2023



Subject: The Lord Mayoralty Formula
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Committee previously received a report relating to the Lord Mayoralty Formula at the November 2022 meeting where the formula was agreed following amendments made after the completion of the June 2022 meeting (where the formula was also considered and discussed).
- 1.2 At the June 2023 meeting, due an administrative error, the data contained within the report and accompanying appendix was incorrect. Therefore, after further discussions with all Groups and after further clarification was provided on the formula by Members, the Committee requested that a revised report and appendix be submitted to the August 2023 meeting for consideration and noting.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 to the report displays the workings of the formula and the allocation of Lord Mayor for the years 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- 1.4 The Committee should note that elections are due to be held in May 2026. The outcome of these elections could cause the allocation of Lord Mayor for the year 2026/27 to change. If any membership changes to City Council occur at any point, then the formula will be reworked to determine the allocation of Lord Mayor.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That it be noted that, in accordance with the amendments outlined in this report and the amendments to the appendix undertaken following the June 2023 meeting, the Groups are entitled to put forward one of their Members to be the Lord Mayor as follows:

2024/25: Conservative

2025/26: Labour

2026/27: Liberal Democrat

3 Summary of Current Position

- 3.1 The Appendix to this report (Appendix 1) shows the working of the formula from May 2022 onwards. In particular, it shows the rolling forward of the formula to reflect the election of a Labour Group Member as Lord Mayor for the current year; and the strengths of the three Party Groups at the time of the May 2022 Annual Council Meeting. It then shows the calculations for subsequent Municipal Years until the elections in 2026.

- 3.2 Under this formula the Groups are entitled to put forward one of their Members to be the Lord Mayor as follows:

2024/25: Conservative

2025/26: Labour

2026/27: Liberal Democrat

4 Lord Mayoralty Formula Methodology

- 4.1 The present formula was first adopted in 1993 by the former General Purposes Committee. Its purpose is to ensure that, over a period of years, the Lord Mayoralty is allocated to the various Party Groups in proportion to their numerical strength (i.e. number of Councillors) over that same period.

- 4.2 It is “rolled forward” each year, to take account of –

- the choice of Lord Mayor for the year in question is reflected by adding 1 to the “score” of the Party Group to which the Member elected as Lord Mayor belongs; and

- the numerical strength of each of the three party Groups at the date of the Annual Council Meeting is reflected by subtracting each Group's proportion of Councillors (of the total of 101).

4.3 After rolling forward the formula as above, the Party Group with the lowest score is the Group which is entitled, according to the formula, to put forward one of its Members to be the Lord Mayor for the year beginning in the following May.

4.4 The formula is of course no more than an informal means of allocating the Lord Mayoralty between the various Party Groups. It is not in any sense binding on the full Council. Whatever the formula may provide, a Councillor can only become Lord Mayor by being nominated and elected at the Annual Council Meeting.

4.5 The formula has however been adhered to every year, bar two, since 1993. The two exceptions have been –

- when the Labour Group voluntarily surrendered their entitlement to the Lord Mayoralty for 1998/99 and it was taken by the Liberal Democrat Group (who had the second lowest score at the time); and
- when the nominee of the Conservative Group for 2001/02 was rejected at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2001 and instead a Liberal Democrat Group Member was elected as Lord Mayor.

5 Allocation of Lord Mayor in Future Years

5.1 The numbers were re-run using the proportions at the 2022 Annual City Council meeting:

- Labour - 65 (0.6436)
- Conservative - 27 (0.2673)
- Liberal Democrat - 8 (0.0792)

5.2 The numbers in Appendix 1 provided a new baseline starting from May 2022.

5.3 Proportions at the 2022 AGM were:

- Labour 65 (0.64)
- Conservative 22 (0.22)
- Liberal Democrat 12 (0.12)

5.4 Numbers after this are based on the assumption that the proportions of Councillors remain the same every year. A recalculation will be required if the numbers change.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

8 Public Sector Equality Duty

8.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

9 Other Implications

9.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

10 Background Papers

10.1 None.

11 Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Lord Mayoralty Formula