

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

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| Report to: | COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE |
| Report of: | Director of Legal and Democratic Services |
| Date of Meeting: | 17 NOVEMBER 2015 |
| Relevant Forward Plan Ref: | N/A |
| Subject: | THE LORD MAYORALTY FORMULA |

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| 1. Purpose of report: |
| To remind the Committee of the present formula for the Lord Mayoralty and advise of the latest “roll forward” position for the Lord Mayoralty in 2016/17. |

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| 2. Decision(s) recommended: |
| That it be noted that, in accordance with the formula set out in the Appendix to the report, the Labour Group is entitled to put forward one of its members to be the Lord Mayor for 2016/17. |

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3. Brief Summary of Report:

May 2012 rolling forward

- 3.1 The Appendix to this report shows the working of the formula from May 2012 onwards. In particular, it shows the recent rolling forward of the formula to reflect the election of a Liberal Democrat Group Member as Lord Mayor for the current year; and the strengths of the 3 Party Groups at the time of the May 2015 Annual Council Meeting.
- 3.2 Under this formula the Labour Group now has the lowest score and will therefore be entitled to put forward one of their members to be the Lord Mayor for 2016/17.

4. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

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.
2. It is “rolled forward” each year, to take account of -
 - the numerical strength of each of the 3 Party Groups at the date of the Annual Council Meeting. This is achieved by subtracting each Group’s proportion of Councillors (of the total of 120) from that Groups previous “score”; and
 - the choice of Lord Mayor for the year in question. This is achieved by adding 1 to the “score” of the Party Group to which the Member elected as Lord Mayor belongs.
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. 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.
5. The formula has however been followed in 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.

List of background documents:

Report to former General Purposes Committee in January 1993.