Birmingham City Council
Council Business Management Committee
18 January 2021

Subject:	Lord Mayor 2021/2022
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?　☐ Yes　　☒ No

1　Executive Summary

1.1　To agreed that the Lord Mayor for 2021/2022 be from the Labour Group instead of the Conservative Group as indicated by the formula for the Lord Mayoralty due to the difficulties experienced in the current Municipal Year because of the Covid pandemic.

2　Recommendations

2.1　That the Lord Mayor for 2021/2022 be the nomination from the Labour Group made in February 2020, instead of the Conservative Group as indicated by the formula for the Lord Mayoralty;

2.2　That the Lord Mayor for 2022/2023 be from the Conservative Group instead of the Labour Group

3　Background

3.1　In determining the Political Group the Lord Mayor should come from, the Council adopted a formula which was first used 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.

3.2　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 101) 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

4   Current Position

4.1 Appendix 1 to this report shows the working of the formula from May 2016 onwards which was agreed by the Committee on 19 November 2018. In particular, it shows the rolling forward of the formula to reflect the election of a Labour Group Member as Lord Mayor for the 2018/2019 Municipal Year; and the strengths of the 3 Party Groups at the time of the May 2018 Annual Council Meeting. It then shows the calculations for subsequent Municipal Years until the elections in 2022.

4.2 Under this formula the Groups are entitled to put forward one of their members to be the Lord Mayor as follows:

Labour   2019/2020
Labour   2020/2021
Conservative   2021/2022
Labour   2022/2023.

5   Proposal for Lord Mayoralty 2021 – 2023

5.1 In effect, due to the Covid pandemic, both the Conservative and Labour Groups are proposing that the formula (as previously agreed) be amended so that for the municipal year 2021/2022 the Lord Mayor will be from the Labour Group and for the year 2022/2023 the Lord Mayor will be from the Conservative Group.

5.2 The effect of this will be to allow the Lord Mayor elect (Councillor Afzal) to commence his term from the AGM in May 2021.