

Audit Committee

23 November 2020



Report of: Director: Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Lord Mayor's Protocol

Ward: n/a

Officer Presenting Report: Director: Legal and Democratic Services

Recommendation

That the Committee endorses the Lord Mayor's Protocol prior to it being taken to Full Council on 8th December 20 for approval.

Summary

If adopted at Full Council, it is intended that the attached Lord Mayor's Protocol be added to the Constitution. The Protocol formalises the current operating arrangements relating to the Lord Mayor and does not include any new ways of working.

The significant issues in the report are:

The report sets out the protocols in relation to the Lord Mayor.



Policy

1. The Lord Mayor is one of the existing 70 elected Councillors chosen annually by Full Council. A Mayor has existed in Bristol since 1216, although the Lord Mayoralty was granted by Queen Victoria in 1899. The Lord Mayor is usually someone who has been a Councillor for a number of years, and is normally a new appointment every year. The office of Lord Mayor is a (largely) ceremonial post, and by tradition, the Councillor who holds that office takes no part in the political life of the Council for their year of office. The Lord Mayor will impartially chair meetings of the Full Council (as set out in the Local Government Act 1972) and represent the Council at civic and ceremonial occasions.
2. Additional details of the role of Lord Mayor can be found in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution;

Article 7 – The Lord Mayor and Chairing the Full Council

The Lord Mayor will be elected annually.

The Lord Mayor and in their absence, the deputy Lord Mayor will have the following roles and functions:

CHAIRING THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

The Lord Mayor will have the following responsibilities:

(1) to uphold and promote the purposes of the constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;

(2) to preside over meetings of the Full Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of Councillors and the interests of the community;

(3) to ensure that the Full Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and the place at which Members who are not on the executive are able to hold the Executive and committee chairs to account;

(4) to promote public involvement in the activities of the Full Council;

(5) to be the conscience of the Full Council; and

(6) to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Full Council and he/she determines appropriate.

Further details setting out the role of the Lord Mayor when chairing meetings of the Full Council can be found in the [Council Procedure Rules](#).

Consultation

3. Internal

The Party Group Leaders, Lord Mayor and Whips.

- 4. External**
N/A

Proposal

- 5.** That the Committees endorses the Protocol prior to it being taken to Full Council on 8th December 20 for approval.

Appendices:

A – Lord Mayor’s Protocol

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None