



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Item 15 – Town Council 23rd Feb  
2022

# TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

## REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<b>Colin Hill Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer</b>
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<b>Date</b>	<b>23rd February 2022</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Review of Mayor Making Process</b>

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To remind Members that they tasked the Town Clerk with identifying options for the process of deciding who would be Mayor.
2. To remind Members that apart from the ceremonial role, the Town Mayor is also the Chairman of the Council and therefore does have a casting vote in Full Council meetings as well as vote on all other committees.
3. To ask members to note that the current system of drawing lots at the commencement of a new four-year term may place the onus on a Town Councillor new to the council being asked to not only take on the Mayoral Ceremonial role and the commitment this brings with it, of attending many functions, but also the responsibility as a Chair with potentially little experience of doing so.
4. To ask Members to note that a newly elected Town Councillor may already have extensive time commitments that would preclude them from taking up the position at such short notice.
5. To inform Members that with the existing process there does not appear to be any definition regarding a newly elected Town Councillor, either through vacancy election or co-option mid-term, as to where they would then sit in terms of priority.
6. To inform Members that following research there appears to be two other options to consider.
  - a) Selection by Town Council through a formal vote made on party lines.
  - b) Selection of Mayor based on length of service as Town Councillor.
7. To ask Member to consider how they wish to proceed

### OPTIONS

## 8. Drawing of lots

8.1 This is currently in place.

### MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

- a) The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor shall be chosen following a system based on the drawing of lots.
- b) The Town Clerk shall maintain a record of lots held by Members, from one to eighteen, drawn from sealed envelopes.
- c) Members previously holding the Office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor shall automatically be allocated the highest numbers.
- d) In each year the outgoing Mayor will move to number eighteen and the Deputy Mayor to number one, with other Members all moving up by one point incrementally.
- e) Each year at the Informal Annual Meeting Members shall be asked in succession, commencing with the Member who has moved up into the first position, if they wish to be considered for the role of Town Mayor.
- f) The selection process will move to the Member in position two, then three and so on until a Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been successfully selected.
- g) Following selection, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be deemed to hold positions one and two and any members declining the opportunity to take office having rolled over to the bottom of the list, with other Members again moving up by one point incrementally.

8.2 Clarification is required as to whether a new Town Councillor elected mid - term (not at the start of the four-year cycle) should fall into the place of the person who they have replaced who had a lot drawn, or start at the bottom of the list.

8.3 Clarification is required whether a Co-opted Member ( not elected by way of Bye Election) should qualify until formally elected at the next full election.

8.4 Clarification is required as to whether when the Deputy Mayor has served a year and automatically moves to the top of the list for Mayor , if chooses not to then serve as Mayor that year,(immediately after the deputy Mayoral year) does that person remain on top of the Mayoral list or move to the bottom of the list..

8.5 Clarification is also sought as to whether any time limit should apply before a Councillor who has served as Mayor may serve again.

## 9 Election by Fellow Councillors

9.1 The role of Mayor has an unwritten intent to be non - political.

- 9.2 At Town Council level the majority of decision making is non - political with the emphasis on serving local needs. The Mayor does however the casting vote a Chairman for key decision that may be made.
- 9.3 The nature of this process is that the party in administration may always vote in their preferred candidate and consequently any Member in the “opposition party” never provided with opportunity to serve as First Citizen.
- 9.4 For example as to how this could work in term of potential rules see Appendix 1

## 10 **Election by length of service**

- 10.1 This seems to be preferred route for many Town Councils and most Borough Councils.
- 10.2 Selection of the next longest serving member not previously appointed as Mayor within an agreed period) recognises the service that a Councillor has given over a number of years. The Deputy Mayor will be the next longest serving Councillor and automatically accedes in the following year to be Mayor as the then longest serving member.
- 10.3 In terms of knowing when a Deputy Mayoral or Mayoral year is going to arrive there is greater opportunity to prepare.
- 10.4 Where a Councillor was due to be Mayor, but was not re-elected, then if subsequently elected at a bye election or all out election, continuous service would apply and would then slot into the next Mayoral opportunity.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. There are none directly arising out of this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

12. That Full Council decides whether to move to an alternative process for electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor from 2023 onwards.
13. That Full Council clarification on points 8.3,8.3 ,8.4 and 8.5 of the report.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

14. Full Council needs to decide on the process involved with selecting the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

15. None arising from this report.

**DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:**

16. The incoming Town Clerk had been made aware of this additional role and is supportive of this proposal.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:**

17. None arising from this report.

**IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT**

18. None arising from this report.

**SUPPORTING PAPERS:**

19. Appendix 1 – Election of Mayor by fellow councillors

**FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill**