

## **Appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Portfolio: Corporate)

### **Recommended:**

- 1. That Councillor Hatley be appointed as Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year and until the appointment of his successor.**
- 2. That Councillor Cooper be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year and until the appointment of his successor.**

### **SUMMARY:**

- Current circumstances resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic mean that adopting the tradition of appointing a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor at this time would result in both the incumbent and future Mayor being unlikely to be able to undertake usual Mayoral functions for full Mayoral terms.
- It is therefore recommended that the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor each remain in office for the ensuing year.

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Due to the on-going public health emergency presented by the Coronavirus pandemic the public duties of the Mayor have been vastly reduced. It is likely that for a significant proportion of the coming Mayoral year that Mayoral duties will be similarly curtailed.

### **2 Background**

- 2.1 Councillor Martin Hatley was appointed as Mayor of the Borough at Annual Council on 13 May 2019 and as a result of the Coronavirus-related restrictions, has seen a vastly reduced number of engagements and activities during the latter part of his Mayoral year.
- 2.2 It is of course unclear as to how and when social distancing requirements and restrictions on gatherings will be relaxed. It is likely that a degree of reduced social interaction will continue for some time to come with the result that if a new Mayor were appointed at this time, it would be unlikely that there would be Mayoral functions to fulfil for the foreseeable future.
- 2.3 In order for the current and next Mayor to each have a full and effective Mayoral term, it is recommended that the current position be maintained with the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor each being re-appointed for a second consecutive term.

2.4 A new Mayor would be appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting in 2021.

2.5 The declarations of office made by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at Annual Council on 13 May 2019 stand for the duration of their terms of office, however long those terms may be and no further declarations would be required.

### **3 Options and Option Appraisal**

3.1 The options are either to re-appoint the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor for further terms or to make new appointments.

3.1 In order that the incumbent Mayor and his predecessor are able to serve as full and effective Mayoral terms as possible the recommended option is that Councillor Hatley is re-appointed as Mayor and Councillor Cooper as Deputy Mayor for a further year.

### **4 Risk Management**

4.1 A Risk Management questionnaire has been completed and indicates this report does not require a risk assessment because the issues covered are not significant in terms of risk or have previously been considered.

### **5 Resource Implications**

5.1 There are no resource implications.

### **6 Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications of the proposed option.

### **7 Equality Issues**

7.1 No potential for discrimination or adverse impact on those with protected characteristics is identified.

### **8 Other Issues**

8.1 No other issues are identified.

### **9 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation**

For the reasons set out above, it is recommended that Councillor Martin Hatley be appointed to serve a second consecutive year as Mayor of the Borough and that Councillor Mark Cooper be elected to serve a second consecutive year as Deputy Mayor of the Borough.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	0	File Ref:	N/A
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(Portfolio: Corporate)

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Report to:	Annual Council	Date:	6 May 2020
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