

Internal Committee 3rd April 2018
Mayoral Selection
Agenda Item 15

Cllr Hickmott has requested that the mayoral selection should be based more on seniority than it at present.

This issue was considered by the committee structure sub-committee in February of last year and the following decision was reached:

4. Mayoral Role. No additional criteria would be applied to mayoral candidates such as length of service. A democratic vote to elect the mayor and deputy would be taken as now.

(Councillors should note that the legal position states that the decision must be made by councillors and there is no basis for public involvement).

Proposal: Council should decide whether to review the current selection process



Town Clerk

Impact on Crime and Disorder	:	None
Impact on Bio-diversity	:	None
Budgetary Impact	:	None

INTERNAL COMMITTEE MINUTES – 3RD APRIL 2018

0239 MAYORAL SELECTION.

- (a) Cllr. Hickmott had requested a review of the mayoral selection process. Cllr. Hickmott had been approached by two members of the public asking whether a public vote would take place. Cllr. Hickmott felt that the current system was unfair and selection should be by seniority.
- (b) Cllr. Knowles advised that Councillors were best suited to decide who should be Mayor. Prospective Mayors should be given the opportunity to learn the ropes, chair a committee, etc. and Councillors should vote on who would do the job the best.
- (c) Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge advised that it was too late to make any changes this year.
- (d) Cllr. Mulholland proposed that some of the issues could be taken to the Public Engagement Sub-Committee for comments. The Town Clerk advised that the Local Government Act 1972 was clear on the process and had been unchallenged in the last 50 years. To involve the public, a ballot would have to take place for the whole electorate which would cost in the region of £10,000.
- (e) Cllr. Edwards advised that Councillors will decide who in their opinion was best suited to the role, although succession would be desirable. The system of 'Mayor Elect' could be brought back, which was a good system used in the past.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Public Engagement Sub-Committee could discuss the mayoral selection process and a meeting will be arranged for the Committee Structure Sub-Committee to revisit the process.