

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to the Constitution Sub-Committee**

**29th February 2016**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Mayoral Points System</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Thrane, Executive Councillor for Finance and Corporate Services</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Linden Vernon, Senior Officer (Governance and Member Support)</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>

**Appendices Attached – Appendix A Proposed Protocol - Nomination of Mayor**

**1. Reason for the Report:**

1.1 To consider the process for the annual nomination of the Mayor.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 That the Sub-Committee considers the process for the nomination of the Mayor and recommends the proposed protocol given in Appendix A to the Council's Audit & Regulatory Committee.

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 The Mayor has been selected according to an established points system as referred to in Article 5 of the Council's Constitution since 1980.

3.2 The basic principle is that the political group with most points as at 1st October each year has the opportunity to nominate the Mayor for the next municipal year.

3.3 The system started with points allocated equal to the actual number of members in each political group (or to individual councillors who do not wish to join a political group). Annual adjustments have since been made according to changes in each group's strength. Whenever a group nominate a Mayor, ten points are deducted from its points total. The points system does not apply

with regards to the selection of the Deputy Mayor.

- 3.4 Following the local elections in May 2015 there was a change in the make up of the Council's political groups (i.e. Councillor Pritchard joined with the Liberal Democrat Group to form the Liberal Democrat and Independent Group).
- 3.5 For the purposes of the report presented to the Council's Audit and Regulatory Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 for the Appointment of Mayor 2016/17, the points previously allocated to the former Independent Group were deleted (as the group would have ceased to exist due to being less than two members). The Council's Mayoral points procedure is currently silent with regards to this type of circumstance.
- 3.6 The operation of the points system was discussed at a recent Group Leaders' meeting which requested that the Constitution Sub-Committee consider the current process with regards to the position where a political group ceases to exist.
- 3.7 Whilst examining this issue the opportunity has been taken to draft a proposed Protocol for the Nomination of Mayor (Appendix A) in order to provide a clear framework for future Mayoral nominations. Should the Sub-Committee support the introduction of the Protocol it is recommended that it be formally included within Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.
- 3.8 In considering arrangements for a political group which ceases to exist guidance has been sought from the publication "Civic Ceremonial" which provides best practice advice on civic matters and from other local authorities which use a points system for the nomination of Mayor. This has found the following options with regards to accumulated points where a political group ceases to exist:
  - The accumulated points are deleted.
  - The accumulated points are distributed evenly between the remaining party political groups.
  - The accumulated points are frozen until seats are once again gained by that group on the Council.
- 3.9 Taking into account the research undertaken the following arrangements are proposed (and contained in the suggested Protocol) where political groups are no longer represented on the Council or form new groups:
  - That where a political group is no longer represented on the Council, the group's Mayoral points will be deleted.
  - That on the formation of a new political group, the points accrued for the individual, non-aligned members, or the existing groups forming the new group, will be combined for the purpose of the Mayoral Points System.

#### 4. **Options and Analysis**

- 4.1 The Sub-Committee may decline the option to introduce the protocol, accept it as proposed or make amendments.

#### 5. **Implications**

5.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

None.

5.2 Workforce

None.

5.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

The Mayoral points system ensures that the nomination of mayor rotates amongst the Council's political groups based on the political strength of each group.

5.4 Financial Considerations

There is an annual budget provision for a modest allowance for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

5.5 Legal

It is proposed that the protocol given at Appendix A be included within the Council's Constitution.

5.6 Sustainability

None.

5.7 Internal and External Consultation

The recommendations of the Constitution Sub-Committee will be reported to the Audit and Regulatory Committee.

5.8 Risk Assessment

Not applicable.

**Mark Trillo**  
**Executive Director (People) & Monitoring Officer**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**

[Appointment of Mayor 2016/17 – report to Audit & Regulatory Committee 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016](#)

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**Protocol for the Nomination of Mayor**

1. The Mayor is selected in accordance with a points system as referred to in Article 5 of the Council's Constitution.
2. The points system was introduced in 1980, since this time all political groups of the Council (and individual independent Members that may be elected to the Council from time to time) have been awarded 1 point for each member of the Council in that group.
3. Each year the Council's Audit and Regulatory Committee will receive a report to confirm the points accumulated by each political group as at 1<sup>st</sup> October. This will take into account changes in political strength following all out elections and by-elections etc. The group with the highest number of points will be invited to make the nomination for the Mayor the following municipal year. Whenever a group nominates a Mayor, ten points will be deducted from its points total.
4. A recommendation will subsequently be made to Council to confirm which political group will be invited to make a nomination for the appointment of Mayor for the following municipal year. Where possible it is recommended that at this stage the Political Group also confirms which councillor it intends to nominate at the following Annual Council meeting. This will assist preparations for the incoming Mayor.
5. In the event of an equality of points, the group which previously had nominated the Mayor most recently will not be given the right to nominate for that year.
6. If the option of selecting a Mayor from within its own membership, or the membership of one of the other groups, is not exercised by the group having the highest number of points then that option will pass to the group with the next highest number of points.
7. The following will apply where political groups are no longer represented on the Council or form new groups:
  - That where a political group is no longer represented on the Council, the group's Mayoral points will be deleted.
  - That on the formation of a new political group, the points accrued for the individual, non-aligned members, or the existing groups forming the new group, will be combined for the purpose of the Mayoral Points System.
8. The points system will be used in all years including the year prior to the Council's all out elections.
9. The points system does not apply to the nomination of the Deputy Mayor. This will ordinarily be agreed between political group leaders (the Deputy Mayor does not necessarily progress to become Mayor).

10. The Constitution Sub-Committee shall consider and report upon any difficulties which arise in the operation of this Protocol.

