

Report to COUNCIL

The Mayoralty and Meetings of the Council 2020/21

Officer Contact: Liz Drogan, Head of Democratic Services, Mark Hardman, Constitutional Officer

17th June 2020

Reason for Decision

To advise of the implications of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 for the Mayoralty and for meetings of the Council between May 2020 and May 2021.

Recommendations

That the implications of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 for the Mayoralty and for meetings of the Council between May 2020 and May 2021 be noted.

The Mayoralty and Meetings of the Council 2020/21

1 Background

- 1.1 Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coronavirus Act 2020 (the “Act”) came into force on 25th March 2020. Among other matters, the Act provided that the ordinary election of Councillors in England that would otherwise be held on the ordinary day of election in 2020 would be held instead on 7th May 2021, the ordinary day of election in 2021, and that any Councillor who would otherwise have retired on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election in 2020 would have their term of office extended accordingly.
- 1.2 Subsequently, the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the “2020 Regulations”) came into force on 4th April 2020. Among the provisions contained therein, local authorities were permitted to hold such meetings as they may determine and, should a Council not hold an annual meeting, such appointments that would otherwise have been made at the annual meeting would continue until the next annual meeting or until such time as the Council might determine.
- 1.3 Members will be aware that the Annual Meeting of Council scheduled for 20th May 2020 has not been convened. In accordance with s4 of the 2020 Regulations the terms of office of Councillor Ginny Alexander as Mayor and of Councillor Jenny Harrison as Deputy Mayor will therefore continue to the Annual Meeting of the Council to held in May 2021 or such other time as the Council might determine.
- 1.4 Similarly, current Council Committee memberships will continue to the Annual Meeting of the Council to held in May 2021 or such other time as the Council might determine, subject to political balance considerations required by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. A report considering Political balance and the opportunity to vary some appointments is elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting of the Council.
- 1.5 With further reference to the provisions within the 2020 Regulations concerning the holding of meetings, a report presenting the Municipal Calendar 2020/21 is elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting of the Council.

2 Options

- 2.1 There are no options presented within this report which provides a position statement related to certain provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

3 Consultation

3.1 None undertaken in respect of this report which presents a position statement regarding the Mayoralty and Council meetings 2020/21.

4 Legal Services Comments

4.1 Legal comments are provided in the body of the report.

5 Background Papers

5.1 None.

6 Appendices

6.1 None.