

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE	29th October 2020
PORTFOLIO	
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AMENDMENTS TO THE MAYOR/ DEPUTY MAYOR PROTOCOL**PURPOSE**

1. To amend the existing Appointment of Mayor/ Deputy Mayor Protocol to remove the restriction which prevents a Deputy Mayor once he/she has held office from being invited to hold the position in future years if they fill the vacancy for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Full Council agrees to the amendment of the Appointment of Mayor/ Deputy Mayor Protocol by inserting a new paragraph v) which states as follows; "Any Member who is appointed as the Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/2021 who has not previously held the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor shall not be prohibited from being offered the Office of Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2021/2022 or any subsequent municipal year. The relevant Member's service as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year shall be disregarded on the application of paragraph (i) and service as Deputy Mayor for the said municipal year shall not be deemed to have taken place when applying the criteria at paragraph (i)."

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To deal with the vacancy of Deputy Mayor which has arisen during the current municipal year and which is not covered by the Protocol.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. On 30th September 2020 Councillor Townsend resigned as Deputy Mayor with immediate effect in order to take up the position of Leader. Section 5 of the Local Government Act 1972 prevents a Deputy Mayor from holding any position in the Executive.
5. A casual vacancy for the position of Deputy Mayor has now been created. This was filled on a temporary basis by Councillor Anne Kelly at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 30th September 2020 until the next Council meeting which is to be held on 29th October 2020.

6.	The Protocol for the Appointment of Mayor/Deputy Mayor elect does not deal with the resignation of the Deputy Mayor mid-term, or the filling of that vacancy. A copy of the Protocol is attached at Appendix 1 to this Report.
7.	Paragraph i) of the Protocol reads; “The Office of Deputy Mayor and Vice- Chair of the Council/ Mayor elect shall be offered each year to the Member of the Council having the longest continuous service as defined below, and who has not previously held the office. ” As currently worded this Protocol means that any member who is appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/2021 cannot then be offered the Office of Deputy Mayor in the following year or any subsequent year.
8.	The vacancy of Deputy Mayor needs to be filled until the end of the municipal year. In order to remove any potential disadvantage in the appointment of the Deputy Mayor position it is proposed to insert a new paragraph v) at the end the Protocol which will read as follows. “Any Member who is appointed as the Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/2021 who has not previously held the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor shall not be prohibited from being offered the Office of Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2021/2022 or any subsequent municipal year. The relevant Member’s service as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year shall be disregarded on the application of paragraph (i) and service as Deputy Mayor for the said municipal year shall not be deemed to have taken place when applying the criteria at paragraph (i).”
9.	This amendment will permit a member who wishes to take up the position of Deputy in this municipal year to be able to be offered the appointment of Deputy Mayor in any future year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

10. None arising directly from this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

11. As set out in the report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

12. The Report was considered at Members Structures and Support Working Group on 15th October 2020.