

## **Report – Policy and Resources Committee**

### **Report of Urgent Action Taken: Proposed revisions to SO 29(4) and SO 30(5): Election of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen**

*To be presented on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

#### **SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN**

1. During the annual election process for Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Committees, the provisions of Standing Orders 29(4) and 30(5) have long required the committee clerk to call out the list of all those Members eligible to stand.
2. Although this has been the practice for many years, the process can delay the elections unnecessarily, especially when the committee is particularly large or where the election is uncontested, and there are other ways in which Members might more helpfully be made aware of who is/is not eligible to stand for either position.
3. On the basis that the existing practice is unnecessary and, following suggestions from some Members that a more efficient approach could be adopted, the following revisions to the Standing Orders were proposed to Standing Orders 29(4) and 30(5):-
  - (i) **SO 29(4):** At the first meeting of each Committee following the annual appointment, the Town Clerk will seek expressions of interest from ~~read out a list of Members who are willing and eligible to take the Chair. The names shall be read out alphabetically, subject to the name of the late Chair/Chairman being placed last, and each of those Members present will be asked if they are willing to serve.~~
  - (ii) **SO 30(5):** At the first meeting of each Committee following the annual appointment, ~~the Town Clerk will seek expressions of interest from~~ ~~a list of Members eligible for election as Deputy Chair/Chairman (or Deputy/Vice Chairs/Chairmen in the case of the Policy and Resources Committee)~~ ~~and who~~ ~~The names shall be read out alphabetically and each of those Members present will be asked if they are willing to serve.~~
4. Operationally, a mechanism for notifying Members of each Committee regarding their eligibility ahead of the meeting will be introduced and officers will carefully monitor which Members put themselves forward for nomination, to ensure that only those that are eligible can be duly elected.

5. In order to allow for the arrangements to be adjusted in time for the September meetings of various committees (and the elections due to take place there), the proposals were considered and approved under urgency procedures.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

6. We **recommend** that the action taken be noted.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2020.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Deputy Catherine McGuinness**  
Chair, Policy and Resources Committee