

Report – Policy and Resources Committee

Review of the appointment process for Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee

To be presented on Thursday, 27th April 2017

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

SUMMARY

In 2012, as part of the post-implementation review of the City Corporation's governance arrangements, the Court of Common Council agreed to the appointment of three Deputy Chairmen for the Policy and Resources Committee to support and assist the Chairman on matters of policy and strategy.

Your Committee has subsequently undertaken a review of the effectiveness of the appointment of its three Deputy Chairmen. The review was conducted in consultation with the Chairman and with those Members who had served as Deputy Chairmen since the inception of the new arrangements in 2013. It addressed both the effectiveness of having three Deputies and the process for electing them.

Having considered the findings, the Committee noted its merits and supported the continuation of the arrangement. However to provide greater clarity over which of the Deputies would undertake the statutory role (e.g. dealing with requests for decisions under the urgency procedures or delegated authority and chairing meetings of the Committee), it agreed that, other than in the first or fifth year of a chairmanship, one of the appointments should be designated as the Deputy Chairman and the remaining two as Vice Chairmen. Deciding which of the three appointees would exercise the formal responsibilities of Deputy Chairman for the coming year would be settled by the Chairman, in consultation with the three appointees.

The change in designation will need to be reflected in Standing Orders and your endorsement of the arrangements is therefore required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Court of Common Council is **recommended** to approve the amendment of Standing Orders and the Protocol for the election of Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee to reflect the revised arrangements, namely:-

- i) with the exception of the first and fifth year of a chairmanship, the Committee elects three Deputies with one of the appointments being designated as the Deputy Chairman to exercise the formal responsibilities and the remaining two as Vice Chairmen; and
- ii) in the fifth year of a chairmanship, all three appointments are made at the same meeting, starting with the election of the "Chairman in waiting".

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. As part of the 2011 post-implementation review of the City Corporation's governance arrangements, this Committee agreed to have three deputy chairmen to support and assist the Chairman on matters of policy and strategy. This was supported by the Court of Common Council at its meeting on 6 December 2012 on the basis that the volume of the Chairman's work in promoting the City was increasing, especially externally, and that this was an area that would benefit from additional support. It was also felt that such an arrangement would enable more Members to play an active part in promoting the City. An additional factor was the desire not to be seen to be selecting the Chairman four years in advance.
2. A protocol for the election of the Deputy Chairmen was established in 2013. The new arrangements were reviewed by the Committee after a year of operation and at that time it was concluded that the new arrangement was working well and served the purpose for which it was intended.
3. After being in operation for four years, further review has now been undertaken to assess both the effectiveness of having three Deputy Chairmen and the process for electing them.

Effectiveness of Arrangements

4. The main objective for having three Deputy Chairmen is to support and assist the Chairman on matters of policy and strategy. As part of the arrangements the Committee accepted that this should operate on the basis of each Deputy Chairman being allocated areas of activity and work (without any executive powers). The allocation of responsibilities is determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Deputy Chairmen and takes a number of factors into account such as experience, knowledge and the skill-set of the respective individuals. A number of areas of activity were identified initially and, amongst other things, this included diplomatic activities, Europe, London and the City Financial.
5. The views on how the initiative has worked over the last three years have been sought from the Chairman and the Members who have served as Deputy Chairman since the inception of the new arrangements. Views were expressed that whilst the arrangement worked well initially, due to a number of factors, the overall objective has not been met as successfully as anticipated. However, your Committee feels that whilst the arrangements had not worked as expected it is worth continuing. More should be done with the allocation of work by having clearer areas of responsibility and utilising the talents and skills of the Deputies where it was best suited.

Election Process

6. The election of Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee is undertaken in accordance with standing orders and also by way of a protocol. In the fifth year of the Chairman's term of office a two-stage election process was adopted to identify a potential "Chairman in waiting" and in order to build in

time for Members to review their own positions. On reflection your Committee is of the view that it would be more efficient to make all three appointments at the same meeting, beginning with the election of the "Chairman in waiting". Therefore the two-stage process should cease.

7. It should also be noted that unless the number of candidates seeking to serve as Deputy Chairman match the number of places available, candidates are required to secure at least 50% of the vote.

Conclusion

8. The system of appointing multiple Deputy Chairmen for this Committee has been in operation for four years. How the system has operated has been reviewed and your Committee supports the continuation of the arrangements to elect three Deputies subject to two minor amendments, namely, that:-
 - in the fifth year of a chairmanship, all three appointments are made at one meeting, starting with the election of the "Chairman in waiting"; and
 - other than in the first or fifth year of a chairmanship, one of the appointments is designated as the Deputy Chairman undertaking the formal responsibilities associated with the role with the remaining two designated as Vice Chairmen;

All of which we submit to the judgment of this Honorable Court.

DATED this 19th day of January, 2017.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Mark Boleat
Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee