

Committee(s) Members Privileges Sub Committee	Dated: 22 June 2017
Subject: Order of Seniority	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report Author: Charlotte Taffel, Members' Services Officer	

Summary

At the meeting of the Sub Committee on 19 January 2017, a Member queried the seniority of a Member who had been a Common Councilman, served as an Alderman and then returned to being a Common Councilman. The Sub Committee sought clarification from the Town Clerk on the protocol and process by which the Order of Seniority was calculated.

The process by which the Order of Seniority is calculated was most recently confirmed by the Members Privileges Sub Committee in January 2012. The principles for calculating the Order of Seniority include clarification on the question of Aldermen who have previously served as a Common Councilman and are set out in their entirety in the appendix to this report.

In summary, Aldermen, whether former Common Councilmen or not, who are elected to serve as Common Councilmen after their service on the Aldermanic Court, would take their seniority according to their total length of service on Common Council, including as an Alderman.

Main Report

At the meeting of the Sub Committee on 19 January 2017, a Member queried the level of seniority of a Member who had been a Common Councilman, served as an Alderman and then returned to being a Common Councilman. The Sub Committee therefore sought clarification from the Town Clerk on the protocol and process on calculating the Order of Seniority.

The Order of Seniority was most recently confirmed by the Members Privileges Sub Committee in January 2012. The principles for calculating the Order of Seniority in the Pocket Book agreed are set out below:-

- i) The Order of Civic Seniority amongst the Commoners is calculated principally according to the date of election and their total period of service.
- ii) The following rules apply:
 - a) Where a number of Members are elected on the same day, seniority amongst them be calculated:
 - alphabetically by Ward (Aldersgate being first, Walbrook being last); and

- if there were more than one new Member elected for the same Ward on the same day, then seniority be alphabetically between those Members.
- b) Where a Member has a period away from the Court and then is re-elected, their seniority is calculated by totalling their number of years' service and deducting it from the year on which they were re-elected to the Court (and then being placed after other Members in that 'year').
- c) Aldermen, whether former Common Councilmen or not, who are elected to serve as Common Councilmen after their service on the Aldermanic Court, would take their seniority according to their total length of service on Common Council, including as an Alderman.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Appendices

Appendix A – Court of Common Council – Seniority – Approved by the Members' Privileges Sub-Committee on 31 January 2012

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COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

SENIORITY

Approved by the Members' Privileges Sub-Committee on 31 January 2012

1. The Order of Civic Seniority amongst the Commoners is calculated principally according to the date of election and their total period of service.
2. The following rules apply:
 - 2.1 Where a number of Members are elected on the same day, seniority amongst them is calculated:
 - (a) alphabetically by Ward (Aldersgate being first, Walbrook being last); and
 - (b) if there are more than one new Members elected for the same Ward on the same day, then seniority is alphabetically between those Members (e.g. Mr Cressey is senior to Ms Regis)
 - 2.2 Where a Member has a period away from the Court and then is re-elected, their seniority is calculated by totalling their number of years' service and deducting it from the year on which they were re-elected to the Court.

For example, Mrs Littlechild was first elected in 1998 and served until 2005. When she was re-elected in 2009, her reckonable service of seven years was deducted to indicate that her seniority fell with those elected in 2002.

Members returning to the Court after a period away are placed at the foot of the list of those in their new seniority.

- 2.3 Aldermen, whether former Common Councilmen or not, who are elected to serve as Common Councilmen after their service on the Aldermanic Court will take their seniority according to their total length of service on Common Council, including as an Alderman.
3. Certain exceptions to strict seniority are applied, particularly in respect of seating arrangements, on appropriate occasions:
 - 3.1 The Chief Commoner will always be pre-eminent amongst the Common Council.
 - 3.2 The Senior Committee Chairmen (i.e. particularly the Chairmen of Policy and Resources, Finance, Planning and Transportation and Police) are normally also taken out of their seniority order.

- 3.3 In addition, the Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and either the Immediate Past Chief Commoner or the Chief Commoner Elect will be accorded appropriate precedence as required.
- 3.4 Other Members may also be seated outside seniority where it is appropriate for them to be with a particular guest or guests such change to be determined by the Lord Mayor, Chief Commoner, or Chairman of the Host Committee on the recommendation of the Town Clerk or Remembrancer.