

Committee(s) Policy and Resources Committee	Dated: 6 July 2017
Subject: Order of Seniority	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report Author: Charlotte Taffel, Members' Services Officer	

Summary

At the meeting of the Members' Privileges 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 established.

The Order of Seniority was most recently confirmed by the Members' Privileges Sub Committee in January 2012 (Appendix A). 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. 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.

At a subsequent meeting of the Members' Privileges Sub-Committee on 22 June 2017, it was agreed that the Order of Seniority should be amended to reflect seniority being calculated on the basis of total length as noted in the recommendations below.

Recommendations

That the Members' Privileges Sub-Committee recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that approval be given to the amendments to the protocol for Seniority at the Court of Common Council as set out below and in the appendix to the report:-

- a) To include a new paragraph at 2.3 as follows:-

Alderman, 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 to their total length of service on Common Council, including as an Alderman;.

- b) Paragraph 3.2 be amended to include the Establishment Committee:-

The Senior Committee Chairman (i.e. particularly the Chairman of Policy and Resources, Finance, Planning and Transportation, Police and *Establishment*) are normally taken out of their seniority order.

Main Report

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. At the meeting of the Sub Committee on 22 June 2017, Members recommended that the following amendments be made to the wording of the Court of Common Council Seniority report, and that such amendments be taken to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for decision:-
 - a) To include the following paragraph under 2.3 – *Alderman, 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 to their total length of service on Common Council, including as an Alderman.*
 - b) To include the following amendment under paragraph 3.2 – The Senior Committee Chairman (i.e. particularly the Chairman of Policy and Resources, Finance, Planning and Transportation, Police and *Establishment*) are normally taken out of their seniority order.

Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed Revision of the Court of Common Council – Seniority Report – as requested by the Members’ Privileges Sub Committee on 22 June 2017.

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COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

SENIORITY

Proposed revision to the report 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, Police and **Establishment**) 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.