

<b>Committee(s):</b> General Purposes Committee of Alderman – For Decision	<b>Dated:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Subject:</b> The operation of the 6-year convention for Aldermen	<b>Public</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> The Comptroller & City Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Michael Cogher, The Comptroller and City Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive	

## **Summary**

### **1. Introduction and Background**

1.1. At its last meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 the General Purposes Committee received a confidential report from the Comptroller and City Solicitor on the operation of the convention that Aldermen should retire after no more than six years in office (“the Six Year Convention) and other Aldermanic conventions. The Committee noted that this, together with other Aldermanic conventions had not been reviewed for many years and that in circumstances where the 6 Year Convention bit during the Lord Mayor’s term of office or proximate to its beginning and end there was clearly a conflict between the Six Year Convention and the duties to serve faithfully the office of Lord Mayor and to take all practical steps to seek re-election following the conclusion of the Mayoral term. Nor was the 6 Year Convention consolidated with other conventions, agreed in 2003, in a single document. The Committee instructed the Comptroller and City Solicitor to review the conventions and present a further report for the Committee’s consideration.

### **2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1. That the Committee consider the draft consolidated Aldermanic Conventions set out in the Schedule.
- 2.2. That the Committee make such recommendations to the Court of Aldermen as it considers appropriate in relation to their adoption.

## **Main Report**

### **3. Review of the Conventions**

- 3.1. The constitutional and legal position of the office of Alderman is set out in the previous report to which the Committee is referred. It is not set out further here.
- 3.2. The 6 Year Convention has been redrafted to take into account the need for the Committee or the Nominations Committee to agree to relax the Convention in appropriate circumstances the following suggested terms:
- 3.3. I undertake to tender my resignation as an Alderman/woman and to seek re-election or retire as the case may be no later than midnight on the sixth anniversary of my election.
- 3.4. The General Purposes Committee of the Court of Aldermen may, on the written application of the Alderman/woman concerned extend the last day for the tendering of their resignation under 1.1 above by a period of up to six months where it considers that it is reasonable to do so in all the circumstances.
- 3.5. Without prejudice to 1.2 above, the Nominations Committee of the Court of Alderman may agree that the last day for the tendering of a resignation of an Alderman who is or may be serving as Lord Mayor may be extended by a period of up to six months following the date the said Alderman/woman ceases to be Lord Mayor where it considers that it is reasonable to do so in all the circumstances.
- 3.6. This has been incorporated into a reformatted document containing the other conventions for the Committee's consideration and review.
- 3.7. It should be noted that the conventions do not and have never included the convention relating post-Mayoralty period during which the Late Lord Mayor attends no Corporation events or meetings, including meetings of the Court of Aldermen, and undertakes no Civic or representative duties in the period between the end of the Mayoralty and the Easter Banquet. However, their own professional engagements in the City or with their own livery companies etc are fine for him to undertake. This is contained within the Aldermen's Handbook.

### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1. The Six Year Convention and other Aldermanic conventions are an important constitutional and democratic constitutional tool which after many years now require review and consolidation.

### **5. Appendix**

Appendix 1 – The Undertakings

### **6. Background Papers**

None

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