

To be considered at the Court of Common Council

2024

A BILL

For an Act of Common Council to –

Revert to the annual election of Ward Beadles.

WHEREAS:-

- (1) From time immemorial there has existed and still exists in the City of London (“the City”) a Common Council consisting of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons in Common Council assembled (“the Common Council”) which has made such Acts, Ordinances, Rules, Orders and Regulations for the regulation and good government of the City and its Liberties as it has from time to time found necessary and expedient;
- (2) From at least 1663, until 2005, Common Councilmen and Ward Beadles were elected annually at the same Wardmotes, and on several occasions Acts of Common Council were passed to ensure that the dates of those elections continued to take place on the same dates;
- (3) With effect from 2005, Common Councilmen were elected every four years, and further Acts of Common Council were passed to ensure that the elections of Common Councilmen and Ward Beadles continued to coincide;
- (4) By an Act of Common Council of 17 January 2013 it was enacted that elections of Ward Beadles would take place on the same date as ordinary ward elections in relation to the whole number of Common Councilmen, as determined in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Common Council of 13 September 2012 or any other Act of Common Council from time to time amending or replacing it;
- (5) It is expedient that elections of Ward Beadles should revert to an annual cycle, so that there is a more frequent opportunity for the Alderman of each Ward to put forward one or more candidates of their choice for nomination;
- (6) His late Majesty King Edward the Third by his Charter made and granted to the City in the fifteenth year of his reign afterwards confirmed and ratified by Parliament did (amongst other things) grant that if any existing customs in the City were in any part hard or defective or any things in the City newly arising in which no remedy had been ordained should need amendment the Mayor and Aldermen of the City and their successors with the assent of the Commonalty of the City might ordain fit remedy as often as it should seem expedient to them so that such ordinance should be profitable to the King and to the citizens and to all other liege subjects resorting to the City and agreeable also to reason and good faith.

IT IS THEREFORE ENACTED by the Common Council **AS FOLLOWS:**

Elections of Ward Beadles

1. For section 1 of the Act of Common Council of 17 January 2013 substitute –

“1. (1) Subject to subsection (2), elections of Ward Beadles shall take place at the annual Wardmotes in March, on a date to be determined by each Alderman in respect of their own Ward.

(2) In any year in which ordinary ward elections in relation to the whole number of Common Councilmen are scheduled to take place, as determined in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Common Council made and passed on the 13th day of September 2012 or any other Act of Common Council from time to time amending or replacing it, elections of Ward Beadles shall take place on the same date as those ordinary ward elections.”

Commencement

2. The provisions of this Act will come into force on the day on which it is made and passed as an Act of Common Council.