

## ***Methodology for Appointing to the Offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor***

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The Annual Meeting of the Council each year will elect a Mayor and appoint a Deputy Mayor, to ensure a dignified succession to these offices. The appointments will be made based on seniority (i.e. years of service as a Councillor). The following methodology will apply.

#### **Step 1**

After any municipal election in May and immediately before the Annual Meeting each year all Councillors will be placed in a list according to their seniority. Seniority is defined according to the total number of years or part years served as a Councillor with City of Wolverhampton Council or any of its predecessor authorities. (Years do not need to have been served consecutively. A Councillor who served a term from 2004 to 2008, and then from 2009 to 2013, has eight years' service.) Where one or more Councillors have accrued the same number of years/part years of service, they will be listed alphabetically.

A Councillor who has previously served as Mayor will only be considered again if all other Councillors have declined the opportunity (i.e. irrespective of whether he or she has more years of service since they last served as Mayor than another Councillor who has not yet been Mayor). This rule will not apply in exceptional circumstances (e.g. if a Mayor needs to be appointed midway through the municipal year). Previous Mayors will be included in the order of seniority based on the number of years since they previously held the office.

NB: in practice, the seniority list will be maintained on a rolling basis, with the incoming Deputy Mayor provisionally identified early in each calendar year.

#### **Step 2**

1. The nomination for the post of Deputy Mayor for the next ensuing municipal year will be offered to Councillors in strict order of seniority.
2. Where a Councillor is, unable or unwilling to accept the nomination for whatever reason the offer will pass to the next most senior Councillor and so on.

#### **Step 3**

The current Deputy Mayor will assume the office of Mayor at the Annual Meeting.

The newly-elected Mayor will preside over the appointment of the Deputy Mayor-designate as Deputy Mayor.

At the immediate following Annual Meeting the current Mayor will preside over the election of the current Deputy Mayor to the office of Mayor for the ensuing municipal year in accordance with the protocol outlined above.

It is custom and practice at Wolverhampton that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be nominated and elected unopposed.