

Protocol for the Nomination of Mayor

1. The Mayor is selected in accordance with a points system as referred to in Article 5 of the Council's Constitution.
2. The points system was introduced in 1980, since this time all political groups of the Council (and individual independent Members that may be elected to the Council from time to time) have been awarded 1 point for each member of the Council in that group.
3. Each year the Council's Audit and Regulatory Committee will receive a report to confirm the points accumulated by each political group as at 1st October. This will take into account changes in political strength following all out elections and by-elections etc. The group with the highest number of points will be invited to make the nomination for the Mayor the following municipal year. Whenever a group nominates a Mayor, ten points will be deducted from its points total.
4. A recommendation will subsequently be made to Council to confirm which political group will be invited to make a nomination for the appointment of Mayor for the following municipal year. Where possible it is recommended that at this stage the Political Group also confirms which councillor it intends to nominate at the following Annual Council meeting. This will assist preparations for the incoming Mayor.
5. In the event of an equality of points, the group which previously had nominated the Mayor most recently will not be given the right to nominate for that year.
6. If the option of selecting a Mayor from within its own membership, or the membership of one of the other groups, is not exercised by the group having the highest number of points then that option will pass to the group with the next highest number of points.
7. The following will apply where political groups are no longer represented on the Council or form new groups:
 - That where a political group is no longer represented on the Council, the group's Mayoral points will be deleted.
 - That on the formation of a new political group, the points accrued for the individual, non-aligned members, or the existing groups forming the new group, will be combined for the purpose of the Mayoral Points System.
8. The points system will be used in all years including the year prior to the Council's all out elections.
9. The points system does not apply to the nomination of the Deputy Mayor. This will ordinarily be agreed between political group leaders (the Deputy Mayor does not necessarily progress to become Mayor).
10. The Constitution Sub-Committee shall consider and report upon any difficulties which arise in the operation of this Protocol.