



Report to Council

5th December 2018

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 5th December 2018

Subject: The Role of the Lord Mayor

Author of Report: Emily Standbrook-Shaw, Policy & Improvement Officer
Emily.standbrook-shaw@sheffield.gov.uk
0114 27 35065

Summary:

This report sets out the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to Full Council following its consideration of the role of the Lord Mayor.

Recommendation:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recommends that Full Council asks the Director of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the current and former Lord Mayors, to produce revised guidance for the role of the Lord Mayor, and draft a Lord Mayor's Code of Conduct for consideration by the Audit and Standards Committee before being presented to Full Council for approval.

Background Papers:

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3rd October 2018

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial implications
NO
Legal implications
YES– Cleared by Gill Duckworth
Equality of Opportunity implications
NO
Tackling Health Inequalities implications
NO
Human rights implications
N/A
Environmental and Sustainability implications
N/A
Economic impact
N/A
Community safety implications
N/A
Human resources implications
N/A
Property implications
N/A
Area(s) affected
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
YES/NO
Press release
YES/NO

1. **Introduction**

1.1 This report sets out the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to Full Council on the role of the Lord Mayor.

2. **Background**

2.1 Following receipt at Full Council in October of two petitions relating to the role of the Lord Mayor in Sheffield, the Leader of the Council “proposed that the matter was referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, with a request that the Committee examines how to raise the profile of the role of Lord Mayor and how to improve understanding of the role. As part of this exercise she said that it may be appropriate to examine and revisit relevant protocols which had developed over time and on a cross party basis.”

2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered this at its meeting on the 15th November 2018 – report attached at appendix a. A summary of the discussion is set out below:

- The Committee heard that specific guidance is provided to the Lord Mayor and that Lord Mayors are subject to the same Code of Conduct as all sitting Councillors.
- Current guidance emphasises the traditional elements of the role of Lord Mayor. The Committee felt that this guidance could be slimmed down and reviewed to reflect the 21st Century environment that Lord Mayors are operating in.
- The Committee felt that as First Citizen of Sheffield , it is important that the Lord Mayor remains non- political during their term of office.
- The Committee felt that there is a need for a firmer understanding and codification of the Council’s expectation of a Lord Mayor, including issues such as remaining non-political, attending certain events deemed important to the city, and respecting tradition whilst having the flexibility to ‘put your own stamp’ on the role.

In light of this, the Committee agreed that there should be revised guidance for the role of the Lord Mayor, and that a Lord Mayors Code of Conduct should be included in the Council’s Constitution. These should be developed in consultation with current and former Lord Mayors.

3. Legal Implications

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 enables Local Authorities to set their own local codes of conduct based on the seven principles of public life. A supplementary code to cover the additional requirements of the role of the Lord mayor would come within the scope of the legislation. The Code once adopted by Full Council will form part of the Council's Constitution.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 None

5. Reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 To ensure the Lord Mayor has a clear understanding of the role and that certain traditional elements of the role are clearly defined as essential by including these elements within the constitution in a specific code of conduct that supplements the Councillor's code of conduct and thereby is brought within the jurisdiction of the Standards regime.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recommends that Full Council asks the Director of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the current and former Lord Mayors, to produce revised guidance for the role of the Lord Mayor, and draft a Lord Mayor's Code of Conduct for consideration by the Audit and Standards Committee before being presented to Full Council for approval.

**Councillor Denise Fox
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**