



B O S T O N

B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	10 JUNE 2020
SUBJECT:	ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 2020/21
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
REPORT AUTHOR:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

To consider not holding an Annual General Meeting in the municipal year 2020/21 in accordance with the provisions in the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Council determines not to hold the Annual General Meeting in the municipal year 2020/21 and for the Mayor to continue in office until the AGM May 2021.
2. That all that current appointments of Chairmen and constitution of Committees be reviewed in September 2020.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

It is not considered practical to hold an Annual General Meeting remotely. If one were to be held the Mayor Elect's tenure of office would be significantly impacted by the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, and be of a much shorter period than expected.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

To hold an Annual Meeting in 2020-21.

REPORT

1. Annual Meeting

- 1.1 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th April 2020, under powers conferred by section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.
- 1.2 The Regulations apply to local authority meetings that are required to be held, or held, before 7th May 2021, and are drafted to enable Local Authorities to properly function during the coronavirus crisis.
- 1.3 The Local Government Act 1972 requires Local Authorities to hold their AGM's in either March, April or May of each year. Part 6 of the Regulations enables authorities to dis-apply this requirement.
- 1.4 This therefore means that the Council has no obligation to hold the AGM at all this year and can instead defer to May 2021.
- 1.5 The Regulations do allow for other options of the AGM to be held remotely, or to defer a decision to hold the meeting until the current crisis enables meetings to return to their normal format.
- 1.6 Of the three potential options in relation to holding the AGM, it would seem the most prudent course of action would be not to hold the AGM this year.
- 1.7 It is not considered feasible (or entirely fair to the incoming Mayor) to hold the AGM remotely. As Members will be aware, the AGM is a ceremonial meeting involving a number of persons in close contact. This would not be able to function whilst observing social distancing measures. As such the experience would not be as the incoming Mayor would normally have enjoyed.
- 1.8 In relation to holding the meeting date in abeyance until the crisis is over, this is also considered not ideal and again, unfair on the incoming Mayor as his period of office would be considerably shorter than expected and due to the Covid-19 restrictions it is unlikely that he would be able to undertake the expected range of duties and attendance at events.
- 1.9 The incoming Mayor has confirmed he is in agreement to defer his Mayoralty for one year and take office at the AGM in May 2021. The current Mayor's appointment would continue until next May.
- 1.10 However, all other appointments of Chairmen and the constitution of committees can be considered at a meeting of the Council other than the AGM. Therefore it is proposed to review those appointments in September 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the body of the report.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

None.

EQUALITY AND SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION

Group Leaders have met to consider the options set out in the report and not reached a consensus of agreement.

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.