

Report to:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting	31 January 2024

MAYOR ELECT AND DATE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To determine who should be invited to offer themselves for election as Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2024 and to consider a change to the date of the Special Council meeting to Wednesday 13 March 2024 (was previously agreed for Thursday 14 March).

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree that Councillor Peter Hunter is invited to offer himself for election as Mayor at the Annual Meeting on 15 May 2024.
- 2.2 To agree that the special Council meeting takes place on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 6pm.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 It is practice that the Council at its first meeting in the New Year, identifies one of its members to be appointed 'Mayor Elect' to assist in planning for the Mayoral year ahead and in particular the Annual Meeting in May 2024.

4.0 Background Information

Mayor-Elect

- 4.1 At the first Council meeting each calendar year, the Mayor Elect is usually identified based on length of service and those councillors who have not served as Mayor before. Consultation has taken place with those at the top of the seniority list, some of whom have declined to offer themselves to the role on this occasion.
- 4.2 Councillor Peter Hunter, as the next in line on the seniority list has been approached and has indicated that he would like to take up the position.

Date of special Council meeting

- 4.3 At the Council meeting on 29 November 2023, members agreed to hold a special meeting to consider the outcome of the consultation exercise on the draft devolution proposal and next steps in terms of Lancashire devolution.

- 4.4 The meeting was agreed to be held on Thursday 14 March 2024 however this date clashes with another Council event. Members are therefore asked to consider moving the date of the meeting to Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 6pm. The Mayor and Group Leaders have been consulted and support this proposed change and the Levelling Up Scrutiny Committee due to take place on 13 March will be rescheduled accordingly. Monitoring officers from Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council have also been consulted as it is envisaged that the agenda for this meeting will be published on the same date as for their respective Councils.

List of Appendices:

None.

5.0 Legal considerations:

5.1 None.

6.0 Equalities Considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Financial considerations:

7.1 The Members Allowances Scheme provides for special responsibility allowances for the Mayor.

8.0 Risk management considerations:

8.1 None associated with this report.

9.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

10.1 With regard to the appointment of a Mayor Elect, consultation has taken place with those at the top of the seniority list and with the Group Leaders. Group Leaders have also been consulted on the proposed change to the date of the special Council meeting.

11.0 Background papers:

11.1 None.