Title of Report: Election of Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of 2014/15

Meeting Date Monday 15 December 2014

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Is the report Open or Exempt? Open

MATTER FOR DECISION
To consider nominations received for the appointment of a Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATIONS HELD
None. The Constitution for the Lowestoft Charter Trustees (LCT) dictates that nominations for the position of Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft must be received from members of the Lowestoft Charter Trustees only.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
Under the Lowestoft Charter Trustees’ Constitution nominations can be considered each year for the appointment of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft, although the Lowestoft Charter Trustees do not have to appoint either a Mayor or Deputy Mayor. However, as the town of Lowestoft is unparished and given the population and size of Lowestoft, the local community can identify with and benefit from the appointment of a specific civic figurehead for Lowestoft, similar to that in place for Town Councils across Waveney. In addition, the LCT agreed at their Annual Meeting on 9 June 2014 to appoint both a Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An Extraordinary Meeting of the Lowestoft Charter Trustees (LCT) has been convened in order to appoint a new Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

1.2 Councillor Roger Bellham was appointed as Mayor of Lowestoft at the Annual Meeting of the Lowestoft Charter Trustees held on 9 June 2014. However, Councillor Bellham sadly passed away in November 2014 and so this Extraordinary Meeting of the LCT has been called in order to provide continuity for the office of Mayor of Lowestoft.
1.3 The Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft (Councillor Malcolm Cherry) has been undertaking civic engagements in the interim period to ensure that representation within the local community has been maintained.

2. BACKGROUND

The Lowestoft Charter Trustees are constituted as a body corporate by Section 246 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the appropriate statutory order provides that the first items of business at the Annual Meeting shall be the election of a Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft. The Charter Trustees may decide not to elect anyone to these offices if they so wish.

2.1 The LCT Constitution provides that any candidate for the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lowestoft must be nominated in writing signed by a proposer and seconder and two other Charter Trustees and such nominations must be served on the Chief Executive as Clerk to the Trustees, at least 24 hours before the election takes place.

2.2 Any newly appointed Mayor of Lowestoft will act as the Chairman of the Lowestoft Charter Trustees at its meetings. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will preside.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure that due process is followed for the re-election of a Mayor of Lowestoft in accordance with the Lowestoft Charter Trustees Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Lowestoft Charter Trustees consider any nominations received for the civic office of Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Available From</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November / December 2014</td>
<td>Nomination forms received for the office of Mayor of Lowestoft for the remainder of the 2014/15 civic term of office.</td>
<td>Democratic Services</td>
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