

Report to: Council

Date: 4 March 2009

Subject: Proposal to change the style of the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting arrangements for 20 May 2009

Report of: Principal Committee Officer

Contact officer: Christine Charnock-Jones 01942 827156

Purpose / summary: This report seeks Members views on the proposal to change the style of the Mayor Making and Annual Council arrangements for 20 May 2009.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: To continue with the existing arrangements for the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting arrangements for 20 May 2009

Recommendation / decision: In anticipation of agreeing a new style for the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting, the Council is asked to agree to the following:-

- to agree to hold the Mayor Making at 1 p.m. on the 20 May 2009, to consider the ceremonial business;
- to agree to hold the Annual General Council meeting at 3.30 p.m. to consider the remaining business;
- to suspend Rule of Procedure 1.1(iii) to allow the normal meeting of the Council previously fixed for 20 May 2009 to follow the new format;
- to approve the provision of appropriate refreshments at approximately 2 p.m. for 20 May 2009; and
- to a pay bar being open at the end of the normal meeting if considered

appropriate.

The decision will be made as a result of this report and will be published within 48 hours

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	None
Staffing:	None
Policy:	None
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	Not applicable
Wards affected:	All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution?	Yes
Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

* delete which applicable

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
Cllr Services Group 4 Feb 2009			4 March 2009

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer K P Lawson

Date 24 February 2009

Background:

Traditionally, the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting is held in mid May at Wigan Town Hall with the event being organised by Committee Administration and Mayoral. The meeting commences at 2.30 p.m. with the ceremonial part lasting about one hour. The meeting then adjourns for about ten minutes, whilst the special guests of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor leave the Council Chamber and go back into the Mayor's Parlour to congratulate the Mayor and have a buffet lunch.

Unfortunately, the new Mayor will only have a short time with his/her guests before having to return to the Council Chamber for the normal business which can take until 5 p.m.

During the break, the press are also wishing to take photographs of the new Mayor, which again cuts their time down with their guests.

Following last year's meeting, information was gathered on how other local authorities conducted the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting and each system was very different.

Proposals:

The Local Government Act 1972 states that the first item of business at the meeting should be the election of Mayor.

From the information received, a way forward is to have the Mayor Making (ceremonial part) at 1.00 p.m. which would last about one hour. This part would be chaired by the retiring Mayor and subsequently the new Mayor. The meeting would then break for lunch with guests then being invited for a buffet meal in the Charter Suite rather than having two separate buffets as in previous years (one in the Parlour and one in the Charter Suite).

The Council meeting could then re convene at 3.30 p.m. to consider the remaining business. The bar could be open at the end of the normal meeting if considered appropriate.

The report had been considered by the Councillors Services Group on 4 February 2009.

Costs

The anticipated extra cost at this stage would be dependent on the type of meal to be provided for the event.

Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option:

To continue with the existing arrangements for the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting arrangements for 20 May 2009.

Conclusions:

Using the new style, the new Mayor will be able to have lunch with his/her guests and then go into the meeting at 3.30 p.m.

It is acknowledged that working Members may have to take extra time off work, but not a full day.

Any change to the time of the Council meeting would have to be approved by Council.

Recommendation:

In anticipation of agreeing a new style for the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting, the Council is asked to agree to the following:-

- to agree to hold the Mayor Making at 1 p.m. on the 20 May 2009, to consider the ceremonial business;
- to agree to hold the Annual General Council meeting at 3.30 p.m. to consider the remaining business;
- to suspend Rule of Procedure 1.1(iii) to allow the normal meeting of the Council previously fixed for 20 May 2009 to follow the new format;
- to approve the provision of appropriate refreshments at approximately 2 p.m. for 20 May 2009; and
- to a pay bar being open at the end of the normal meeting if considered appropriate.

