

Motion – The Mayoralty

Havant Council became a Borough in 1974 when our first Mayor was appointed. Since that time 47 Mayors have served the Borough.

Unmistakably, Havant has passed from a small market town making gloves and parchment, to a larger suburban conurbation attracting new industries of light engineering, plastic, and high technology.

The Mayor's term of office denotes the municipal year and the Mayor has the status as first citizen after the Sovereign, and the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

This motion seeks to highlight the value of the Mayoralty which is enshrined in the Borough Charter and recognise the ceremonial and ambassadorial worth of the office. The motion seeks the endorsement of the Mayoralty and the value it provides from every elected Member and budget accordingly.

Councillors, I call upon you to confirm your support to those who undertake this important role and to consider the recommendations of this motion

That,

1. A past Mayor with full experience of the role rather than a member of the cabinet be elected to oversee the workings of the Mayoralty and to work in liaison with the FM team to ensure that full support is given to each new incumbent.
2. That the Mayoral budget which was cut by £3,000 from £14,700 in the Mayoral year 2019/20 and after the Mayor had been in office for over three months, to the current budget of £11,700 is to be utilised to allow the Mayor to perform whatever duties are required of them in their year of office.
3. That the Chain of Office and the Mayoral car which are synonymous with the dignity and office of the Mayor are to continue to be used in recognition of the role.
4. That the Mayor is given the authority to decide which engagements are of the foremost importance to the ambassadorial role, to the benefit of the residents of the Borough, and the promotion of businesses and commercial enterprises within the Borough.
5. To give more responsibility to future Mayors to run their own budget and decide how that budget should be spent.
6. That the allowance of £3,000 for the Mayor and £1,000 for the Deputy Mayor should continue and be used for out of pocket expenses only, but that any remaining amount at the end of the Municipal year should be retained by the incumbents in lieu of an SRA.
7. And that those Councillors who wish to take on this prestigious role should have served a minimum of one term as a Councillor, that they should submit their names to the Leader of the Council by a due date, and those nominations voted for by secret ballot at Group meeting.

Fellow members, there may be those amongst you who would seek this role in the future. I ask you all not to allow this great privilege to be degraded into virtual non existence.

Proposed by – Councillor Diana Patrick

Seconded by – Councillor Beryl Francis

Further supported by – Councillor Jo Lowe