

3rd June 2024

To determine the Leadership of the Council

1. Aim

- 1.1 To appoint the Leader of the Council in accordance with Article 7 of the council's constitution.

2. Summary

- 2.1 On a vacancy arising for position of Leader the Council shall appoint to the vacancy.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That following receipt of Nominations for the position of Leader of the Council, Council elects a Leader for a term of office of four years.

4. Report detail – know

- 4.1 The 'Strong Leader' model of constitutional governance was introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Under these arrangements the Leader of the Council is elected by the Full Council for a four-year term of office, subject to certain conditions. The Leader then appoints his/her Cabinet, one of whom is designated as Deputy Leader. Councillor Bird was appointed as Leader of the Council on the 22 May 2023 for a period of 4 years.
- 4.2 The 2007 Act specifies conditions under which the Leader ceases to hold office before his/her four-year term of office ends. These conditions have been incorporated in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution and read as follows:

'The Leader's term of office ceases on earliest of

- the day after the annual Council following the normal date of retirement for the Councillor or
- the date he resigns office or
- the date the Council resolves that (s)he be removed from the office of Leader. (imminent vacancy is defined as due to retire from office the following day).

- 4.3 It is the responsibility of the Leader to determine the size and membership of the Executive (providing the membership comprises between two and nine members (not including the Leader). The Leader shall also appoint Deputy Leader(s) from the membership of the Executive. The Leader shall also determine the remit of each portfolio. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard.
- 4.4 Where there is vacancy or imminent vacancy in the office of Leader the Chairperson shall request if there are any nominations for the office of Leader. Where nominations are received the normal voting rules shall apply.
- 4.5 That the Leader be appointed for a term of office of four years from the 3rd June 2024.

5. Financial information

- 5.1 None

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 at 9I where the Council is operating Executive arrangements by a local authority which provide for a leader and cabinet executive (England)— (a) must include provision with respect to the election of the executive leader, including provision for an election where there is a vacancy in the office of executive leader, and (b) may include provision with respect to the term of office of the executive leader.

7. Decide

- 7.1 On their being a vacancy for the office of Leader of the Council, council shall appoint a leader.

8. Respond

- 8.1 Not applicable

9. Review

- 9.1 The election and removal of the Leader of the Council is set out in Article 7 of the Council's constitution.

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