

Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Leader of the Council

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Constitutional Services

21st May 2025

Reason for Decision

The election of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

Recommendations

1. That Council notes its previous decision on 24 May 2023, to elect Councillor Arooj Shah as Leader of the Council, and the term of office will end on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor, subject to paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Leader of the Council

1 Background

1.1 The Council has adopted the Leader and Cabinet model of governance.

1.2 Councillor Shah was elected by the Council as Leader of the Council on 24th May 2023 and the term of office will end on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor unless:

- a) she resigns from the office, or
- b) she is no longer a Councillor, or
- c) she is removed from office by the resolution of the Council. A successor will be elected at that meeting or subsequent meeting.

1.3 Under the arrangements, all Executive functions are vested in the Leader and it is her responsibility to determine how such functions shall be delegated. This responsibility can be a simple reaffirmation of the existing delegation of executive functions to the Cabinet, Executive Members and Officers. This includes determining the size and membership of the Cabinet (provided the membership comprises between two and nine Members, not including the Leader). The Leader shall also determine the remit of each portfolio. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard. The Leader will circulate a report for Council to note.

2 Current Position

2.1 The Council elected Councillor Arooj Shah as Leader of the Council from the 24th May 2023 and ending on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor, subject to paragraph 1.2 above.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 N/A.

4 Consultation

4.1 N/A.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 N/A.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications.

7 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

7.1 None.

8 Key Decision

8.1	No.
9	Key Decision Reference
9.1	N/A.
10	Appendices
10.1	None.
11	Background Papers
11.1	None.