

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

20th May 2026

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. The Council receives nomination(s) for the office of the Leader of the Council.
2. The Council elects the Leader of the Council for a term of office starting on 21st May 2026 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 2.1 of the report.

Leader of the Council

1 Purpose of the Report

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

2 Background

2.1 The Leader of the Council (the “Leader”) will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council. The Council will decide on the term of office of the Leader which must expire no later than the day of which the Council holds its first Annual meeting after the Leader’s normal day of retirement as a Councillor unless:

- a. He or she resigns from the office, or
- b. He or she is no longer a Councillor, or
- c. He or she is removed from office by the resolution of the Council when a successor shall be appointed.

2.2 It is the responsibility of the Leader to determine the size and membership of the Cabinet (providing 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.

2.3 All executive functions are vested in the Leader and it is the Leader’s responsibility to determine how such functions shall be delegated. This responsibility can be a simple re-affirmation of the existing delegation of executive functions to the Cabinet, and Officers. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard.

3 Current Position

3.1 A Leader is required to be appointed in light of the resignation that has been received.

4 Options/Alternatives

4.1 N/A.

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 N/A.

7 Legal Implications

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

.

8 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

8.1 None.

9 **Key Decision**

9.1 No.

10 **Key Decision Reference**

10.1 N/A.

11 **Appendices**

11.1 None.

12 **Background Papers**

12.1 None.