

Chadderton

Pride in Place

Board Briefing Paper

Date: June 2026

Subject: Options Appraisal Elected Member Representation on
Chadderton Neighbourhood Board (Pride in Place).

For Discussion

1. Purpose

To establish a clear, transparent, and equitable approach for appointing elected member representatives to the Chadderton Pride in Place Board as part of the wider governance review (25th June 2026).

2. Background

- The Board currently includes several elected members.
- Recent new PIP governance guidance now states there can be a minimum of one
- elected member.
- The Board must contain the local MP.
- There is no formally agreed rationale or consistent process for appointments.
- Chadderton comprises three wards: North, Central, and South.
- A governance review requires clarification on:
 - Representation balance
 - Transparency of appointments
 - Alignment with the Board's strategic role

3. Appraisal Criteria

Options have been assessed against the following:

- **Transparency** – Clarity and openness of the process
- **Fair Representation** – Geographic and political balance
- **Continuity & Experience** – Retention of existing knowledge
- **Simplicity & Deliverability** – Ease of implementation
- **Governance Robustness** – Strength of rationale and defensibility

4. Options

Option 1: Retain Current Elected Members (Where Still Serving)

Description

Existing Board members who remain elected councillors retain their positions. Any vacant seat (currently North Chadderton) is filled through an application process, with the Board selecting from applicants.

Implications

- Maintains continuity and relationships
- Introduces partial recruitment process for new members only
- May result in uneven ward representation depending on current membership

Advantages

- Strong continuity and retained experience
- Minimal disruption to Board operations
- Straightforward to implement
- Introduces some transparency through recruitment of new member

Disadvantages

- Lacks a fully equitable or consistent process
- Could be perceived as favouring existing members
- Does not fully align representation across all three wards
- Risk of challenge on governance fairness

Option 2: Open Recruitment for Three Ward-Based Seats

Description

All current elected members must reapply.

Three designated seats are created:

- 1 x North Chadderton
- 1 x Central Chadderton
- 1 x South Chadderton

The Board selects one elected member per ward following an application process.

Implications

- Full reset of representation
- Clear geographic balance
- Transparent appointments process

Advantages

- Strong governance and transparency
- Ensures fair representation across all wards
- Creates a clear and defensible rationale
- Encourages active participation and commitment

Disadvantages

- Loss of continuity if existing members are not reselected

- More complex and administratively demanding
- Potential for perceived competition between councillors
- May disrupt existing Board dynamics

Option 3: Single Elected Member Representative

Description

Only one elected member sits on the Board.

All interested councillors apply, and the Board selects one representative.

Implications

- Simplifies structure significantly
- Reduces direct political representation
- Relies on one individual to represent all wards

Advantages

- Clear and simple governance model
- Highly transparent selection process
- Reduces risk of politicisation of the Board
- Focuses representation through a single accountable voice

Disadvantages

- Limited geographic representation
- Risk that one member cannot fully represent all ward interests
- Reduced democratic visibility on the Board
- Potential stakeholder concern about reduced member involvement

5. Comparative Summary

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Transparency	Medium	High	High
Fair Representation	Medium	High	Low
Continuity	High	Medium	Low
Simplicity	High	Medium	High
Governance Robustness	Medium	High	Medium

6. Key Considerations

- The balance between continuity vs. transparency is central.
- Alignment with the Board's role (strategic vs. representative) is critical.
- Perceptions of fairness and openness are likely to influence stakeholder confidence.
- Geographic representation may be particularly important given the three-ward structure.

7. Suggested Way Forward

If prioritising:

- **Stability and minimal disruption** → Option 1
- **Strong governance, fairness, and legitimacy** → Option 2 (most robust)
- **Streamlined structure and simplicity** → Option 3

8. Recommendation (Optional Framing)

A preferred option could be Option 2, as it:

- Provides the strongest governance basis
- Ensures fair ward representation
- Establishes a clear, repeatable process for future appointments