

COUNCIL

7 MARCH 2018

ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1. Following the death of the former Leader, Councillor Paul Watson, the functions of Leader of the Council have been undertaken by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Henry Trueman. It is convention for the Leader of the Council to be the Leader of the largest political group on the Council. The majority group having elected Councillor Trueman as Leader of the group until the Annual Meeting in May 2018, a nomination will be made for election of Leader of the Council for the same term of office.
2. In accordance with the executive arrangements adopted by the Council in 2009, in normal circumstances, the Leader holds office until the first annual meeting after his/her normal day of retirement as a councillor (unless, for example, they resign or are removed from office prior to expiry of that period.) This therefore means that a Leader appointed at the annual meeting immediately following their election as a councillor will usually serve a four year term, whereas a Leader appointed mid-term will serve a shorter period.
3. Under provisions inserted in the Local Government Act 2000 by the Localism Act 2011, individual local authorities may now determine a different term of office. Whilst it is not proposed that a permanent change be made to the Council's current arrangements, on this occasion, it will be proposed that Council elect the Leader to hold office until the Annual Meeting in May this year.
4. The Leader of the Council is required to appoint a member of the Executive to be their deputy and they hold office until the end of the Leader's term of office (unless they resign, cease to be a member or are removed from office by the Leader). The Leader will inform Council of their appointment of the Deputy Leader and of any changes to Cabinet.
5. **Recommendation**
 - 5.1 Council is recommended to:
 - (i) elect the Leader of the Council, their term of office to be until the Annual Meeting in May 2018,
 - (ii) note the Leader's appointment of Deputy Leader and
 - (iii) note the decision of the Leader in respect of the membership of Cabinet and portfolio responsibilities.

Background Papers

Local Government Act 2000 (Part 1A)

