

Appointment of Chair

19/05/2026

COUNCIL
19 MAY 2026
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1. Summary

1.1. To select a Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That the Liberal Democrat Group be invited to put forward a nomination for the position of Chair for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

3. Details

3.1. The Council's method of electing a Council Chair is based on a points system that was first agreed by Full Council on 8th March 1988 (Minute No 229/88) and 19th April 1988 (Minutes No398/88). Points are allocated to political parties each year in accordance with the number of seats held following local elections in May. Points are then added to an accumulated points total which is carried forward year on year with point deductions being made according to a number of rules set out in the original resolution and attached as an annex to this report.

3.2. Point totals are worked out in advance of each Annual Council meeting and the political party with the most points is given the opportunity to appoint a Chair of their choosing for the duration of the Municipal Year.

3.3. Ahead of Annual Council in May 2025, Labour had the most points and took up the invitation to appoint the Chair for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year. Subsequent to this, and in accordance with Rule b, 39 points were then deducted from the accumulated points total of the Labour group as set out below

Group	Points to carry forward following Annual Council, May 2025
Conservatives	26
Green	9
Labour	-9
Liberal Democrats	24

3.4. Following the District Council Elections on 7 May 2026, points have now been added to each group's total in accordance with the number of members held at the date of this meeting. This gives the cumulative points totals set out below:

Group	Points from May 2025	Additional points following election	Total Points as at 19 May 2026
Conservatives	26	14	40
Green	9	3	12
Labour	-9	2	-7
Liberal Democrats	24	18	42

- 3.5. As the Group with the highest points score, the Liberal Democrat group is invited to appoint the Chair of the Council.
- 3.6. Assuming the Liberal Democrat Group take up the invitation to appoint the Chair then under Rule b, 39 points will be deducted from the accumulated points total of the Liberal Democrat group and the point totals that will carry forward into May 2027 would be as follows:

Group	Total Points as at 19 May 2026	Points to be carried forward to 2027
Conservatives	40	40
Green	12	12
Labour	-7	-7
Liberal Democrats	42	3

4. Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. Under Rule f, in the event that the party group entitled by the points scheme to hold the Chair, refuses to accept the office, 27 points will be deducted from the cumulative points total of that group and, under rule g 20 points would then also be deducted from the cumulative points total of the party group which subsequently accepted the Chair.

5. Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 5.1. None applicable.

6. Financial, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

- 6.1. None applicable.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. The Local Government Act 1972 requires that each year, the Council appoints a Chair. The relevant constitutional provisions are contained in the Appendices to Part 2 of the constitution titled 'ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – METHOD OF ELECTION'.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – Agreed Methodology for Appointment of Chair

ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Scheme Approved by Council on 8th March 1988 (Minute No 229/88) and 19 April 1988 (Minute No 398/88)

- (a) The points scheme to be applied to all party political groups and to any independent Members that may be elected to the Council from time to time.
- (b) The party political group with the most points at the time of the Annual Meeting to be entitled to take the Chair, in respect of which 39 points will be deducted from the accumulated points total of that group.
- (c) Each party political group represented on the Council be awarded one point for each seat held at the date of the Annual Council meeting.
- (d) For the purpose of the scheme, the results of any by-elections held during the year to be disregarded.
- (e) In the event of there being any vacancy on the Council at the date of the Annual Council meeting, the point(s) in respect of the vacant seat or seats be awarded to the party political group whose representative held the seat at the time the vacancy arose.
- (f) In the event of the party group entitled by the points scheme to hold the Chairmanship refusing to accept the office, 27 points to be deducted from the cumulative points total of that group.
- (g) 20 points to be deducted from the cumulative points total of the party group which accepted the Chairmanship in consequence of (f) above.
- (h) Subject to the agreement of all party group leaders if the party group entitled by the points scheme to hold the Chair conceded the office (for whatever reason) no points be deducted from the cumulative points total of that group, provided that the party group which accepted the office willingly agreed to do so subject to the deduction of 39 points from the cumulative points total.
- (i) The Chief Executive is authorised to operate and maintain the points system, and to report on the position of each party political group to the Annual meeting of the Council;
- (j) Any amendments or variations to the scheme to be subject to the formal approval of the Council.
- (k) The points accumulated by independent or temporary political groups which ceased to be represented on the Council to be distributed evenly between the remaining party political groups (or otherwise dealt with as may be agreed between Party Group Leaders).

