

## ANNUAL COUNCIL – 23 MAY 2023

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL - METHOD OF ELECTION

#### 1.1 Summary

To elect the Chair of the Council for the Local Government Year 2023/2024 in accordance with the procedure agreed by Council on 8 March 1988 (Minute No 229/88) and 19 April 1988 (Minute No 398/88) and on the point's scheme ("the schemes").

1.2 In accordance with the above, Members will note that the points total for each political group represented on the Council on 1 May 2023 was as follows: -

Liberal Democrats	40
Labour	21
Conservatives	-9
Green Party	1

1.3 Each political group represented on the Council is awarded one additional point for each seat held at the date of the Annual Council meeting. Therefore, the points total for each political group is: -

Liberal Democrats	40 + 22	= 62
Labour	21 + 3	= 24
Conservatives	-9 + 12	= 3
Green Party	1 + 2	= 3

#### 2. Details

##### 2.1 Background

2.2 For 2022/23, the point's total provided for the Liberal Democrats to nominate the Chair of Council, but the Group Leaders agreed to invoke point (h) of the scheme as provided below and in the appendix to allow the Vice Chair, a Member of the Conservatives, to take up the role as Chair of Council.

*Point 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."*

2.3 Following agreement by the Group Leaders the Conservatives had 39 points deducted from their total points.

2.4 With the Conservatives nominating the Chair of Council the Liberal Democrats nominated the Vice-Chair of Council for 2022/23.

##### 2.5 Unallocated Points

2.6 In 2021 it was agreed that the 9 unallocated points be deleted from the points total having been agreed under point (k) of the scheme detailed below:

*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).*

- 2.7 *Any amendments or variation to the scheme*
- 2.8 Under the scheme for the Election of Chair of Council amendments or variation to the scheme can be made under point (j) but are subject to the formal approval of the Council.
- 2.9 *What happens if a Group wishes to decline to take up the Office of Chair*
- 2.10 The Election of the Chair of Council scheme provides details on what happens if a Group declines to take up the Office of Chair (the full scheme being provided in the appendix below):
- (f) In the event of the party group entitled by the points scheme to hold the Chair 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 Chair in consequence of point (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. *For (h) resolution to be passed all the Group Leaders needed to be in agreement.*

*Appointment of the Vice-Chair of Council*

- 2.11 The Labour Group have advised that they wish to politely decline to nominate a Vice-Chair to Council for the local government year 2023/24 therefore the next Group with the most points is the Liberal Democrat Group who will nominate the Vice-Chair of Council for the local government year 2023/24.

**3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 That the Liberal Democrats nominate the Chair of Council for the local government year 2023/24 subject to the deduction of 39 points.
- 3.2 That with the Liberal Democrat Group nominate the Vice-Chair of Council for the local government year 2023/24.
- 3.3 That the following points total be carried forward:
- |                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Liberal Democrats | 23 |
| Labour            | 24 |
| Conservative      | 3  |
| Green Party       | 3  |

Appendix – Method of Election of the Chair of Council

**ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL –  
METHOD OF ELECTION**

- (2) **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).