

COUNCIL
12 DECEMBER 2023
PART I
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1 Summary

1.1 To select a Chair of the Council for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

2 Details

2.1 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 deduction being made according to a number of rules set out in the original resolution and attached as an annex to this report.

2.2 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.

2.3 At the time of Annual council in May 2023 the total number of points held by each political party was as set out in the table below. The Liberal Democrat group held the most points and were given the option to appoint the Council's Chair for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

	Points carried forward from 2022	Points received following 2023 elections	Total Accumulated points
Liberal Democrats	40	22	62
Labour	21	3	24
Conservatives	-9	12	3
Green	1	2	3

2.4 On 31st October 2023, Councillor Phil Williams resigned from the Council leaving a vacancy in the office of Chair. The methodology agreed by the Council is silent on what should happen in the event that a Chair steps down partway through the year. Therefore, an assumption has been made that as the Liberal Democrat group earned the right to appoint the Chair for the totality of the 2023/24 Municipal Year then they should have the opportunity to appoint a Chair for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 In the event that the Council elects the Vice-Chair to sit as Chair for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year then it will be necessary to appoint a new Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 None applicable.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 None applicable.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no direct legal implications. The relevant constitutional provisions are contained in the body of the report.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 None applicable.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Liberal Democrat Group be:
- i. invited to put forward a nomination for the position of Chair for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.
 - ii. Invited to make a nomination for the position of Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year if a vacancy occurs as a result of recommendation i.

ANNEXES

Annex 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).