

**COUNCIL  
21 MAY 2024  
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

**1 Summary**

1.1 To select a Chair of the Council for the 2024/25 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 8<sup>th</sup> March 1988 (Minute No 229/88) and 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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. Subsequent to this, and in accordance with Rule b, 39 points were then deducted from the accumulated points total of the Liberal Democrat group as set out below.

	Points as at Full Council May 2023	Points as at 1 May 2024
Liberal Democrats	62	23
Labour	24	24
Conservatives	3	3
Green	3	3

2.4 Following the District Council Elections on 2 May 2024, each group received one additional point for each seat that it held on the date of the Annual Council meeting. This gives the cumulative points totals set out below:

	Points as at 1 May 2024	Additional Points received following election	Total Points as at 21 May 2024
Liberal Democrats	23	21	44
Labour	24	3	27
Conservatives	3	11	14
Green	3	3	6

2.5 As the Group with the highest points score the Liberal Democrat group is invited to appoint the Chair of the Council.

2.6 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 2025 would be as follows:

	Total Points as at 21 May 2024	Points to be carried forward to 2025
Liberal Democrats	44	5
Labour	27	27
Conservatives	14	14
Green	6	6

### **3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 Under Rule f, in the event that the party group entitled by the points scheme to hold the Chairmanship, 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 Chairmanship.

### **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 Appendices to Part 2 of the constitution titled 'ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – METHOD OF ELECTION'.

### **7 Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 7.1 None applicable.

### **8 Recommendations**

- 8.1 That the Liberal Democrat Group be invited to put forward a nomination for the position of Chair for the 2024-/25 Municipal Year.

## **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).