

ANNUAL COUNCIL – 25 MAY 2021

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 2021/2022 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").

In accordance with the above, Members will note that the points total for each political group represented on the Council on 1 May 2021 was as follows:-

Liberal Democrats	33
Labour	15
Conservatives	7
Independent Cllrs Group	2
Unallocated points	5

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	33 + 23	= 56
Labour	15 + 3	= 18
Conservative	7 + 11	= 18
Independent Councillors Group	2 + 2	= 4
Unallocated points	5	= 5

2. Details

2.1 The Labour Group had been entitled to nominate the Chair for the 2021/2022 local government year with that nominee having acted as Vice Chair for the previous year (2020/2021). However the Labour Group formally confirmed in May 2020 that they wished to politely decline to accept the office of Chair of Council in 2021/2022 and accordingly did not put forward a nominee for the Vice Chair position in the last local government year.

2.2 The Election of the Chair scheme provides details on what happens if a Group declines to take up the Office of Chair (the full scheme being provided in the attached appendix):

(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 (f) above.

Under point (f) of the scheme it would mean that the Labour Group would lose 27 points and the Liberal Democrat Group would be able to elect the Chair of Council for 2021/22 with 20 points deducted from their cumulative total (under point (g) of the scheme).

2.3 Members are advised that under Point (h) of the scheme it allows that:

"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 this resolution to be passed all the Group Leaders would need to be in agreement.

- 2.4 In accordance with point (h) of the scheme the Group Leaders were consulted and it was agreed by all 4 of them that no points be deducted from the Labour Group who were entitled to take up the office of Chair of Council but that the Liberal Democrat Group who accepted the office of Chair of Council for 2021/22 willingly agreed to do so subject to the deduction of 39 points from their cumulative total.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Liberal Democrat Group nominate the Chair for the 2021/22 local government year with the deduction of 39 points with the points carried forward to 1 May 2022 to be:

Liberal Democrats	17
Labour	18
Conservative	18
Independent Councillors Group	4
Unallocated points	5

Appendix – Method of Election of the Chair of Council

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 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).