

Notice of Motion 1 :
Amendments to the Constitution and Group Leader's Protocol
Proposed by: Councillor Stephen

Since the introduction of the Committee system, Council has tried to increase the involvement of all councillors in decision making. Various changes to the Constitution have aimed to provide stability and strategic thinking beyond the normal electoral cycle, for Councillors, Council Officers, partners and residents. Council believes the Constitution should be sufficiently flexible to better reflect multi-party democracy in Worcester.

The Group Leaders Protocol stipulates that it should be reviewed every time there is a change in the political composition of the Council.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- i Amend article 6. 1a of the constitution so that, in circumstances of No Overall Control, two joint leaders of the Council will be elected by Council, one from each of the two largest Political Groups, as set out in Appendix 1 to this Motion.
- ii Amend the existing Group Leaders Protocol to: a) specify who should deputise for the Leader if only one Leader has been appointed; b) simplify the rules for appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees; c) alter the rules for appointing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor so that the roles rotate amongst all the Political Groups; all as set out in Appendix 2 to this Motion.
- iii To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any other minor consequential changes to the Constitution that arise from these changes.
- iv To proceed to make appointments in accordance with these changes.

Appendix 1: Proposed Changes to the Articles

ARTICLE 6 - THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.1 Election of the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader of the Council. The Council will elect a Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting.

6.2 Term of Office The Leader of the Council will hold office until:-

- (a) they resign from the office; or
- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or
- (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.3 Election of the Deputy Leader of the Council

The Deputy Leader of the Council will be a Councillor elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Council. The Council will elect a Deputy Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting.

6.4 Term of Office The Deputy Leader of the Council will hold office until:-

- (a) they resign from the office; or
- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or
- (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

ARTICLE 6A - THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

6.1A Appointment of the Leader(s) of the Council

~~In circumstances of no overall political control, the Council will elect two joint Leaders, one from each of the council drawn from the two largest political groups. The Council will elect the two joint Leaders of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting. In the event that one of the two political groups eligible to nominate a Joint Leader elects not to do so, the Council shall elect one Leader only and the other Joint Leader position will be vacant. on an annual basis at its Annual meeting. drawn from the largest political group on the Council and who is elected to the position of Leader of the Council. Where the two largest political groups on the Council have the same number of seats on the Council then two councillors (one from each of the two largest political groups) are to be elected as co-leader.~~

6.2A Term of Office In circumstances of no overall political control, ~~the each~~ Leader(s) of the Council will hold office until:- (a) they resign from the office; or- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or ~~(d) the two largest political groups control the same number of seats on the Council, in which case a co-leader will be elected in accordance with Article 6.1A;~~ or (de) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

6.3 Election of the Deputy Leader of the Council

~~In circumstances of no overall political control, the Deputy Leader of the Council will be a Councillor drawn from **a different** the second largest group on the Council and who is elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Council. Where the Council appoints a co-leader in accordance with Article 6.1A, then the Council shall not elect a Deputy Leader of the Council.~~

6.4 Term of Office In circumstances of no overall political control, the Deputy Leader of the Council will hold office until:- (a) they resign from the office; or (b) they are

suspended from being a Councillor or (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or (d) the two largest political groups control the same number of seats on the Council, in which case a co-leader will be elected in accordance with Article 6.1A; or (e) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

Appendix 2: Proposed Changes to Group Leaders Protocol

2. The Leader of the Council

2.1 The Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

2.2 The Leader(s) of the Council will represent the Council at the Worcestershire

Leaders' Board, the Local Enterprise Partnership and other external partnerships and boards.

2.3 When the Council is in overall political control, the Leader ~~shall~~ will be appointed from the largest Political Group.

2.4 When there is no overall political control, two Leader(s) shall will be appointed, one from each of ~~from~~ the two largest Political Groups. Where for any reason only one Leader has been elected instead of two, the Leader may ask the leader of any political group to deputise for them on an ad hoc basis when required. ~~Where the two largest political groups on the Council have the same number of seats on the Council then two councillors (one from each of the two largest political groups) are to be elected as Co-Leader.~~

3. Deputy Leader of the Council

3.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

3.2 In the event that the Leader of the Council is unable to attend or chair any external body as Leader, then the Deputy will chair or attend instead.

3.3 ~~When the Council is in overall political control, the Deputy Leader will be appointed from the largest Political Group.~~

3.4 When there is no overall political control, there will be no Deputy Leader.

4. Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees

4.1 The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Committees shall be **equally** responsible for agenda setting for their Committee, **with equal access to Officers and information**; all other members of a Committee may request that an item is included on the agenda of the Committee; statutory officers have the right to put an item on the agenda of any Committee.

4.2 ~~When the Council is in overall political control, The Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees will be appointed annually by Council in accordance with the following principles:~~

- The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee will be from different Political Groups;
- There shall be two Vice Chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee, each from different Political Groups and different to the Political Group of the Chair;

- The roles of Chair and Vice Chair shall be allocated to Political Groups in proportion to the number of seats each Political Group has on the Council, subject to the rules on political balance.

~~The Chair of any Committee shall be appointed from the largest Political Group;
There shall be two Vice Chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee, each from different parties and different to the party of the Chair
The Vice Chairs of the Policy and Regulatory Committees may be shared between the Political Groups other than the largest Political Group.~~

~~4.3 Where there is no overall political control, the Chair and Vice Chairs of Committees will be appointed annually by Council in accordance with the following principles:~~

~~The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee will be from different Political Groups;
Each Committee shall have one Vice Chair except for Policy and Resources Committee which shall have two, appointed from the second and third largest Political Groups;~~

~~The Policy Committees shall be paired so that the Chair and Vice Chair is distributed in proportion to the size of each of the Political Groups;~~

~~The Regulatory Committees shall be paired so that the Chair and Vice Chair is distributed in proportion to the size of each of the Political Groups.~~

5. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

5.1 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be appointed in accordance with the following principles:

The Mayoralty shall rotate with a right of first refusal on an annual basis **amongst the Political Groups** ~~between the largest Political Group and the other Political Groups, so that the largest Political Group has the Mayoralty every other year;~~

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall not be from the same Political Group; The

Mayor should normally have served at least one full term of office as a councillor;

The Mayor should normally have served as the Deputy Mayor in the preceding year;

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor must be willing to undertake the duties of Mayor and Deputy Mayor;

Where there is more than one eligible candidate for appointment as Mayor or Deputy Mayor, the appointment may ~~will~~ be based on seniority in terms of number of years served as a councillor.

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