

Motion to Council 16 May 2023

Cllr Lynn Denham

Changes to the Constitution and appointments of Members

Introduction

Following the elections on 4 May, the Council remains in a position of no overall control but the political composition of the Council has changed.

This Motion proposes certain amendments to the Constitution and consequential appointments of Members to reflect power-sharing arrangements which are considered appropriate to the resulting political composition of the Council.

The Group Leaders Protocol stipulates that it should be reviewed every time that the political balance of the Council changes.

This Motion also proposes the cessation of the Income Management Sub-Committee with immediate effect. This is proposed as a measure to reduce the administrative burden of the committee meeting cycle on councillors and officers.

Amendments

The amendments proposed to the Articles (Part 2), Group Leaders Protocol (Part 15) and Responsibility for Functions (Part 3) are set out in the Appendices to this Motion. In summary the purpose of the amendments is:

- (1) To reinstate the principle, removed from the Constitution last May, that the Council should have a Leader and Deputy Leader, even in cases of no overall control. Accordingly, to remove the principle of Joint Leaders;
- (2) To ensure that, when there is no overall control, the Leader of the Council is appointed by Council from the largest Political Group;
- (3) To ensure that the Deputy Leader of the Council is appointed on a basis of a vote of Council, irrespective of whether there is political control or no overall control;
- (4) To delete references to the Income Management Sub-Committee in the Constitution's Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions. Because it is a sub-committee of Policy and Resources Committee, there is no need to re-state its functions anywhere else in the Constitution.

Therefore, Council agrees that, with immediate effect:

1. The Articles, Part 2 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 1, so as to remove the references to Joint Leaders and instead insert new references to the process for appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader even in cases of no overall control;

2. The Group Leaders Protocol, Part 15 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 2, to reflect the new political balance of the Council;
3. The Responsibility for Functions, Part 3, be amended to remove all references to the Income Management Sub-Committee and its functions;
4. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions;
5. The Council now proceed to make the requisite Member appointments in accordance with these new arrangements.