

OPEN

**Council**

**14 May 2025**

**Election of a Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council  
2025/26**

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**Report of: Janet Witkowski, Acting Governance, Compliance and  
Monitoring Officer**

**Report Reference No: C/1/25-26**

**All Wards affected**

**For Decision**

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 To secure as a resolution of Council to elect a Leader of the Council and a Deputy Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2025/26.

**Executive Summary**

- 2 The Constitution states that the functions of full Council include the election of the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council.
- 3 The roles of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council are not formal legal roles, but they are in practice the political heads of the Council.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council;

- 1 Elects a Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2025/26.
- 2 Elects a Deputy Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2025/26

## Background

- 4 The Annual General Meeting of the Council is required to elect a councillor to be the Leader of the Council and a councillor to be the Deputy Leader of the Council for that municipal year.
- 5 The Councillors appointed will hold these offices until:
  - (a) The next Annual Meeting of the Council; or
  - (b) The Leader or the Deputy Leader resigns from the office; or
  - (c) The Leader or the Deputy Leader is no longer a Councillor; or
  - (d) The Leader or the Deputy Leader is removed from the office by resolution of the Council requiring a simple majority, in respect of which the motion has been fully set out in the agenda for the meeting
- 6 The roles of the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council are not formal legal roles, but in practice, these office holders are jointly the political heads of the Council, and the Members with greatest responsibility for driving forward the broad policies of the Council.
- 7 The Council expects that the Leader and Deputy Leader will
  - be the political (rather than ceremonial) leaders of the Council, for the benefit of all the Borough's Communities - its citizens, taxpayers, businesses, public bodies and other public authorities.
  - lead and work with the Council, particularly the Chairs of its Committees and Sub-Committees.
  - lead upon the development of the Council's political vision for the future, policy framework, budgets and strategies.
  - represent and pursue the interests of the Council in the community and at international, national and regional levels.
  - the Leader to serve as Chair of the Corporate Committee.
  - the Deputy Leader will be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Corporate Policy Committee of the Council
  - fulfil the role of Leader and Deputy Leader at full Council.
  - lead in providing political policy direction and guidance to the Chief Executive and Chief Officers.
  - meet regularly to progress the Council's objectives with Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, the Chief Executive and Chief Officers, Leaders of other political groups on the Council, partner organisations, stakeholders, community representatives, government representatives, local Members of Parliament etc

8 The Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council shall be recognised in the following ways:

- They have the right to attend and speak at any meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council, provided that they will only be entitled to vote if appointed as a voting member of that Committee or Sub-Committee.
- To be available to respond to questions at Full Council meetings.
- They establish policy direction, and the Council's priorities, and facilitate discussion thereon.
- To be principal ambassadors for the Borough and the Council (recognising the role of the Mayor).
- They represent the Council on external bodies, as considered appropriate, and make decisions and vote on behalf of the Council at meetings of such bodies.
- To be involved in arrangements relating to major emergencies. They must be informed if an emergency is likely to take place or has been declared under the Council's emergency planning or business continuity procedures.
- They promote and uphold high standards of ethical conduct by Members, and the Council's equalities policies

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

9 To ensure that the Council elects a Leader and Deputy Leader.

## **Other Options Considered**

10 Whilst the Council could choose not to elect a Leader or Deputy Leader, to do so would be contrary to the assumptions made in the Council's Constitution that it will do so.

## **Implications and Comments**

### *Monitoring Officer/Legal*

11 Under the Council's Constitution, appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader can only be done via a decision of full Council.

12 As the Council operates a committee system of decision-making governance, the Leader and Deputy Leader have no formal legal powers and duties vested in them under the Local Government Act 1972, or the Local Government Act 2000. However, in practice, the Council needs to appoint to these offices, and they will be the chief advocates and ambassadors for the Borough.

### *Section 151 Officer/Finance*

- 13 The positions of Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council receive a special responsibility allowance.

### *Policy*

- 14 There are no direct policy implications

<b>Commitment 3: An effective and enabling council</b>
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effective and responsive governance, compliance and evidence-based decision making
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### *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*

- 15 There are no direct implications.

### *Human Resources*

- 16 There are no direct HR implications.

### *Risk Management*

- 17 There is no evident risk associated with the election of a Leader and a Deputy Leader of the Council.

### *Rural Communities*

- 18 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

### *Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)*

- 19 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

### *Public Health*

- 20 There are no direct implications for public health.

### *Climate Change*

- 21 There are no implications relating to climate change.

<b>Access to Information</b>	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	<a href="#">Role of Leader and Deputy Leader</a>