

ANNUAL COUNCIL – 24 MAY 2022

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 2022/2023 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").

1.2 In accordance with the above, Members will note that the points total for each political group represented on the Council on 1 May 2022 was as follows:-

Liberal Democrats	17	
Labour	18	
Conservatives	18	
Unallocated points	9	(this includes the 4 points which were held by the Independent Cllrs Group and 5 previous unallocated points)

1.3 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	17 + 23	=	40
Labour	18 + 3	=	21
Conservatives	18 + 12	=	30
Green Party	0 + 1	=	1

2. Details

2.1 Background

2.1.1 In 2021/2022 local government year the Labour Group had been entitled to nominate the Chair of Council but had politely declined to accept the office in 2020 when they were entitled to put forward a nominee for the Vice Chair position.

2.1.2 The Election of the Chair of Council 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.
- (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. *For (h) resolution to be passed all the Group Leaders needed to be in agreement.*

2.2 In accordance with point (h) of the scheme the Group Leaders were consulted on the election of the Chair of Council for 2021/22. They were asked to agree 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 did accept the office of Chair of Council for 2021/22 willingly did so subject to the deduction of 39 points from their cumulative total. Those points were then deducted.

2.3 For 2022/23, on the current point's totals it would be for the Liberal Democrat Group to nominate the Chair of Council.

2.4 For the current Vice-Chair, a Member of the Conservative Group, to take up the role of Chair of Council the Group Leaders agreed to invoke point (h) of the scheme as provided below:

“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.”

2.5 The Group Leaders were contacted and it was agreed by them all to invoke Point h to allow the Conservative Group to nominate the Chair of Council for 2022/23 with 39 points to be deducted from their total.

2.6 With the Conservative Group nominating the Chair of Council it is for the Liberal Democrat Group to nominate the Vice-Chair of Council for 2022/23.

2.7 *Unallocated Points*

2.7.1 Council will note that on 1 May 2022 there were 9 unallocated points. Under point (k) of the scheme it states that:

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).

2.7.2 The Group Leaders were contacted and it was agreed that the 9 unallocated points be deleted from the points total.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That the Conservative Group nominate the Chair of Council for local government year 2022/23 subject to the deduction of 39 points.

3.2 That the Liberal Democrat Group nominate the Vice-Chair of Council for local government year 2022/23.

3.3 That the 9 unallocated points accumulated be deleted from the points total.

3.4 That the following points total be carried forward:

Liberal Democrats	17 + 23	= 40
Labour	18 + 3	= 21
Conservatives	18 + 12	= -9
Green Party	0 + 1	= 1

Appendix – Method of Election of the Chair of Council

ELECTION OF CHAIR 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).