

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		15 May 2025	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LEADER FOR 2025/26	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	n/a

1. Purpose of Report and Decision required

- 1.1 Council is asked to appoint the Leader of the Council for a one year term, from this meeting until the Council's Annual Meeting in 2026, and nominations are invited accordingly.

2. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 2.1 In December 2010, the Council adopted the Leader and Cabinet Executive (England) Model, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This took effect from 9th May 2011.
- 2.2 Under this arrangement, Council elected the Leader for a four-year term. The Localism Act 2011 subsequently took out the specification for the Leader to be elected for a four-year term, leaving the duration of tenure to local choice. In 2024, the Council reverted to electing the Leader annually. It is proposed that the Council retains the system of appointing the Leader annually for 2025/26.
- 2.3 The Leader is responsible for –
- determining the size of the Cabinet (3 or more up to a maximum of 10, including the Leader);
 - appointing the members of the Cabinet;
 - allocating portfolios or areas of responsibility to the various Cabinet Members;
 - allocating decision-making powers to the Cabinet and to individual Cabinet Members; and
 - removing and replacing Cabinet Members.
- 2.4 In addition, the Leader is responsible for deciding how the Council's executive functions will be exercised and for making the delegation of executive powers to

officers. Council will still approve a scheme of delegation of non-executive functions to officers and this will be considered later in the agenda.

- 2.5 The Leader must also nominate a Deputy Leader, who will exercise the Leader's powers if the Leader is unable to act, or the post becomes vacant.
- 2.6 Council is, therefore, requested to elect a Leader in accordance with these arrangements.
- 2.7 If more than one nomination is received at the meeting, it is proposed that these will be put to the vote alphabetically by surname, as has happened in previous years.

3. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 3.1 The Council must comply with legislation and therefore must appoint a Leader.

4. Consultations

- 4.1 Prior consultation was not necessary; this is a decision for the Council to take.

5. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None identified
Legal and human rights implications	This process complies with the Localism Act 2011.
Assessment of risk	None identified
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	None identified

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers

- 6.1 HBC Constitution
Localism Act 2011
Report to AGM, 24th May 2011 – Appointment of Leader

7. Freedom of Information

- 7.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.