

Appointment of Leader of Council

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Purpose of the Report

To accept Councillor Ric Pallister's resignation as Leader of South Somerset District Council with effect from 31st August 2018 and to agree to appoint a new Leader of Council with effect from 1st September 2018.

Public Interest

On 10th July 2018, Councillor Ric Pallister submitted to Full Council his resignation as Leader of South Somerset District Council with effect from 31st August 2018. It is requested that a new Leader be elected with effect from 1st September 2018.

Recommendations

It is recommended that in accordance with Article 7.03 of the Constitution:-

- (1) the Council accepts the resignation of the current Leader of the Council, Councillor Ric Pallister, with effect from 31st August 2018;
- (2) the Council today elects a Leader of the Council but with such election to take effect from 1st September 2018.

Report

The Local Government Act 2000 (Part II) and the Council's Constitution require the Council to appoint a Leader of the Council at the start of each Council term. The appointment is normally for the whole of the Council term but the Constitution sets out the circumstances in which the appointment may end.

At the Annual Council Meeting on 21st May 2015, Council resolved that Councillor Ric Pallister be appointed Leader of the Council for the Council term from 2015/16 to 2018/19 (Council minute 8 (1) 2015/16 refers). In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, Councillor Pallister has given notice that he will be stepping down as Leader of the Council with effect from 31st August 2018. This creates a vacancy for the position of Leader of the Council from 1st September 2018, which the Council is being asked to fill at this meeting.

Executive Arrangements

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required the Council to choose a new form of Executive Arrangement and, following public consultation, they adopted the Strong Leader and Cabinet model of executive at their meeting of 10th December 2010. As the "new" model differed slightly from the existing arrangements, certain amendments were required to the Council's constitution and these were agreed in May 2011:-

- A leader to be elected by the full council for a period of 4 years commencing on the day of election and ending on the day of the post 4 year Council election annual meeting.
- Provide for a cabinet comprising the leader and between 2 and 9 councillors appointed by the leader.
- Require the leader to appoint one of the cabinet as deputy leader and for the deputy leader's term of office to match that of the leader, save that the leader can end the appointment at any time and appoint a new deputy leader.
- Provide for the deputy leader to exercise all the powers of the leader in the absence of the leader.
- Allow for full council to remove the leader from office on a vote of no confidence and appoint a new leader.
- Provide for the leader to discharge all of the authority's executive functions or make arrangements for their discharge by the cabinet, a member of the cabinet, a committee of the cabinet or by an officer of the council.
- Maintain the current allocation of "local choice" functions between the executive and the council.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in taking this decision as there will still be the same number of District Councillors and Portfolio Holders. The allowance associated with this appointment can be funded from the existing councillors' allowances budget.

Carbon Emissions Climate Change Implications

There are no specific environmental implications arising from the subject matter of this report.

Equalities and Diversity Impact

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising from the subject matter of this report.

Background Papers

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
 District Executive Agenda and Minutes of meetings held on 2nd September & 2nd December 2010
 Council Agenda and Minutes of meetings held on 16th September & 9th December 2010 & 19th May 2011
 Council Agenda and Minutes of meeting held on 21st May 2015.