

Appointment of the Leader of Swindon Borough Council

Council

Date: 11th April 2013

Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 It is necessary under the provisions of the Council's Constitution (Article 7 of the Constitution and the Council's Procedure Rules (Standing Orders)) for the Council to make appointments to the office of Leader of the Council.
- 1.2 The Council adopted the Leader-Cabinet executive arrangement at its meeting held on 16th December 2010 (Minute 87 2010/11 refers). In accordance with this decision these arrangements became effective on the third day following the 2011 local elections, in accordance with Section 33F of the Local Government Act 2000.
- 1.3 The Director of Law and Democratic Services has been advised of Councillor Roderick Bluh's intention to resign from the office of the Leader of the Council on 1st April 2013.

2. Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Appoint the Leader of Swindon Borough Council.
- 2.2 To note the appointment of a Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members by the newly elected Leader of the Council.

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is a function of Swindon Council's Constitution that the Council appoint a Leader of the Council.
- 3.2 In accordance with Section 7 of the Council's Constitution the Leader will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council. The Leader's term of office ends on the day on which the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor or until:
 - (a) He/she resigns from the office; or
 - (b) He/she is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
 - (c) He/she is no longer a Councillor; or

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks, Direct Dial 463606, sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

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(d) He/she is removed from office by resolution of the Council following Notice of Motion having been given in accordance with the Council's procedural rules (Standing Orders). In the event of the Leader being removed from office by resolution of the Council, the new Leader may be appointed at the same or a subsequent meeting.

- 3.3 The Leader's term of office ends on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor (subject to the provisions of paragraph 2.2 above).
- 3.4 Councillor Roderick Bluh has given formal notice of his intention to resign from the office of Leader of the Council at the Council meeting on 11th April 2013.
- 3.5 The Conservative Group have nominated Councillor David Renard as Leader of the Council. If appointed, Councillor Renard's term of office would end in the Annual Council meeting in May 2015.
- 3.6 Following the appointment of a Leader of the Council, a list of those appointed to serve as Deputy Leader and Members of the Cabinet will be tabled. These appointments are made by the Leader of the Council and are tabled for Members' information.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications.
- 5.2 The posts of the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council receive Special Responsibility Allowances.
- 5.3 These Allowances are for the Leader of the Council £19,674.46 and for the Deputy Leader £11,698.67.
- 5.4 Members of the Cabinet receive Special Responsibility Allowances. The Allowance for portfolio holders is £9,836.68.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.5 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report. The Council is required to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and associated Regulations and Statutory Instruments.

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All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.6 There are no specific implications that relate to staff, sustainability, health, rural, crime and disorder within this report.

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.7 The delivery of effective, accountable and transparent decision-making by the Council directly links to those parts of the current Corporate Plan relating to the “Service Improvement” and “Transforming the Organisation”.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.8 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report. This is because it relates to the appointment of the Leader of Swindon Borough Council, with no changes to staffing, budget or service eligibility criteria.

Risk Management

- 5.9 A risk assessment has not been completed as this report refers specifically to the appointment of the Leader of the Council.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Swindon Council Constitution

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.