

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council **DATE:** 23rd November 2021

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(For all enquiries) Democratic Services Lead

WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

RE-ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1 **Purpose of Report**

To elect the Leader of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution following the expiry of the Leader's term of office on 28th November 2021.

2. **Recommendations**

The Council is requested to resolve that Councillor Swindlehurst be re-elected as Leader of the Council until the annual council meeting following the local government elections in May 2023.

3. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Effective, transparent and equitable democratic and decision-making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Legal Implications**

The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities which operate Executive arrangements to include provision for the election of a Leader, including where there is a vacancy in the office. Arrangements may include provision with respect to the term of office of the Leader.

Article 7 (The Executive) of the Council's Constitution states that:

"6. The Leader will hold office for a term of four years starting on the day of his or her election as Leader at the annual meeting, unless his or her term of office as a Councillor is shorter, in which case his or her term of office as Leader will be the same as his or her term of office as a Councillor. If there is a vacancy in the position of Leader, the Leader will be elected at the first meeting of the Council following such a vacancy for a term of four years starting on the day of his or her election as a Councillor, unless his or her term of office as a Councillor is shorter, in which case the term of office as Leader will be the same as his or her term of office as a Councillor, subject to paragraph 7 of this Article. Where the Leader is replaced during his or her term of office, then the new Leader is elected at the meeting where the former leader is removed from office or at a subsequent meeting."

A report elsewhere on the agenda seeks approval to amend Article 7. The proposed changes are consistent with the recommendation in this report.

(b) Financial Implications

None.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 Councillor Swindlehurst was elected as Leader of the Council on 28th November 2017 for a period of four years. The term of office as Leader of the Council therefore expires on 28th November 2021.

5.2 The Labour Group has indicated that it will nominate Councillor Swindlehurst for re-election as Leader of the Council. In accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution it is proposed that the term of office as Leader be aligned to Councillor Swindlehurst's term of office as a Member. Councillor Swindlehurst was most recently elected as a councillor in May 2019 with a term of office until May 2023.

5.3 The recommendation to Council is therefore to re-elect Councillor Swindlehurst as Leader of the Council until the annual meeting of Council after the local government elections in May 2023.

6. Appendices

None.

7. Background Papers

Article 7 (The Executive) of the Council's Constitution.