

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 13th March 2014
Report for: Decision
Report of: Chief Executive

Report Title

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Summary

To elect the Leader of the Council and note that the Leader will appoint the Deputy Leader, decide the composition of the Executive and appoint the Membership of the Executive.

Recommendation(s)

Council is requested to:

1. note the intended resignation of Councillor Matthew Colledge as Leader of the Council with effect from 13th March 2014
2. elect a Leader of the Council and note the term of office.
3. note the appointment of Deputy Leader, the composition and powers of the Executive and its membership for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year,

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Peter Forrester
Extension: 1815

Background Papers: None

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 2nd December 2009, the Council approved a new style 'strong' Leader and Cabinet model of executive leadership, in accordance with the Local Government and Health Act 2007. The Act required changes to the leadership of Councils giving only two options, both of which place all executive powers in the hands of one individual, who, in the normal course of events, will serve an uninterrupted 4 year term. The Council's new Executive Arrangements came into operation on 6th May 2010.

2.0 Leader and Cabinet (Executive)

- 2.1 Under this model the Council generally appoints the Leader for a fixed term of office of 4 years. The Leader then appoints a Cabinet but also determines the size of the Cabinet (within the statutory minimum and maximum of 3 and 10). Under these executive arrangements provision must be made for the appointment of a Deputy Leader with power to act in the Leader's absence. Again the Deputy Leader is appointed (and may also be removed) by the Leader.
- 2.2 The term of office of the Leader is from the date of election as Leader to the first annual meeting after their normal day of retirement as a councillor i.e. up to 4 years. Thus, a Leader needing to seek re-election as a councillor before the end of the maximum 4 year term will be elected for a shorter term.
- 2.3 The Council includes provisions in its Constitution whereby the Council may remove the Leader from office at any time (if the Council did not include such provision for the mid term removal of the Leader, the Leader would remain in office for their full term). The Council's Constitution states that the Leader shall hold office until:
- (a) (s)he resigns from the office; or
 - (b) (s)he is disqualified from being a councillor; or
 - (c) (s)he is no longer a councillor; or
 - (d) the first Annual Meeting after their normal day of retirement as a councillor save that the Council may by resolution remove the Leader from office at an earlier date.

3.0 Resignation of Leader

- 3.1 Councillor Matthew Colledge was appointed as Leader of the Council on 24th May 2011 for a period of four years (until May 2015). Councillor Colledge has indicated that he wishes to resign from the office on the 13th March 2014 and, in accordance with the constitution a meeting has been arranged to appoint a replacement as Leader.
- 3.2 I have received one nomination for the position of Leader of Councillor Sean Anstee. Councillor Anstee was elected onto the Council in May 2008 and re-elected 2012 and if elected to the position would serve until 2016, subject to the provisions of the constitution outlined above.

4.0 Deputy Leader and Executive

- 3.1 The Leader is vested with all the authority's executive functions, initially holding all the Council's executive functions under their personal control. It is then for him/her to choose whether to exercise some or all of these functions personally or to make arrangements for their discharge by the executive, a committee of the executive, by an individual member of the executive, or by officers and these arrangements are generally notified at the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- 3.2 The constitution states that the Leader of the Council shall appoint an Executive Member as Deputy Leader with power to act in the Leader's absence.
- 4.2 Executive members are appointed by the Leader of the Council (including the executive member appointed as Deputy Leader) and they hold office until:
- (a) they resign from office; or
 - (b) (s)he is disqualified from being a councillor; or
 - (c) they are no longer councillors; or
 - (d) the Annual General Meeting following the meeting at which they are appointed to the Executive save that the Leader of the Council may remove them from office either individually or collectively at an earlier date.
- 3.3 If elected as Leader. Councillor Anstee has indicated that he would intend to appoint a further 8 Members to sit on the Executive. Details of his proposals for the Deputy Leader position and the composition of the Executive for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year are set out at appendix A to the report. Councillor Anstee has also indicated that he would retain the existing Executive Scheme of Delegation for this period.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 Council is requested to:
1. note the intended resignation of Councillor Matthew Colledge as Leader of the Council with effect from 13th March 2014
 2. elect a Leader of the Council and note the term of office.
 3. note the appointment of Deputy Leader, the composition of the Executive and the membership of the Executive for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year. There are no proposals to amend the existing Executive Scheme of Delegation at this stage.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE 2013/14

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>PORTFOLIO</u>
Sean Anstee (Leader)	Finance
Michael Young (Deputy Leader)	Adult Social Services
Dr. Karen Barclay	Community Health and Wellbeing
Michael Hyman	Economic Growth and Prosperity
Michael Cornes	Education
Alan Mitchell	Highways and Environment
Jonathan Coupe	Safe and Strong Communities
Miss Linda Blackburn	Supporting Children and Families
Alex Williams	Transformation and Resources