

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 25 JANUARY 2006

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

11 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that (A) the resignation of Councillor M G Carver from the office of Leader of the Council be noted;

(B) Councillor A P Jackson be appointed Acting Leader of the Council and the overall number of Members of the Executive be set at 7 until such time as a Leader of the Council is elected;

(C) the position of Acting Leader be vested with the duties and responsibilities identified for the Leader of the Council within the constitution; and

(D) the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Leader of the Council be paid to Councillor Jackson for the duration of his term as Acting Leader.

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1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To appoint an Acting Leader of the Council following the resignation of Councillor M G Carver from the office of Leader of the Council

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 Political leadership is a key element to ensure the delivery of all the Council's corporate objectives.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Council's constitution details the circumstances when the Leader of the Council ceases to hold that position.

3.2 One of these circumstances occurs when the Member resigns from that office. Notice has been received that Councillor Carver has resigned as Leader of the Council.

- 3.3 Council will, as a consequence, be invited to appoint a new Leader to hold that office for the period ending with the day of the next ordinary election of Councillors. It is anticipated that the election of a Leader will take place at the Council meeting on 1 March 2006.
- 3.4 In the interim, Council is invited to appoint an Acting Leader (in this case the current Deputy Leader of the Council). Further, it is suggested that the Acting Leader should receive, during their term of office, the Special Responsibility Allowance that the Leader would receive (this would be instead of the allowance received as Deputy Leader).
- 3.5 It is recommended that, for the sake of clarity, the position of Acting Leader be vested with the duties and responsibilities identified for the Leader of the Council within the constitution. Accordingly, the Acting Leader will be able to appoint Members to serve on the Executive. It is for Council to determine the size of the Executive. For the interim period, Council is requested to set the overall size of the Executive at 7. Following the appointment of a Leader, the Executive size will revert back to the Leader, Deputy Leader and five members.
- 4.0 Legal Implications
- 4.1 The Leader should be appointed in accordance with the Constitution.
- 5.0 Financial Implications
- 5.1 There will be a small saving on Members' allowances if the arrangements as detailed in this report are approved.
- 6.0 Human Resource Implications
- 6.1 There are no human resource implications.
- 7.0 Risk Management Implications
- 7.1 Failure to identify a political leader for the Authority could impact on the delivery of the Council's priorities.
- 8.0 Conclusion
- 8.1 Council is invited to approve the recommendations at the head of this report.

Background Papers

None.

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