

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 22 FEBRUARY 2006

9. REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that (A) Councillor A P Jackson be elected  
Leader of the Council;

(B) it be noted that as a consequence of the decision at (A) above,  
the size of the Executive will revert back to the Leader, Deputy  
Leader and five members,

(C) following the appointment of Councillor Jackson as Leader,  
Councillor M R Alexander be appointed Deputy Leader for the  
remainder of the life of the Council; and

(D) the Special Responsibility Allowances payable to the Leader  
and Deputy Leader of the Council be paid to Councillors Jackson and  
M R Alexander respectively with effect from the date of this meeting.

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1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To appoint a Leader of the Council following the resignation of  
Councillor M G Carver from that office.

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. Members will recall that Councillor Carver resigned as  
Leader of the Council.

- 3.3 Council, at its meeting on 25 January 2006, appointed Councillor Jackson as Acting Leader. It also agreed that the overall number of Members of the Executive be set at 7 until such time as a Leader of the Council is elected. Following election of the new Leader, the size of the Executive will revert back to the Leader, Deputy Leader and five members.
- 3.4 Councillor Jackson has been elected as the Leader of the majority political group. It is custom and practice for the Authority to appoint the majority group's leader as the Leader of the Council. The recommendation at the head of this report reflects that custom.
- 3.5 Councillor Jackson was previously appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council on the basis that he would hold that office until the Annual Council meeting in May 2007. Appointing Councillor Jackson as Leader of the Council will mean there is a vacancy in the office of Deputy Leader. It is therefore suggested, following guidance from the majority group, that Councillor M R Alexander be elected Deputy Leader.
- 3.6 Council is invited to confirm that the Special Responsibility Allowances payable to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council be paid to Councillors Jackson and Alexander respectively with effect from the date of this meeting.
- 4.0 Legal Implications
- 4.1 The Leader should be appointed in accordance with the Constitution.
- 5.0 Financial Implications
- 5.1 None.
- 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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