

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



## **WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

### **ELECTION OF LEADER AND DEPUTE LEADER**

#### **REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To secure the election of members as Leader of the Council and Depute Leader

##### **B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To note that the council must elect its Leader of the Council at the first meeting of the council following the local government election, or at any adjournment of it
2. To note that the council may elect a Depute Leader of the Council and that must be considered at the first meeting of the council following the local government election, or at any adjournment of it
3. To elect a member to each of the positions of Leader and Depute Leader of the Council
4. To note that opposition parties or groups may designate members, now or later, to be shadow Leader of the Council and shadow Depute Leader of the Council

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Being honest, open and accountable
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994; Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973; Standing Orders for the Regulation of Meetings; Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007; Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	N/a
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	N/a
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	N/a

**VII Consideration at PDSP** None required

**VIII Other consultations** None

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

- 1 The council must elect a Leader of the Council. Standing Orders require that to be on the agenda for the first meeting of the council following each local government election. The Leader is the council's political head and participates in meetings of COSLA's Leaders Group. The position carries statutory remuneration, presently £39,148. No other remuneration can be paid.
- 2 The council may elect a Deputy Leader of the Council. Standing Orders require that to be on the agenda at that first meeting. Filling the position is not compulsory. There is no automatic right to a higher level of remuneration. They may however receive a Senior Councillor payment if council so determines.
- 3 The chair of a meeting has no casting vote when making councillor appointments. Tied votes are resolved by lot, using a method determined by the Clerk (Chief Executive). The voting procedure is as follows:-
  - A mover and a seconder are required for each candidate
  - Any vote takes place amongst all candidates at the same time
  - Where one candidate has an absolute majority of the votes cast that candidate is appointed
  - If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and another vote is taken amongst the remaining candidates. If required, that is repeated until one candidate has an absolute majority of the votes cast
  - Where there is a tie between the candidates with fewest votes, there is an extra vote to decide which to eliminate. If that vote is tied then the elimination is decided by lot
  - A tie between the last two candidates remaining is decided by lot
  - Voting is by electronic voting where available, which failing by roll call vote or show of hands
- 4 There are no issues in relation to connections and interests. Councillors may vote for themselves.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

- 1 Election of members to the positions of Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council (if desired) will ensure compliance with the law and Standing Orders.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

- 1 None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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**Graham Hope, Chief Executive**

Date of meeting: 12 May 2022