

Part A

Report to: Council

Date of meeting: Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Report author: Democratic Services Manager

Title: Vice Chairman 2021/22 Nominations

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting in March 2019 Council agreed to a new process for the election of the Vice Chairman. This is the second year the process has been used, albeit slightly amended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and having to carry out the voting remotely.
- 1.2 The report provides details of the two councillors nominated for the role of Vice Chairman for 2021/22. It also asks Council to agree an amendment to the voting procedure for future years if more than two candidates are nominated.

2.0 Risks

- 2.1 There are no risks relating to this report.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Council notes the results of the votes for the Vice Chairman 2021/22 and the name of the duly elected councillor.
- 3.2 That the amendment suggested in paragraph 4.8 be included in the voting process with effect from the election of the Vice Chairman for 2022/23.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Donna Nolan, Managing Director

4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 At Council on 26 January 2021 the Chairman, Councillor Dychton, informed members that the Democratic Services Manager would be in contact in February seeking nominations and voting. This was required as Council would still be

required to be held virtually and it would impose difficulties to hold a secret ballot.

4.2 On 11 February the Democratic Services Manager wrote to all members informing them of the procedure to elect the Vice Chairman for 2021/22 prior to the next Council meeting, when the Chairman would announce the result of the vote and name the Vice Chairman for 2021/22. The deadline for nominations was Monday 22 February.

4.3 The Democratic Services Manager received two responses, listed below alphabetically by surname with details of their proposer and seconder-

- Councillor Favour Ezeifedi
Proposed by Councillor Sohail Bashir and seconded by Councillor Nigel Bell
- Councillor Amanda Grimston
Proposed by Mayor Peter Taylor and seconded by Councillor Karen Collett

Each councillor was asked to provide a statement and these are attached as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively to this report.

4.4 Prior to informing all members of the candidates, the Democratic Services Manager checked that none of the nominees' terms of office were due to expire before May 2023. Both nominees were eligible.

4.5 The Democratic Services Manager emailed all members individually on 24 or 25 February advising them of the two nominees together with their supporting statements and that the deadline for voting was Friday 5 March. A text was also sent to advise that the voting details had been circulated individually.

4.6 The Chairman will announce the final result at Council on 16 March.

Proposed voting arrangements when there are more than two nominees

4.7 A request has been received from the Liberal Democrat Group that when there are more than two candidates it should be carried out by a first, second and third choice or more if necessary. The counting would be carried out until one person has more than 50% of the vote.

4.8 It is proposed that the council uses a single transferable voting system.

- Candidates listed on ballot paper.
- Members will indicate on the ballot paper the order of their preferred choice.
- The votes will then be counted. If no candidate achieves over 50.0% of the vote in the first round, the votes for the candidate in last place will be taken and any second choices indicated will be allocated as appropriate to the

remaining candidates. This will continue until one candidate reaches more than 50.0% of the vote.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that the cost of the Vice Chairman role is met from the Members allowances budget.

5.2 **Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)**

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that Council agreed this process for selecting the Vice-Chairman in 2019. The Vice-Chairman will automatically be nominated as Chairman at the end of their year term.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 Nominations were open to all councillors except the Elected Mayor, the current Vice Chairman, Councillor Mauthoor, and any member whose term of office was due to expire May 2021 or May 2022. This is to ensure a continuity of the position or having to repeat the process at Annual Council.

5.4 **Staffing**

5.4.1 None

5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 None

5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 None

5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statement from Councillor Ezeifedi

Appendix 2 – Statement from Councillor Grimston

Background papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.