

<b>Item No.</b> 3.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 16 September 2020	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
<b>Report title:</b>		Election of Leader of the Council	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Appointment of leader of the council

1. That council assembly appoint a leader of the council.
2. That council assembly notes that the leader's term of office shall commence immediately, and end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary election (May 2022), unless as otherwise specified in Article 6.3 of the constitution (see paragraph 7).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Councillor Peter John was first elected as leader of the council in 2010. He was re-elected for a four-year period at the annual council meeting held on 21 May 2018. On 26 February 2020, the leader informed council assembly that at the council assembly meeting on 25 March 2020, he would be stepping down as leader. Following the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, the leader delayed his departure and this will now take effect at this annual meeting.
4. Officers will seek nominations for the position of leader from the political groups and the independent member and these will be reported to this council assembly meeting.
5. The new Leader would be elected for a period of one year and eight months to make the term of office coterminous with the electoral cycle i.e. up to the next local election in May 2022 (see paragraph 7).

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Appointment of leader of the council

6. The Local Government Act 2000 provisions on executive arrangements were updated by the Localism Act 2011 and the new provision for electing a leader and agreeing the term of office is less prescriptive. It states that a council operating leader and cabinet executive arrangements must make provision for the election of a leader, but it may make provision with respect to their term of office. So, the council no longer has to make provision for a four year term, or indeed any defined term. Under the new provisions, the constitution will retain the clause that allows for the leader to be removed by a resolution of the council assembly.

7. Council Constitution Article 6.3 states:

**Leader**

The leader will be a councillor elected to the position of leader by the council assembly. The leader will hold office until:

- a) he/she resigns from the office by giving notice in writing to the monitoring officer
- b) he/she is suspended from being a councillor under part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension)
- c) he/she is no longer a councillor
- d) he/she is removed from office by resolution of the council assembly.
- e) his/her term of office ends.

The leader's term of office shall commence from the day of his/her election, which will be held at the first annual meeting of the council following the ordinary elections or if a vacancy occurs, the next meeting of the council and will end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary elections.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
The Council's Constitutional	160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2TZ	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

**APPENDICES**

Appendix	Title
None.	

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	7 September 2020	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	7 September 2020	