

## **Divisions affected – All**

**COUNCIL**  
**20 MAY 2026**

### **ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Council is RECOMMENDED to elect a Leader of the Council following the resignation of Councillor Liz Leffman as Leader on the afternoon of 12 May 2026.

#### **Background**

2. Following the conclusion of the Annual Council meeting on 12 May 2026, Councillor Liz Leffman resigned as Leader of the Council.
3. The Cabinet Procedure Rules, Constitution Part 4.1 paragraph 3, deal with the resignation of the Leader and state: “an election to fill the vacancy will be taken at the next ordinary meeting of the Council or at an extraordinary meeting of the Council”.
4. The Monitoring Officer decided to call an extraordinary meeting of the Council at the earliest opportunity, in order to address the fact that the Council does not have a settled position on an executive leader at a time when the Council
  - faces significant budget and policy reform challenges,
  - approaches Local Government Reorganisation with an expected minded to decision from the Secretary of State in July 2026 and
  - has important ongoing discussions within the Thames Valley in respect of Devolution.
5. During the interim period, until the election of a new Leader by the Council, the Deputy Leader will assume the responsibilities of executive Leader.
6. The election will follow the procedure specified in Council Procedure Rule 17.8 which is reproduced in Annex 1.

## **Legal implications**

7. The Monitoring Officer has the power to call an Extraordinary meeting of Council under Council Procedure Rule 3.1 (iii).

Comments checked by:

Jay Akbar, Head of Legal and Governance Services

## **Financial implications**

8. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Comments checked by:

Ian Dyson, Director of Financial and Commercial Services

**Anita Bradley**

**Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer**

Annex: Annex 1 Voting on Appointments

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May 2026