

<b>Council/Committee:</b>	Full Council
<b>Report Title</b>	Election of Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 26 May 2026
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<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Identify exempt information and exemption category</b>	Open
<b>Appendices (if any)</b>	None.

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the election of the Leader of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

## 2. Recommendations

Full Council is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Elect a serving Councillor to the position of Leader of the Council for a four-year term of office, or for the remainder of their current term of office as councillor, subject to that person remaining as an elected member of the Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Council's Constitution.

## 3. Proposals – Reasons for the recommendations

- 3.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Localism Act 2011) Councils that operate a 'Leader and Cabinet'

executive model are required to elect an Executive Leader of the Council for a four-year term of office in alignment to election cycles.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The Council has adopted a Leader and Cabinet form of Executive. The Executive carries out all the authority's functions that are not the responsibility of any other part of the authority, whether by law or under the Constitution.
- 4.2 All ward boundaries within Sandwell Council were subject to review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) over an 18-month period. These new boundaries took effect through whole-council local elections for all seats in all the new wards that took place on 07 May 2026.
- 4.3 Full Council is required to have a Leader. There is a requirement at today's Annual Council meeting that the office of Leader is filled for a four-year period. It is for Full Council to decide who to appoint as the Leader from amongst its Members, but it is a legislative requirement that a Leader be appointed.

#### **5. Alternative Options Considered**

- 5.1 **Option 1 – Not to appoint a Leader.** Full Council is required to appoint a Leader, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the provisions of the authority's Constitution. It is recommended that an appointment be made to the position of Leader of the Council. No other options were considered as this is a statutory requirement.

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 There is a statutory requirement for Full Council to elect a Leader. Consideration of this report by Full Council discharges necessary consultation requirements.

#### **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **8. Legal and Governance Implications**

- 8.1 The Council is required to comply with the provisions within its own constitution and those within the Local Government Act 2002 (as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Localism Act 2011 respectively).

#### **9. Risks**

- 9.1 The recommendations within this report are proposed to mitigate risks associated with governance.

#### **10. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)**

10.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications arising from this report.

## **11. Other Relevant Implications**

11.1 Relevant implications are detailed in the main section of this report.

## **12. Background Documents**

12.1 None.

## **13. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?**

13.1 This report will support the delivery of all Strategic Themes:-

- Growing up in Sandwell
- Living in Sandwell
- Healthy in Sandwell
- Thriving Economy in Sandwell
- One Council One Team Approach.

13.2 Effective governance and decision-making provide the foundation from which the Council delivers and commissions all its services, and the processes by which quality, best value and accountability are ensured.