

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

Councillor Richard Cornelius was elected as Leader of the Council for a four-year period at the Annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2018. On 9 May 2019, the Leader informed the Chief Executive that he had resigned as Leader effective immediately.

Council Constitution, Article 6.1 states:

### **Leader of the Council**

The Leader will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader for a four-year period.

The Leader will hold office until

- (a) she/he resigns from office; or
- (b) she/he is suspended from being a Councillor or is no longer a Councillor; or
- (c) removed by resolution of the Council

If the Council passes a resolution to remove the Leader, a new Leader is to be elected-

- (a) at the meeting at which the Leader is removed from office, or
- (b) at a subsequent meeting.

Full Council Procedure Rules, Section 1 (d) states that the matters to be considered at the Annual Council meeting shall be:...Electing the Leader of the Council for the ensuing four-year period.

The Monitoring Officer and the Head of Legal Practice at HB Public Law have advised that the new Leader should be elected for a three-year period (instead of the four prescribed in the Constitution) to make the term of office co-terminus with the electoral cycle (i.e. up to the next local election in May 2022).

Officers will seek nominations for the position of Leader from the Political Groups and Independent Member and these will be reported to Council as soon as they are received.

**RECOMMEND that Council make an appointment to the position of Leader of the Council for a three-year period (to May 2022) to be co-terminus with the electoral cycle.**