

**COUNCIL**  
**THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026**

**PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: NOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET FOR 2025/26 (INCLUDING SPECIAL INTEREST MEMBER CHAMPIONS)**

REPORT OF: Director - Governance

COUNCIL PRIORITY: Accessible Services; Thriving Communities; Sustainability; Responsible Growth

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the Leader's appointment of members of the Cabinet for 2026/27.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. That the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2026/27 be noted.
- 2.2. That the Members to be appointed as Executive Members of the Cabinet for 2026/27 and the areas for which they will be responsible, as detailed in Appendix 1, be noted.
- 2.3. That the Special Interest Member Champions for 2026/27, their purpose and role, as detailed in Appendix 1, be noted.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and Sections 4.8.1 (a) (vii), 5.2 and 5.3.4 of the Council's Constitution and 2.3 for information purposes.

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1. None.

**5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

- 5.1. The Leader of the Council will inform the Council of the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members for 2026/27.

**6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

## **7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1. As required as one of the choices of political model set out in the Local Government Act 2000, North Hertfordshire Council has adopted a Leader and Cabinet form of executive governance.
- 7.2. Following the Constitutional Amendment Report presented to Full Council on 18 April 2024, section 4.8.1 (a) (vi) of the Council's Constitution was updated regarding the appointment of the Leader of the Council. This will now coincide with the Annual Council meeting following whole Council elections (i.e. ordinarily following all out elections) for a four-year term<sup>1</sup>.

## **8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1. Under section 4.8.1 (a) (vi) of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that Annual Council will:  
  
"elect the Leader of the Council at the first annual meeting following a whole Council election for a four year term".
- 8.2. Under Section 5.2 of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that the Cabinet will consist of:  
  
5.2.1 the Leader of the Council (the "Leader"); and  
  
5.2.2 at least two but not more than nine (or other parameters set by legislation) Councillors appointed to the Cabinet as Executive Members by the Leader."
- 8.3. Under Section 4.8.1 (a) of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that Annual Council will:  
  
"(vii) note the number of Members to be appointed to the Cabinet and the appointment those Members;"
- 8.4. Under Section 5.6 of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that:  
  
"in a joint administration a 'deputy' to an Executive portfolio holder may be appointed. That deputy will be invited to attend relevant meetings of the Executive (formal or informal) where executive functions are discussed, give their opinion and for this to be taken into account by the Executive decision maker or Cabinet, although they are not formally part of the Cabinet Executive nor an Executive decision maker. This does not apply to the Deputy Leader who is appointed to acts as per section 5.4."
- 8.5. Appendix 1 to the report sets out the Leader's appointments to the Cabinet Executive Member positions for 2026/27.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to resignation, retirement, passing of a motion of no confidence, long term absence – i.e. in excess of 6 months; or no longer being a District Councillor through other events, such as '6 month rule', or abolition of ward; in all such cases, the subsequent election of a Leader can take place during any other Full Council meeting and will be for the remaining coterminous election cycle.

- 8.6. In accordance with Section 5.3.4 of the Council's Constitution, it is also required that "within two weeks of being elected as Leader, the Leader will submit to the Proper Officer a Cabinet Scheme of Delegations setting out the responsibilities and delegated authority of each member of the Cabinet and any other delegation of any Executive Function the Leader chooses to make."
- 8.7. For a number of years there have been allocated Member Champions for Learning and Development. This role has, in recent years, been taken on by the respective Group Leaders. However, notification has been given that Cllr Claire Winchester will be the representative of the Liberal Democratic Group for 2026/27.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. As detailed in paragraph 8.2 there can be between 2 and 9 (inclusive) Executive Members appointed by the Leader of the Council. Each Executive Member receives an allowance as set by the Member Allowances Scheme.
- 10.2. Following in year changes to the Executive the budget has now been adjusted and is now based on 8 Executive Members being appointed. That does not preclude the Leader appointing a different number of Executive Members, but there would be a financial impact arising from that decision.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 11.2. There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

**14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 There are no Human Resource implications relating to this report.

**16. APPENDICES**

16.1 Appendix 1 – Appointment of Members of the Cabinet for 2026/27 (***Appendix 1 will be circulated as a supplement when available***)

**17. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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**18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

18.1 None.