

Report to	Council
Date of meeting	14 November 2023
Lead Officer	Gary Williams, Corporate Director, Governance and Business
Report author	Steve Price, Democratic Services Manager
Title	Election of the Chair of Council

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report contains information and a recommendation regarding the election of a Chair of Council for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 municipal year.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. This report is necessary following the death of the Council's Chair, Councillor Pete Prendergast, in September 2023.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Council elects Councillor Peter Scott to the office of Chair of Council for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 municipal year.

4. Report details

- 4.1. On the 9th May 2023 Denbighshire County Council elected Councillor Pete Prendergast as Chair of Council for the 2023 – 2024 municipal year. Fellow members and officers of the Council were deeply saddened by Councillor Prendergast's sudden death in September. Councillor Prendergast had served an earlier term as Chair of Denbighshire Council, for the 2017 – 2018 municipal year, having been elected to the county council in 2015.

- 4.2. The Council has a long-standing commitment to the unopposed election of the Vice Chair of Council to the office of Chair on the expiry of the Chair of Council's term of office. The current Vice Chair of the Council is Councillor Peter Scott. Whilst a Vice Chair can preside at meetings of Council and undertake civic and other duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence, the Council is required in law to have an elected Chair and the recommendation to this report is for the election of Councillor Peter Scott for the remainder of the current municipal year.
- 4.3. The election of Councillor Scott this month would result in Councillor Scott serving only half a term as Chair of Council before his term ended at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2024. The intention shared with the political groups is for Councillor Scott to be the nominee in May 2024 to serve as Chair of Council for the full 2024 - 2025 municipal year, as originally intended (in common with most authorities, Denbighshire seeks to avoid contested elections for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair at the Annual Meetings of Council).
- 4.4. A separate item for the appointment of a Vice Chair of Council is on today's Council agenda.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 5.1. The appointment does not directly contribute to the corporate plan but is necessary for the proper constitution of the Council.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1. There are no additional costs or effects on services from the election of a new Chair of Council.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

- 7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1. The political groups have been consulted on the issues covered in this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. As stated within the report the election of a Chair of Council is a statutory requirement. Costs associated with the office of Chair are contained within existing budgets.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. The election of a Chair of Council is a statutory requirement. No risks have been identified resulting from the report or its recommendation.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1 Local Government Act 1972