

Committee:	Full Council
Report Title	Extension of appointment of Leader
Date of Meeting	04 November 2025
Report Author	Mike Jones, Monitoring Officer and Service Director Governance
Lead Officer	Mike Jones, Monitoring Officer and Service Director Governance
Wards Affected	All
Identify exempt information and exemption category	Not applicable
Appendices (if any)	None.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks Full Council approval to extend the appointment of the Leader until the local elections scheduled for May 2026 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) and the Council's Constitution.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in the report, it is recommended that Full Council:

- 2.1 Endorse an extension to the existing appointment of Leader of the Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Localism Act 2011) and the Council's Constitution until the May 2026 elections.

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 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 At the Council meeting of 07 December 2021, it was resolved that the Leader will be a councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council at its annual meeting for a term of four years. That term expires on 06 December 2025.
- 4.3 All ward boundaries within Sandwell Council have been subject to review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) over the last 18 months, with proposals now finalised. These will take effect through whole-council local elections for all seats in all the new wards in May 2026.
- 4.4 The Council is required to have a Leader. This report seeks approval to extend the term of the existing Leader until the local elections scheduled for May 2026.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 **Option 1 – Not to appoint a Leader.** The 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 and the Constitution states that:

6. Consultation

- 6.1 It is a statutory requirement for the 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. The recommendation to extend the appointment of a Leader ensure compliance with this legislation.

9. Risks

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

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

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. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

12.1 This report will support the delivery of all the Council's Strategic Themes, comprising:

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

12.2 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.