



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to
ANNUAL COUNCIL
14 MAY 2026

LEADERS AND COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL GROUPS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal year to May 2027.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Council considers ratification of the Leader-Designate as Leader of the Council;
- (ii) That the Council elects the Deputy Leader of the Council.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Director of Legal and Governance has been notified that the compositions of the political Groups on the Council are as follows

Conservative Group (9)	Leader	Councillor S J N Morgan
	Members	Councillors: D O Bown J R Burrell-Cook M F L Durham W J Laybourn C P Morley R G Pratt M E Thompson L L Wiffen
Liberal Democrat Group (7)	Leader	Councillor J Driver
	Members	Councillors: S J Burwood S Dodsley K Jennings N D Spenceley P L Spenceley N J Swindle
The Maldon District Independent Group (5)	Leader	Councillor R H Siddall
	Members	Councillors: M G Bassenger A Fittock J C Hughes E L Stephens

District Support Group (4)	Leader	Councillor J C Stilts
	Members	Councillors: L J Haywood K M H Lagan W Stamp, CC
Reform UK (2)	Leader	Councillor A S Fluker
	Members	Councillor M G Neall

3.2 A further four members of the Council are not aligned to a political group. They are:

- Councillor V J Bell
- Councillor A M Lay
- Councillor U G Siddall-Norman
- Councillor S White

3.3 In accordance with the Council's Political Parties and Associated Arrangements, Councillor S J N Morgan is therefore recognised as Leader-designate.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The information is provided for Members to appoint to the posts of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

5.1 The posts of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council work across all corporate priorities but specifically help to contribute to the governance guiding principle, with Maldon District Council working with partners.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The Leader of the Council will be the Council's figurehead and promote customer engagement.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Appointment to posts underpins good governance and reduces risk.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – Appointment to these posts provides member leadership that supports devolution and reorganisation discussions

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Emma Holmes Director of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer.