

Committee:	Governance, Audit and Performance	Date:	8 February 2018
Title:	Election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman		
Report Author:	Simon Pugh, Interim Head of Legal Services	Item for decision:	Yes

Summary

- UDC adopts a two-stage procedure for electing the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Nominations are made at the meeting preceding the Annual Meeting, with the election at the Annual Meeting. This works but may give rise to problems, especially every four years when there is a full Council election.

Recommendations

- That the Committee recommends to Council that it adopt the changes to Article 5 of the Council's Constitution set out in the Appendix to this report to provide for nominations for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be made at the Annual Meeting.

Financial Implications

- None.

Background Papers

- No background papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report.

Impact

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Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None

Workforce/Workplace	None
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Situation

6. UDC adopts a two-stage procedure for electing the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Nominations are made at the meeting preceding the Annual Meeting, with the election at the Annual Meeting. This works but may give rise to problems, especially every four years when there is a full Council election.
7. Issues with the present arrangement include:
 - a. The procedure allows retiring councillors to have a say in nominations, and bars new councillors elected in May from the nomination process;
 - b. By convention, speeches in support of nominations are made at the April meeting but not at the Annual Meeting. New councillors will not have heard speeches made at the April meeting.
 - c. It is not clear what benefit the current two-stage process has.
8. In most years, this is not a major issue, but it could be significant every fourth year, when all Council seats are contested.
9. Suggested amendments to Article 5 of the Constitution are set out in the Appendix to this report.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
This proposes a small improvement to the current procedure. There are no significant risks associated with the proposal.	1	1	None needed.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Appendix 1.

5.1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

5.1.1. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be elected by the Council annually as the first business at its annual meeting.

5.1.2. Nominations for the posts of Chairman and Vice- Chairman for the Council year shall be made at the ~~last ordinary meeting of the Council prior to the~~ annual meeting.

~~and at the annual meeting the Chairman and Vice- Chairman shall be elected from those so nominated. If any person nominated as Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall no longer be a Member of the Council at the date of the annual meeting or informs the Chief Executive that he or she no longer wishes to be considered for such office at or before the annual meeting then alternative candidates may be proposed at the meeting.~~

5.1.3. Any casual vacancy in the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall be filled at the first ordinary meeting of the Council after such vacancy occurs.