

**DECISION OF THE LEADER – 14TH June 2022****CHAIRMANSHIP – MEMBER DEVELOPMENT MEMBER REFERENCE GROUP****Purpose of Decision**

To confirm the appointment of the Chair of the Member Development Member Reference Group (MDMRG)

**Decision**

That Councillor Margaret Smidowicz be confirmed as Chairman of the Member Development Member Reference Group (MDMRG) for the remainder of the term of office until May 2023.

**Reason**

To ensure continuity of Chairmanship of the MDMRG until the May 2023 elections.

Appointments such as this are within the gift of the Leader and this decision confirms that appointment.

**Background**

The Council, the Cabinet, the Leader, the Chief Executive and, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Strategic Support, strategic directors and heads of service, may from time to time establish member reference groups (MRGs), working parties, advisory bodies, project boards or other suitable groups which include in their membership Councillors and/or officers and/or representatives from partner organisations or the local community.

These are not constituted as committees or sub-committees and are not authorised to make decisions on behalf of the Council.

The Constitution in Chapter 22 (paragraph 18) describes the role of a Cabinet Lead Member as chairing Member Reference Groups. As such it has been custom and practice that the Cabinet Lead Member for Strategic Support be appointed Chair of the MDMRG. Councillor Smidowicz was the Cabinet Lead Member for Strategic Support until she was appointed Deputy Mayor on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 and therefore stepped down from the Cabinet.

It is within the gift of the Leader to make such appointments and as Councillor Smidowicz has shown a willingness to continue chairing until the May 2023 elections, the Leader has decided to confirm this appointment.

The Member Development Reference Group roles are to:

- To monitor the Member Development Strategy and undertake an annual “light touch” review of the implementation and effectiveness of the Strategy;
- Identify the development needs of Members and develop the Member Development Programme within budgetary constraints;
- To ensure linkage to Council aims, priorities and objectives;
- To champion and promote development opportunities, review outcomes and evaluate the effectiveness of the Member Development Programme;
- To promote member engagement and participation and report on attendance;
- To demonstrate continuous improvement;
- To proactively encourage opportunities for prospective Councillors to understand the role of Councillor before standing for election;
- To agree the Induction Programme;
- A nominated member of the group to attend the East Midlands Councils Member Development Group where appropriate;
- To provide a steer and actively participate in the re-accreditation to the East Midlands Member Development Charter
- Provide, if necessary, a mechanism for the consideration and approval of training where there are competing requests;
- Monitoring expenditure within the Member Training budget.

#### Financial Implications

None as the Chair of a Member Reference Group is not remunerated.

#### Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Morgan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Signed:

Councillor Jonathan Morgan, Leader of the Council

Date:

14 June 2022

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Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None