

Following the outcome of the local elections in Elmbridge held on 3rd May 2018, a position of "no overall control" was reached with the overall representation being; Conservatives 24 seats; Residents' Associations 13 seats; Liberal Democrats 9 seats and Hinchley Wood Residents' Association 2 seats.

As part of the consideration of the best way of forming an administration for the coming year the respective Group Leaders have discussed the options in a conciliatory and constructive way. At the heart of these discussions is a strong desire to serve the best interests of local residents and all Councillors are committed to establishing an agreed way forward at the Annual Council meeting on 16th May.

In order to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Council over the coming year it is our intention to work in a way that builds on work undertaken in recent months and which benefits from a degree of continuity that respects the previous efforts of Members and officers.

The Mayor does not intend to use his/her vote at Council meetings, but in order to ensure that the key decisions of the council are passed, specifically those relating to the budget and local plan, should the need arise, the Mayor will use his/her casting vote in favour of the Administration and will otherwise not exercise his/her casting vote. It is agreed that for the Local Plan, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor may wish to participate in discussions and vote. This will be made explicit prior to the meeting. In so far as any aspect of the local plan needs to come before the full council, its consideration and determination will be held under committee rules in full council.

We have also agreed that in order to separate the Mayoral role and responsibilities from the day to day operations and politics of the council we will not, for political group purposes, nominate the Mayor to be a member of any committee or sub-committee. This will protect the Mayor from becoming embroiled in political issues and will maintain a civic position above the day to day lobbying and associated politics. In contrast, we agree that the Deputy Mayor may be nominated to be a member of committees and sub-committees as appropriate (but not take positions as Chairman or Vice Chairman) and will be discouraged from becoming too closely associated with political debates and activities.

During the 2018/19 municipal year it is our intention to review these and other aspects of protocol to assess their appropriateness for permanent application.



Cllr. Andrew Davis, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Cllr. Tim Oliver, Leader of the Conservative Group



Cllr. Stuart Selleck, Leader of the Residents' Association Group



Cllr. Janet Turner, Leader of the Hinchley Wood Residents' Association Group

