

ARTICLE 7 - THE CABINET

LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER WITH CABINET

7.01 Role

The Cabinet is the Council's major decision making body, although certain important but limited powers are reserved to Council and the Regulatory, Employment Standards and Planning Committees. Cabinet's role is to provide effective strategic leadership to the Council and to ensure that the Council effectively discharges its legal responsibilities and role in the community.

7.02 Form and composition

Cabinet will consist of a Leader together with at least 2, but not more than 9, councillors appointed to Cabinet by the Leader. (Cabinet shall comprise of no more than 10 members including the Leader.)

7.03 Leader (known as Leader of the Council)

Such election will normally be made at the Annual meeting following the election of a new Council and will last for four years, but a new Leader may be appointed at any time on the occurrence of one or more of the events described at (a) to (e) below.

The Leader will be a councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council and will hold office until:

- (a) The Annual meeting after their four year period expires;
- (b) When the Council removes them from the position (which can be at any time);
- (c) they resign from the position;
- (d) they are suspended from being a councillor (although they can resume the position at the end of the suspension); or
- (e) they cease to be a Councillor.

The Deputy Leader will deputise for the Leader in their absence.

7.04 Other Cabinet members

- Only councillors may be appointed to the Cabinet;
- There cannot be co-optees and no deputies or substitutes for Cabinet members;
- Neither the Chair nor Vice Chair of the Council may be appointed to the Cabinet and members of the Cabinet (including the Leader) may not be members of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- Cabinet members, including the Deputy Leader, will be appointed by the Leader.

Other Cabinet members shall hold office until any of the following occurs:

- (a) they resign from office;
- (b) they are suspended from being councillors (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension);
- (c) they are no longer a councillor;
- (e) they are removed from office at any time by the Leader; or
- (f) they fail to attend any Cabinet meetings or if they are portfolio holders, fail to discharge any of the functions of a portfolio holder for six months without having obtained Council approval.

7.05 Portfolio Holders

The Leader may appoint from among the Cabinet members, Portfolio Holders who will act as spokespersons for the service areas and may be given delegated authority by the Council to take Executive decisions within these areas. The current Portfolio Holder remit is set out in Part 7 as Part of the Management Structure.

7.06 Proceedings of the Cabinet

Proceedings of the Cabinet shall take place in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules and the Council Procedure Rules (in part) and set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

7.07 Responsibility for functions

The Monitoring Officer and/or Chief Executive will maintain a list in Part 3 of this Constitution setting out which individual members of the Cabinet, committees of the Cabinet, officers or joint arrangements are responsible for the exercise of particular Cabinet functions.