

Article 5 - The Leader and the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council is the Councillor who is the political Head of the Council. This article explains how the Leader is elected and what they do. It also explains how the Cabinet works and what it does. The Leader and Cabinet model are part of the Council's Executive arrangements. More information about the Cabinet is set out in Part 3 of the Constitution.

2.5.1. Leader of the council

Election

At the Annual Meeting, Council will elect a Councillor to be the leader of the council ("the Leader")

Role

The Leader is the political leader of the Council who, together with the Chief Executive, provides overall leadership of the Council and its staff.

The Leader will normally Chair meetings of the Cabinet, will lead in the formulation, co-ordination and presentation of the Cabinet's policies and will work closely with the Chief Executive on the carrying out of policies by the Council.

Ceasing being leader of the Council

The Leader will stay as the Leader of the Council until:

- a) four years from the date of their election; or
- b) they resign from office; or
- c) they are suspended from being a Councillor, although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension; or
- d) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- e) they are removed from office by resolution on notice at a Council meeting; or
- f) by simple resolution of a motion without notice at a meeting of Council following a change in political control of the Council, as signalled to the Monitoring Officer, a change in political control being a change in the composition of the various political groups such that a different group or combination of groups now comprise a majority of the membership of the Council.

If Council passes a resolution to remove the Leader as outlined in (e) or (f) above, it will elect a new leader at that or a subsequent meeting.

2.5.2. The Cabinet

Role

The Cabinet has responsibility for all functions of the Council which are not by law, or under the functions scheme set out in part 3 section 4, the responsibility of another part of the Council.

Membership

The Cabinet must consist of a minimum of the Leader and two other Councillors up to a maximum of 10 Councillors. The Leader appoints the Cabinet members and shall designate one of the Cabinet members as Deputy Leader.

Functions of individual members of the Cabinet

The Leader will decide what functions will be carried out by individual Cabinet members. The Leader will notify the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer of these functions in writing. The Monitoring Officer will make sure that they are set out in part 7 of the Constitution and Council be informed at its next meeting. Changes to the functions of individual Cabinet members will only take effect when the Leader has notified the Monitoring Officer.

Meetings of the Cabinet

Meetings and other activities of the cabinet must comply with the cabinet rules (part 4 section 4).

The Leader may appoint deputy cabinet members to provide informal support to one or more portfolio areas. Deputy Cabinet Members are not members of the Cabinet, have no delegated Cabinet authority, and may not take Cabinet decisions.

2.5.3. Description of Cabinet arrangements

The following parts of the constitution comprise the Cabinet arrangements:

- the Cabinet rules (part 4 section 4)
- Article 7 - Joint Arrangements
- The functions scheme in part 3
- Cabinet portfolios scheme in part 7
- Budget and policy framework rules in part 4 section 3
- Access to information rules in part 4 section 2