

The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet

This section explains how the Leader of the Council is appointed and what they do. The Leader of the Council is the Councillor who is the political head of the Council.

It also explains how the Cabinet works and what it does.

The Cabinet is a group of Councillors who work with Council staff to run the Council and take most decisions, except those about major policy issues or setting the annual budget (which only the Council can do) or decisions on whether to give planning permissions or licenses which only the regulatory committees can do.

1.1 Leader of the Council

(a) Appointment

Council will elect a Councillor to be the Leader of the Council for a four-year term.

(b) Role

The Leader of the Council will normally chair meetings of the Cabinet. They will lead in the formulation, co-ordination and presentation of the Cabinet's policies and liaise with the Council's Senior Management Team on the carrying out of policies by the Council.

(c) Stopping being Leader of the Council

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

- (i) they resign from office;
- (ii) they are suspended from being a Councillor although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension;
- (iii) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (iv) they are removed from office by Council through a formal resolution.

(Within the legislation there is a requirement for the Leader to nominate a Deputy Leader and provisions for the Deputy Leader to act in the intervening period until Council appoints a replacement Leader if the Leader is unable to do so or the post of Leader becomes vacant)

1.2 The Cabinet

(a) Role

The Cabinet will carry out all functions of the Council which are not the responsibility of another part of the Council, whether by law or under the Functions Scheme.

(b) Membership

The Cabinet will consist of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and one or more Councillors (up to a maximum of 10 including the Leader) appointed by the Leader.

(c) Functions of individual members of the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council will decide what functions will be carried out by individual members of the Cabinet. The Leader of the Council will notify the Monitoring Officer of these functions in writing. The Monitoring Officer will make sure that they are set out in the Functions Scheme. These are set out later in the Constitution.

(d) Meetings of the Cabinet

Meetings of the Cabinet must follow the Cabinet Rules. These are set out in Section 12 of the Constitution.