

ARTICLE 7 - THE EXECUTIVE

7.1 Title, Role and Transitional Provisions

- 7.1.1 The leader of the Council and Cabinet who are in office at the time of the local elections in May 2010 shall remain in office until the annual meeting of the authority following those elections and the scheme of responsibility for the authority's executive functions set out in Part 3.3 of this constitution as at that time shall continue in force unless and until it is amended by the Leader appointed in accordance with article 7.2.2 below;
- 7.1.2 Subject to 7.1.1 above, the authority will operate executive arrangements under section 11(2A) of the Local Government Act 2000 (known as the leader and cabinet executive model) with effect from three days after the date of the ordinary elections of councillors to the authority to be held in May 2010.
- 7.1.3 Under the leader and cabinet executive model the Executive consists of a councillor elected as Leader by the authority and a minimum of two and a maximum of nine councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader. The Executive will carry out all of the authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the authority, whether by law or under this constitution;

7.2 Leader and Deputy Leader

- 7.2.1 The Leader will be a councillor elected to the position of Leader by the authority.
- 7.2.2 The first Leader to be elected under the arrangements referred to at article 7.1.2 shall be elected at the annual meeting of the authority following the ordinary elections of councillors to the authority to be held in May 2010. If the authority fails to elect a Leader at that meeting the Leader shall be elected at a subsequent meeting of the authority.
- 7.2.3 Subsequent Leaders shall be elected by the authority whenever there is a vacancy in the office of Leader.
- 7.2.4 The Leader shall designate one of the other Cabinet members to be the Deputy Leader. The Leader shall give written notice to the authority's Chief Executive and Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support of the appointment of the Deputy Leader and the appointment shall take effect upon the day on which the Chief Executive gives written acknowledgment of receipt of the notice. The Leader, if they think fit, may remove the Deputy Leader from office and where a vacancy in the office of Deputy Leader occurs the Leader must appoint another person in their place. The Leader shall give written notice to the authority's Chief Executive and Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support of any such removal of the Deputy Leader from office or appointment of a new Deputy Leader and the removal or appointment shall take effect upon the day on which the Chief Executive gives written acknowledgment of receipt of such notice.

7.2.5 If for any reason the Leader is unable to act the Deputy Leader must act in the Leader's place.

7.2.6 If for any reason the Deputy Leader is unable to act or the office of Deputy Leader is vacant, the Cabinet must act in the Leader's place or must arrange for a member of the Cabinet to act in the Leader's place.

7.3 Form and Composition of Cabinet

7.3.1 The Cabinet will consist of the Leader, together with at least two, but no more than nine councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader. One of the Cabinet members must be the Deputy Leader.

7.3.2 The Leader may appoint each Cabinet member to be responsible for a specific portfolio of functions. The Leader may make adjustments to the detail of those portfolios or add additional responsibilities as they consider appropriate in the light of operational need. Any such changes shall be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

7.3.3 The Leader shall appoint one Cabinet member to be "lead member for children's services" for the purposes of section 19(1) of the Children Act 2004.

7.3.4 The Leader shall, within five working days of being elected as Leader, give written notice to the local authority's Chief Executive and Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support of the details of which councillors have been appointed to Cabinet, of any portfolios of functions which have been allocated to individual Cabinet members and of which Cabinet member has been appointed as lead member for Children's Services. The Leader shall also notify the Chief Executive and Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support if and when he/she makes any changes to these arrangements. Such arrangements shall take effect upon the day on which the Chief Executive gives written acknowledgment of receipt of such notifications.

7.4 Other Cabinet Members

7.4.1 Only councillors may be appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader. There may be no co-optees and no deputies or substitutes for Cabinet members. Neither the Mayor nor Deputy Mayor may be appointed to the Cabinet and members of the Cabinet (including the Leader) may not be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, or its panels.

7.5 Terms of Office and Removal from Office

7.5.1 The Leader's term of office shall commence upon the day of the Leader's election pursuant to article 7.2.1 or 7.2.2 and, unless article 7.5.2 applies, will expire on the day when the authority holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a councillor. Accordingly the maximum term of office for the Leader is 4 years.

7.5.2 The Leader's term of office will end before the time specified in article 7.5.1 in the following circumstances:

7.5.2.1 The Leader resigns from office. Such resignation shall be effective when the authority's Chief Executive receives written notice of the resignation from the Leader.

7.5.2.2 The Leader is removed from office by resolution of the authority under article 7.6.1.

7.5.2.3 The Leader resigns as a councillor.

7.5.2.4 The Leader otherwise ceases to be a councillor, except in the circumstances provided for in article 7.5.1.

7.5.3 During any period during which the Leader is suspended by the authority's standards committee or by the First-tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England) from being a member of the authority the Deputy Leader shall act in the Leader's place and the Leader shall not be a member of the Cabinet during the term of any such suspension.

7.5.4 The Leader may not be removed from office other than in accordance with this article.

7.5.5 The Deputy Leader is to hold office from the day when they are appointed by the Leader until the end of the term of office of the Leader, unless:

7.5.5.1 The Deputy Leader is removed from office by the Leader in accordance with article 7.2.4. Such removal from office shall be effective when the authority's Chief Executive receives written notice of the removal from the Leader;

7.5.5.2 The Deputy Leader resigns as Deputy Leader;

7.5.5.3 The Deputy Leader ceases to be a member of the authority;

7.5.5.4 The Deputy Leader is acting as Leader pursuant to article 7.6.3 during a vacancy in the office of Leader, in which case the Deputy Leader shall continue to hold office until the election of a new Leader; or

7.5.5.5 The Leader resigns from or dies in office in which case the Deputy Leader shall act as Leader and continue to hold office until the election of a new Leader.

And for the avoidance of doubt in the circumstances described in Articles 7.5.5.4 or 7.5.5.5 the Deputy Leader whilst acting as Leader shall be entitled to appoint a Cabinet in accordance with Article 7.3.

7.5.6 The individual Cabinet members are to hold office from the day when they are appointed by the Leader until the end of the term of office of the Leader, subject to article 7.5.6, unless:

7.5.6.1 They are removed from office by the Leader, or the Deputy Leader acting in the Leader's absence. Any such removal of a Cabinet member from office shall take effect upon the authority's Chief Executive receiving written notice of the removal from office, such notice to be given by the Leader or Deputy Leader as the case may be;

7.5.6.2 They resign as members of the Cabinet; or

7.5.6.3 They cease to be members of the authority.

7.6 Removal from Office of the Leader

7.6.1 The Leader may be removed from office by resolution of the authority.

7.6.2 No such resolution may be considered by the authority unless a notice of motion has been submitted in writing and delivered to the Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support by 10.00 am on the tenth day before the date of the council meeting at which the motion is to be considered. The notice of motion must be signed by not less than one third of the members of the authority.

7.6.3 Where the Leader is removed from office in accordance with article 7.6.1 the authority shall elect a new Leader at the meeting which the Leader is removed from office or at a subsequent meeting. During any period during which the office of Leader is vacant the Deputy Leader will act as Leader.

7.7 Proceedings of the Executive

7.7.1 Proceedings of the Executive shall take place in accordance with the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this constitution. The Access to Information Procedure Rules also contain requirements which apply to the Executive.

7.8 Responsibility for Functions

7.8.1 The Leader will ensure that a list is maintained in Part 3 of this Constitution setting out which executive functions the Leader has allocated to himself / herself and which executive functions they have delegated to the Cabinet, specified individual members of the Cabinet, specified committees of the Cabinet or specified officers of the authority.

7.8.2 The Leader shall provide a copy of that list to the authority's Chief Executive and Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support within five working days of being appointed as Leader and shall notify the Chief Executive and Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning Support in writing of any amendments to that list. Following the appointment of a new Leader, all executive functions will vest in the Leader until the day upon which the Chief Executive gives written acknowledgment of receipt of such a list and any amendments to the list will not take effect until the day upon which the Chief Executive gives written acknowledgment of receipt of such notice of amendment.

7.8.3 Unless the Leader otherwise directs:

7.8.3.1 The Cabinet may arrange for the discharge of any of the executive functions delegated to it by the Leader to be exercised by a committee of the Cabinet or by an officer of the authority.

7.8.3.2 Any member of the Cabinet who has been delegated executive functions may arrange for any of those functions to be exercised by an officer.

7.8.3.3 Any committee of the Cabinet which has been delegated functions may arrange for any of its executive functions to be carried out by an officer

7.8.4 Article 7.8.2 shall not prevent the Leader, the Cabinet, a member of the Cabinet or a committee of the Cabinet from exercising functions which they have previously delegated.

7.9 Executive arrangements in the event of no leader being elected

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7.9.1 If at any time there is no leader and no Deputy Leader in office, any act or function that could otherwise be performed by the Leader may be performed by the Chief Executive [who will act in consultation with the leaders of all political parties]