

## Article 7 – The Council Leader, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and Spokes

### 7.01 Council Leader

The Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee shall be, ex-officio, Council Leader and shall hold office unless and until they cease to be Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee.

### 7.02 Role of the Council's Leader

The role of the Council's Leader is to:

- (a) Provide a focal point for political leadership and strategic direction for the Council; and
- (b) Represent the interests of the Council in circumstances where that is necessary.

The duties and responsibilities are to:

- (a) Ensure effective decision making, including working with all political groups to seek to achieve, where possible, cross party co-operation;
- (b) Be the key contact for outside organisations (including central government, local authority associations and Council partners), and internally for the Council's Corporate Leadership Team;
- (c) Be the representative voice of the Council, for example, in its dealings with central government, other local authorities and their associations, and positively promote the Council within the media; and
- (d) Promote the long-term financial, business and economic stability of the Council.

### 7.03 Deputy Council Leader

The Deputy Council Leader will assume the full powers of the Council Leader in any circumstances in which the Council Leader is unable to act. The Deputy Council Leader will also act as Council Leader if the Council Leader is unavailable. The Vice-Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee shall be, ex-officio, Deputy Council Leader and shall hold office unless and until they cease to be Vice-Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee.

#### 7.04 Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

The Council shall appoint at each annual meeting of the Council:

- (a) The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee which roles shall include the role of Council Leader and Deputy Council Leader of the Council respectively;
- (b) The chair and vice-chair of each of the six Policy and Service Committees; and
- (c) The chair and vice-chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee, Pension Fund Committee and Planning Committee.

The chairs and vice-chairs shall remain in office until the start of the annual meeting following their appointment unless a resolution is proposed at full Council to remove them.

#### 7.05 Spokes

Each of the Council's political groups may designate one of their group members as spokes for each Policy and Service Committee.

The Chief Executive, executive directors, and directors shall hold briefing meetings with their relevant Policy and Service Committee chair and vice-chair to plan the agenda for future service committee meetings and consider any other issues the officer may think appropriate. They will also hold one briefing meeting with all spokes to brief them on the agenda for future service committee meetings and consider any other issues the officer may think appropriate. All these meetings will be confidential subject to any relevant legal requirements to the contrary.

Spokes shall also be entitled to individual private and confidential briefings from executive directors and service directors on any relevant policy matter within the remit of that director. Information shall be provided at these briefings on a confidential basis in accordance with the Guidance on Confidentiality attached to the Members' Code of Conduct. Requests for such briefings must be reasonable in extent and number, as determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant group leader, in accordance with paragraph 7.9 of the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations in Part 5 of the Constitution. Such requests will only be considered for items not covered by a briefing meeting.