

SECTION 6

6. THE LEADER

6.1 Election and Term of Office

6.1.1 In accordance with Standing Orders, the Leader of the Council will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader of the Council. The Leader will hold office until:

- (a) he/she resigns from the office; or
- (b) he/she is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
- (c) he/she is no longer a Councillor;
- (d) the next local government election save that the Council may remove the Leader from office at an earlier date, but only in the event of a vote of no confidence in the Leader or a change in political control of the Council.

6.2 Deputy Leader

6.2.1 Appointment

The Leader may designate one of the Members of the Executive as Deputy Leader.

6.2.2 Duties of the Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader may exercise all the functions of the Leader where the position is vacant or where the Leader is absent or is otherwise unable to act.

6.2.3 Removal from Office

The Leader may, if he/she thinks fit, remove the Deputy Leader from office at any time.

6.3 Functions and Delegated Authority

6.3.1 Membership of the Executive

The Leader appoints and dismisses the Members of the Executive subject only to there being a minimum of two, and a maximum of nine, Members of the Executive (not counting the Leader) at any time.

6.3.2 Role of the Leader

The Leader will chair meetings of the Executive and determine the portfolios of Members of the Executive.

6.3.3 The Executive Scheme of Delegations

The Leader will prepare and submit for approval an Executive Scheme of Delegations setting out the delegations of Executive Functions, including, where the principle has been approved as part of the Council's Executive Arrangements the delegated authority of each Member of the Executive, and thereafter keep this under review and submit updates to the Scheme as appropriate. In addition, the Leader has powers under Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 to discharge personally or to arrange for discharge under others' delegated powers any Executive Functions not covered by the Scheme of Delegations for the time being.

(N.B. No Member of the Executive may have a Deputy, other than the Leader. This means that no Member of the Executive can have responsibilities which mean that they will work to, or under, another Member of the Executive, except the Leader).

6.3.4 Meetings of the Executive

Subject to the requirement to publish notice of each meeting five clear days before it takes place, and other conditions contained in **Section 14**, the Leader can call meetings of the Executive at such times and places as he/she chooses. (N.B. the Head of Paid Service, the Section 151 Officer, and the Monitoring Officer can all, should the need arise, call meetings of the Executive as well.)

6.3.5 Chairing Executive Meetings

The Leader shall chair Executive meetings. In the Leader's absence the Deputy Leader will chair. If the Deputy Leader is not available the Executive will appoint a Member of the Executive to chair the meeting on their behalf by informing the Proper Officer of the person chosen (subject to a quorum of three members of the Executive being present).