

Section 7

The Opposition and Shadow Cabinet

7.1 Role of Shadow Cabinet

- (a) The role of the Shadow Cabinet shall be to oppose, question, challenge and support the decisions of Cabinet as they see fit.
- (b) The Shadow Cabinet shall not act as a Scrutiny Committee or undertake a Scrutiny role as defined in the legislation.

7.2 Form and Composition

- (a) The Shadow Cabinet will consist of the Leader of the Opposition (Opposition Leader), together with at least 2 but not more than 9 Councillors appointed to the Shadow Cabinet by the Opposition Leader.
- (b) The Opposition Leader shall determine the number of Shadow Cabinet members and shall identify lead Shadow Cabinet members to be the opposition spokespersons in respect of each of the services areas and executive functions as they shall choose.
- (c) The Opposition Leader or any member of the Shadow Cabinet will be entitled to attend and speak at any Cabinet meeting on giving at least 48 hours prior written notice to the Chief Executive.
- (d) The Leader of the Council may on giving at least 48 hours prior written notice request the attendance at a Cabinet meeting of any one or more members of the Shadow Cabinet.

7.3 Opposition Leader

- (a) The Opposition Leader shall be the Leader:
 - (i) of the largest political group that does not hold any seats on the Cabinet, provided that if there are two or more parties of equal size that would qualify under 7.3(a)(i), the Opposition Leader will be the member nominated unanimously by the Leaders of those groups; and
 - (ii) who has accepted that office at a Council meeting.
- (b) Should no Member qualify under 7.3(a), there will be no Opposition Leader and no Shadow Cabinet.

- (c) The Opposition Leader shall hold that position for as long as they fulfil the criteria in paragraphs 7.3(a) and/or (b), or until any of the following events occur (if earlier):
 - (i) they resign from office; or
 - (ii) they are suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
 - (iii) they are no longer a Councillor; or
 - (iv) they are removed from the position of Group Leader by their political group.
- (d) The Opposition Leader shall report the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet to the Annual Council Meeting and, should any changes occur during the municipal year, to the first available meeting of the Council thereafter.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, the same Councillor may be reappointed as Opposition Leader on one or more occasions if the Council so wishes.

7.4 Other Shadow Cabinet Members

- (a) Other Shadow Cabinet members shall be appointed from the opposition groups on the Council by the Opposition Leader and shall hold that position for such time as the Opposition Leader determines or until any of the following events occur (if earlier):
 - (i) they resign from office; or
 - (ii) they are suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
 - (iii) they are no longer a Councillor; or
 - (iv) they are removed from that position, either individually or collectively by the Opposition Leader; or
 - (v) the Opposition Leader for the time being ceases to hold that office following the occurrence of any event listed in paragraphs 7.3(c)(i)-(iv).
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, the same Councillor may be re-appointed on one or more occasions if the Opposition Leader so wishes.