

ARTICLE 5 – THE LEADER

5.01 Role

The Leader will be a councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council. The appointment will be subject to a valid enhanced criminal records check.

The Leader will hold office for four years from the first annual meeting of the Council following the County Council election, expiring on the day of the post election annual meeting which follows his/her election as Leader, unless, at an earlier date:

- (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; or
- (d) he/she is removed from office by resolution of the Council.

If there is a vacancy in the position of Leader, the Leader will be elected at the first meeting of the Council following such vacancy for a term of office expiring on the day of the post election annual meeting which follows his/her election, subject to (a) to (d) above.

The Leader will carry out all of the local authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the local authority, whether by law or under this Constitution, unless otherwise delegated by him/her. All delegations by the Leader will be set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

5.02 Functions of the Leader

The Leader shall be responsible for maintaining a list (which the Chief Executive will compile on the Leader's behalf) in Part 3 of this Constitution setting out who will exercise executive functions. Executive functions can be exercised by the Leader, Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members, committees, individual local Members or officers. Any changes to Part 3 of the Constitution in relation to executive functions will be reported to the next appropriate meeting of the County Council.

The Leader will be Chairman of the Cabinet.

Only the Leader will exercise the following functions:

- (a) appointment of the Deputy Leader
- (b) appointment of the Cabinet
- (c) preparation of the Leader's Cabinet forward plan

5.03 **Deputy Leader**

The Deputy Leader will be a councillor appointed to the position of Deputy Leader by the Leader. The appointment will be subject to a valid enhanced criminal records check.

The Deputy Leader will hold office until the end of the term of office of the Leader, or until:

- (a) he/she is removed from office by decision of the Leader; or
- (b) he/she resigns from the office; or
- (c) 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
- (d) he/she is no longer a councillor.

If for any reason the Leader is unable to act, or the office of the Leader is vacant, the Deputy Leader must act in his/her place.

If for any reason the Leader is unable to act, or the office of the Leader is vacant, and the Deputy Leader is unable to act or the office of Deputy Leader is vacant, the remaining members of the Cabinet must either act collectively in the Leader's place or they must arrange for a Cabinet Member to act in the place of the Leader.

5.04 **Role of the Deputy Leader**

- (a) The Deputy Leader will be Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet.
- (b) The Deputy Leader will exercise all functions reserved to the Leader in his/her absence.