

Annex 4.10 – Role of the Leader

1. Appointment and Terms of Office:

- 1.1 The council shall appoint a Leader from among its elected members at its annual Council Meeting, or at such other times as may be required, in accordance with FCR 2 – Appendix 4.
- 1.2 The Leader shall hold office until the Annual Council meeting that follows their appointment unless:
 - 1.2.1 They resign from the office of Leader;
 - 1.2.2 They cease to be a councillor, or
 - 1.2.3 They are removed from office by resolution of full Council.
- 1.3 Should the Leader wish to resign from their role, further to provisions 1.2.1 above, their resignation must be in writing (including email) and be sent to all councillors, the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer.

2. Functions and responsibilities:

- 2.1 The Leader shall act as the principal political spokesperson for the Council, providing leadership, direction and strategic vision in collaboration with each chair of all committees.
- 2.2 The Leader shall work with all Political Group Leaders, the Head of Paid Service, Directors and all Heads of Service to promote the effective governance of the Council, ensuring that decisions are taken in a manner that reflects the Council's Strategic Priorities and Policies.
- 2.3 The Leader may represent the Council in discussions with external bodies, including central government, regional organisations, and other national and local stakeholders, where such representation is in the best interests of the Council and its local residents.
- 2.4 The Council operates on the basis of collective decision-making through committees, and the Leader shall not hold themselves out as having any decision making authority but may:
 - 2.4.1 Provide guidance on cross-cutting strategic issues affecting local residents
 - 2.4.2 Chair relevant working or task and finish groups as determined by full Council
 - 2.4.3 Facilitate communication between committees to ensure a coherent approach to decision making

3. Civic and External Representation:

- 3.1 The Leader shall, where appropriate, attend civic functions and act as an ambassador for the Council, noting the specific role for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor set out within Annex 2-2.
- 3.2 The Leader may be nominated further to their office to serve on national or regional bodies, subject to full Council approval.