

## **POLITICAL PARTIES AND ASSOCIATED ARRANGEMENTS**

### **1. THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

- (a) The Leader of the largest political group on the Council in terms of the information supplied to the Head of Paid Service under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 shall be recognised as “Leader-designate of the Council”. If there is no single largest political group the Head of Paid Service is entitled for the purposes of these arrangements to regard the Leader of whichever of the equal largest groups which was previously the larger as Leader-designate of the Council until the Council by resolution determines otherwise.
- (b) The Leader-designate of the Council (in terms of information supplied to the Head of Paid Service under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 shall be presented to the Council for ratification as Leader of the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- (c) In the event that the Council does not ratify the Leader-designate as Leader of the Council, then the Council shall elect the Leader of the Council. [Depending on the circumstances the Leader-designate may then claim the right to be recognised as Opposition Leader].
- (d) If the office of Leader of the Council shall become vacant for any reason, the Deputy Leader shall temporarily assume the responsibility of Leader until the next (or if impracticable the subsequent) Ordinary Meeting of the Council and the process described in paragraphs (a) and (b) above shall then be applied.

### **2. THE LEADER(S) OF THE OPPOSITION**

- (a) The Leader of the second largest political group on the Council shall be recognised as the Opposition Leader.
- (b) If there is more than one group of equal size which are each the second largest on the Council, then the Leaders of all such groups shall be recognised as Opposition Leaders.
- (c) For the purposes of these arrangements the term "political group" shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989.

### **3. PROCEDURE BEFORE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

- (a) The Leaders of all groups to submit to the Head of Paid Service a list of Members of their group as required by the Act of 1989 (or to confirm in a non-election year that the list is unchanged) not less than 7 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (b) The Head of Paid Service to call the Leader-designate of the Council and the Opposition Leader(s) to a meeting not less than 48 hours before the Annual Meeting to discuss the allocation of Committee places.
- (c) The Head of Paid Service's ruling on the interpretation of the relevant statutory provisions relating to the total number of seats on the Council's Committees to which each group is entitled to be recognised as being final.
- (d) Not later than Noon on the day of the Annual Meeting the Leader-designate of the Council and Opposition Leader(s) to submit to the Head of Paid Service a list of their groups' nominations to the Committee places allocated to their groups.