

UPDATE TO THE CONSTITUTION – SHADOW CABINET

Leader of the Council

Date: 16 April 2024

Agenda Item: 12

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Key Decision? NO

Local Ward All

Members



Lichfield
District Council

COUNCIL

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The report considers formally recognising Shadow Cabinet arrangements.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That consideration be given to formalising Shadow Cabinet arrangements as set out in table 1 of the report.

2.2 That the constitution be updated to reflect any changes agreed.

3. Background

3.1 Local authorities frequently have Shadow Cabinet arrangements, often set out in their constitutions. Members of the Shadow Cabinet are usually aligned to the portfolio appointments made by the Leader of the Council.

3.2 This can facilitate the distribution of leadership tasks, help establish constructive relationships with Cabinet Members and provide focus to the relationship between opposition members and senior officers.

3.2 It has been requested that Council be asked to consider formalising the arrangements in respect of the Shadow Cabinet formed by the Leader of the Principal Opposition group.

3.3 The ability of other opposition groups to nominate representatives/spokespersons for specific areas remains unchanged.

3.4 The following changes are submitted for consideration:

Table 1.

Constitution	Insert
<u>Part 2 – Articles of Association</u> Article 7 – The Cabinet Paragraph 7.10	The Leader of the Principal Opposition Group may choose to form a Shadow Cabinet. Shadow Cabinet members hold policy portfolios that broadly mirror the portfolios held by members of the Cabinet. The Shadow Cabinet has no power to discharge any function of the Authority.

	The Leader of the Principal Opposition Group shall notify the Council and the Chief Executive of the names of the members nominated to form a Shadow Cabinet and of any changes in the membership of the Shadow Cabinet which may occur from time to time.
<u>Part 4</u> Section 3 – Standing Orders for Meetings Paragraph 1.0	To receive notification from the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group of the appointments to the Shadow Cabinet.

Alternative options	1. The Council could choose not to afford formal recognition to the Shadow Cabinet.
Consultation	1. Consultation has taken place with Group Leaders
Financial implications	1. There are no financial implications
Approved by Section 151 Officer	Yes/no*
Legal implications	1. The Shadow Cabinet will not have the power to discharge any functions of the authority.
Approved by Monitoring Officer	Yes/no*
Contribution to the delivery of the strategic plan	1. Formalising arrangements contributes to the aim of being a good council that is transparent and accountable.
Equality, diversity and human rights implications	N/A
EIA logged by Equalities Officer	Yes/no* Equalities Officer confirmed not required.
Crime & safety Issues	N/A
Data assessment	N/A
Environmental impact (including climate change and biodiversity)	N/A
GDPR / Privacy impact assessment	N/A

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	Risk description & risk owner	Original score (RYG)	How we manage it	New score (RYG)
A	The proposed changes result in less effective political arrangements.	Likelihood: Green Impact: Green Risk: Green	The proposal is a formalisation of existing arrangements and can be reviewed if necessary.	Likelihood: Green Impact: Green Risk: Green

Background documents	Any previous reports or decisions linked to this item
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Relevant web links	Any links for background information which may be useful to understand the context of the report
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