

West Suffolk Council

Cabinet Procedure Rules

1. How does the Cabinet operate?

1.1 Executive functions

The Cabinet is the Council's executive body and is responsible for carrying out those functions which by law or under this constitution are designated as "executive functions".

The arrangements for the discharge of executive functions are set out in Article 6. The arrangements may provide for executive functions to be discharged by:-

- (a) The Cabinet as a whole;
- (b) A Committee of the Cabinet;
- (c) An individual Member of the Cabinet;
- (d) An Officer;
- (e) An Area Committee;
- (f) Joint arrangements; or
- (g) Another local authority.

1.2 Sub-delegation of executive functions

- (a) Where the Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet or an individual member of the Cabinet is responsible for an executive function, they may delegate further to an Officer or by joint arrangements.
- (b) Even where executive functions have been delegated, that fact does not prevent the discharge of delegated functions by the person or body who delegated.

1.3 Delegation of executive functions

- (a) Subject to (b) below, the delegation of executive functions will be as adopted by the Council and set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.
- (b) The Leader may amend the delegations to individual Cabinet Members (Portfolio Holders) relating to executive functions at any time during the year by giving written notice to the Monitoring Officer and to the person, body or Committee concerned. The notice must set out the extent of the amendment to the scheme of delegation and whether it entails the withdrawal of delegation from any person, body, committee or the Cabinet as a whole. The appropriate

amendments to the Constitution will be made by the Monitoring Officer.

- (c) Where the Cabinet seeks to withdraw delegation from a Committee, notice will be deemed to be served on that Committee when the Leader has served it on its Chair.

1.4 Meetings of Cabinet

The Cabinet will meet at times to be agreed by the Leader at either of the Council's main Offices or another location to be agreed by the Leader and will be held in public except in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules. Notice of the dates and times of meetings, and their agendas, will be published in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

1.5 Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the Cabinet, or a Committee of it, shall be one third of the total number of Members of the Cabinet (including the Leader) or three, whichever is the larger.

1.6 How are decisions to be taken by the Cabinet?

- (a) Executive decisions which have been delegated to the Cabinet as a whole will be taken at a meeting convened in accordance with the Access to Information Rules.
- (b) Where executive decisions are delegated to a Committee of the Cabinet, the rules applying to executive decisions taken by them shall be the same as those applying to those taken by the Cabinet as a whole.

2. How are executive meetings conducted?

2.1 Who presides?

The Leader, or in their absence the Deputy Leader, will preside at any meeting of the Cabinet or its Committees at which they are present. In the absence of the Leader and Deputy Leader the members of the Cabinet who are present shall choose a Member to preside.

2.2 Who may attend?

- 2.1.1 The public may attend in accordance with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution. Members of the public who live or work in the District may speak or ask one question in accordance with the provisions for public speaking in the Committee Procedure Rules.

2.1.2 Any member of the Council who is not a member of the Cabinet may attend a meeting of the Cabinet. They can speak:-

- (a) To ask a question or make a statement in accordance with Rule 2.4.1 below; or
- (b) If invited to by the person presiding.

2.3 **What business?**

At each meeting of the Cabinet or a Committee of the Cabinet the following business will be conducted:-

- (a) Apologies for absence.
- (b) Confirm as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting.
- (c) Declarations of Interest.
- (d) "Open forum" in accordance with Rule 2.4 below.
- (e) Public speaking/questions in accordance with Rule 11 of the Committee Procedure Rules.
- (f) The receipt of any petitions (submitted and presented in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme).
- (g) Matters referred to the Cabinet, whether by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, or by the Council for reconsideration in accordance with the provisions of contained in the Scrutiny Committees Procedure Rules or the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.
- (h) Consideration of reports from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee; and
- (i) Matters set out in the agenda for the meeting, and which shall indicate which are key decisions and which are not in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

2.4 **Open Forum**

2.4.1 At each Cabinet meeting up to fifteen minutes shall be allocated for questions or statements from and discussion with non-Cabinet members. Members wishing to speak during this session may, but do not have to, give notice in advance. Who speaks and for how long will be at the complete discretion of the person presiding.

2.5 **Who can put items on the Cabinet agenda?**

2.5.1 Normally, the Leader will decide upon the schedule for the meetings of the Cabinet.

2.5.2 Subject to 2.5.1 above, an item will be placed on the agenda of the next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet where the

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee or the Council have resolved that an item be considered by the Cabinet.

- 2.5.3 Subject to 2.5.1 above, the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer may include an item for consideration on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting and may require the Proper Officer to call such a meeting in pursuance of their statutory duties. In other circumstances, where any two of the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer are of the opinion that a meeting of the Cabinet needs to be called to consider a matter that requires a decision, they may jointly include an item on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting. If there is no meeting of the Cabinet soon enough to deal with the issue in question, then the person(s) entitled to include an item on the agenda may also require that a meeting be convened at which the matter will be considered.