

# Local Protocol on Shadow Cabinet

## 1. Composition

- 1.1 The Leader of the largest Political Group that does not form part of the Executive may choose to form a Shadow Cabinet by their nomination from amongst the Members of their Group. If so, they shall notify the Head of Governance Support 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.

## 2. Number of Members

- 2.1 The Shadow Cabinet shall comprise of Members no greater than the maximum number permitted for the Cabinet by legislation namely a maximum of 10 members.

## 3. Role

- 3.1 The Shadow Cabinet will have collective responsibility for providing an effective challenge to the controlling Executive and constructive political opposition of the achievement of the Council's corporate and service objectives and priorities.

## 4. Officer Support

- 4.1 On request the Chief Executive, or senior officers shall attend private meetings of the Shadow Cabinet in order to brief the Shadow Cabinet on:
  - (a) proposals that are to be considered by the Cabinet and that have been published; and
  - (b) other matters identified by the Shadow Cabinet.
- 4.2 Officer briefings at private Shadow Cabinet meetings shall be factual and professional and non-political in nature and shall not extend to the evaluation of policy options, justifying or defending proposals of the Cabinet, or revealing information and advice that is properly confidential in nature.
- 4.3 Officers shall not speak or answer questions at Shadow Cabinet meetings that are open to the general public or anyone who is not an elected Member of Torbay Council, save for any properly appointed External Advisors and any officer present at the request of the Chief Executive.
- 4.4 Individual shadow Portfolio Holders are not holders of office within the Council. However, shadow Portfolio Holders may receive advice and support from the Chief Executive or senior officers. All such advice and support will need to comply with the Local Protocol on Member and Officer Relations.

**5. Powers**

- 5.1 For the avoidance of doubt the Shadow Cabinet does not have any Executive powers and in this respect officers cannot be instructed to act on behalf of the Shadow Cabinet or individual Members of the Shadow Cabinet in any way.