

ROLE PROFILE OF A MINORITY GROUP LEADER

This role profile identifies responsibilities specific to the role of the Minority Group Leader and should be read in conjunction with the role profile for a Ward Councillor

Purpose

- To lead an opposition group within the Council.
- To ensure effective, positive and constructive opposition to the Council's majority party.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. To lead the (or one of the) political groups providing the Council's formal opposition including scrutiny of the political administration and policies of the Council.
2. To establish and represent the views of the Group on issues of policy and priority.
3. To act as the principal spokesperson for the Group.
4. To advise the Leader of the Council of the Group's position on issues.
5. To provide, as appropriate, alternatives or amendments to the Council's policies, strategies and budgets.
6. To represent the Group on relevant formal and informal working groups.
7. To nominate members of his/her group to serve on scrutiny committees, committees, and if appropriate, local outside bodies.
8. To manage the work of Councillors within the Group.
9. To ensure effective communication between party group members, other political groups, officers, the community, other partners and organisations.
10. To champion and participate in councillor development.
11. To liaise with the Chief Executive in emerging issues of significance relating to the policies and procedures of the Council.

Skills and Knowledge

1. Advanced leadership skills
2. Ability to represent the Council in a variety of settings both inside and outside the Council.
3. Advanced communication skills and the ability to work constructively with officers, councillors, partners, the media, members of the public and other organisations.

4. Ability to manage conflicting responsibilities whilst dealing with a busy and complex workload often to tight timescales and deadlines.
5. Ability to challenge the status quo and deal with complex strategic issues and problems.
6. Detailed understanding of the challenges and issues facing local government and the practical implications for the councillors in their Group.
7. Detailed understanding of the national policy framework and its impact on local policy development.
8. Understanding of the relationship between national politics and local political leadership.
9. Knowledge of the work of national, regional and sub-regional bodies and the role of the Leader and the Council in relation to them.