

**SHADOW CABINET PROTOCOL**

**1. Composition**

The Leader of the second largest Political Group may choose to form a Shadow Cabinet by their nomination from amongst the Members of the Council and 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. The distribution of portfolios between and amongst Shadow Cabinet Members will mirror those of the Cabinet, save that a single Member may cover more than one portfolio.

**2. Number of Members**

The Shadow Cabinet shall comprise no greater number of Members than the number of members of the Cabinet.

**3. Role**

The Shadow Cabinet will have collective responsibility for providing an effective challenge to the controlling Executive and for contribution constructively to 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 acting under their direction, shall attend private meetings of the Shadow Cabinet. At such meetings, the Chief Executive (or nominee) shall 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 Executive, 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 a Member of Northampton Borough Council, save for any properly appointed Political Assistant 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 acting under their direction. All such advice and support will need to comply with the protocol on Member and Employee relations contained in part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

## **5. Powers**

For the avoidance of doubt the Shadow Cabinet will 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.