

GROUP LEADER ROLE PROFILE

Middlesbrough Council ('the Council') has an Elected Mayor and 46 Elected Members.

Middlesbrough Council's political composition is made up of 19 Labour Members, 3 Conservative Members, 10 Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association Members, 11 Middlesbrough Independent Group Members and 3 Independent Members.

The Elected mayor is the first citizen of the town, however the Council recognises the key leadership role played by the leaders of all political groups on the Council and the importance of their commitment to cross-party working.

Role and Responsibilities

- 1 To provide the leadership of a political group providing formal effective, positive and constructive challenge to the Council's Mayor, majority party, and opposition, including the scrutiny of the political administration and policies of the Council.
- 2 When in opposition, to provide plausible checks and balances, challenges and alternatives to the ruling political group.
- 3 Liaise with other local and regional representatives as appropriate.
- 4 Monitor the performance of the Council against its budget, policy and performance plan
- 5 Notwithstanding political differences, promote Middlesbrough as a place and Middlesbrough Council, encouraging group members to act in a similar manner.
- 6 Canvass a range of views within the group in the formulation of policy
- 7 Act as principal political spokesperson for the political group.
- 8 Advise the Mayor of the group's position on issues and present alternative suggestions regarding policy/procedure.
- 9 Represent the views of the group in relation to any matter on which council officers seek consultation and guidance.
- 10 Encourage the highest standards of conduct by members of the group and promote compliance with the Members Code of Conduct.
- 11 Ensure the Monitoring Officer /Head of Democratic Services are advised of the wishes of the group in relation any amendments to group membership, nominations to serve on Committees or working groups, outside bodies and to advise of substitutes etc.

- 12 Allocate other responsibilities to group members as appropriate.
- 13 Represent the group on relevant formal and informal working groups.
- 14 Assist in ensuring appropriate levels of attendance are maintained by group members.
- 15 Promote effective communication between group members, other political groups and officers and ensure that communications are conducted in a courteous and respectful manner.
- 16 Establish and maintain effective working relationships with Chief Officers and other senior officers and to meet them regularly in order to keep fully apprised of relevant service issues.
- 17 Encourage a culture of learning and development among members, including the active participation of group members in briefings, seminars and other learning and development processes.