

Report to Policy and Performance Improvement Committee Meeting, 30th June 2025

Director Lead: Deborah Johnson, Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development

Lead Officer: Mark Randle, Transformation and Service Improvement Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	Presentation by the Leader of the Opposition, Cabinet Member without Portfolio
Purpose of Report	Update on role of Leader of the Opposition, Cabinet Member without Portfolio
Recommendations	That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee: a) note the contents of the report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee (PPIC) meeting held on 29 January 2024, Members agreed a process for Portfolio Holders to be invited to meetings of the Committee. This enabled the Portfolio Holder to brief the Committee on their remit and current and future plans and projects. It would also offer the Committee opportunity to ask focussed questions of the Portfolio Holder. This process ran from March 2024 to March 2025.
- 1.2 At the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee meeting held on 14th April 2025, Members agreed to a change in the process for Portfolio Holders attending Committee.
- 1.3 The new change in process requested that Portfolio Holders report back on ‘specific areas’ of their Portfolio, which will be requested by the Committee. Portfolio Holders are asked to produce a short report in answer to these specific areas. They will present back to the Committee and then take questions.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 This report relates to the leader of the largest opposition party Cllr Jack Kellas, who sits on the Cabinet without a portfolio.

At the Full Council on Tuesday 8th March 2022 the Council approved the structure for the new governance arrangements which included the introduction of the leader of the Council’s largest opposition becoming a Cabinet Member with voting rights, but no portfolio.

Their role is to provide leadership in the constructive challenge of the Council's policies and strategies, and in the co-ordination of alternative policies, strategies and service delivery. They are the main political spokesperson for the Council's opposition.

The Committee requested:

- 1) In your role as the opposition representative on the Cabinet, how have you found the balance between constructive challenge and the acknowledgement of initiatives that provide value to the district and its residents?
- 2) With changes on the horizon through the Local Government Reform (LGR), what will the political challenges be in supporting the delivery of the existing capital programme to ensure continuity after vesting day?
- 3) Do you feel the current structure of the Council is conducive to effective opposition?

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendation's, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- **Full Council Report 8th March 2022** – Proposals for the new governance arrangements.
- **PPIC Report 29 January 2024** - Attendance by Portfolio Holders to Future Meetings of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee
- **PPIC Report 14 April 2025**- Attendance by Portfolio Holders to Future Meetings of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee