

Bromsgrove District Council

Memorandum of Understanding concerning

CROSS PARTY WORKING

2023

Introduction

- (A) Following the 2023 elections the political representation of the Council changed so that no party held the majority of seats on the Council.
 - (B) In recognition of this change a review was carried out to understand which model of governance would best suit no overall control.
 - (C) On 20 September 2023 Council resolved to retain the leader and cabinet model of governance on a hybrid basis involving all members, wherever possible.
 - (D) All Members including group leaders wish to enter this Memorandum of Understanding to provide for their on-going relationship, aspirations, expectations and continuing collaboration and participation in the decision making at the Council.
 - (E) These principles shall be incorporated into the Council's new constitution from May 2024.
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Principles

The Parties agree to adopt the following principles to effect good decision making in the Council:

1. Acknowledge that cross party working is a valuable part of the democratic process;
 2. Act in good faith and in the spirit of partnership with open and honest conversations;
 3. Co operate to achieve effective cross party work;
 4. Work collaboratively and collectively to find solutions in the best interests of the community;
 5. Recognise that each individual member can contribute to decisions that are taken and should be involved and able to provide their opinion before a decision is taken.
 6. Accept that the political proportionality rules shall apply to the allocation of seats on all formal committees and that wherever possible the person presiding full Council, Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings should be selected from the political parties not represented on the Cabinet.
 7. Accept that where possible the principles of political proportionality shall also apply to any other roles and responsibilities to be allocated [for example outside body appointments, not including ex officio appointments]
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