

CCJS02 Victoria Lower, Deputy Democratic Services Manager, London Borough of Lambeth

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Busnes | Business Committee

Rhannu swydd cadeirydd pwyllgor | Committee chair job sharing

Ymateb gan Victoria Lower, Dirprwy Reolwr Gwasanaethau Democrataidd, Bwrdeistref Llundain Lambeth | Victoria Lower, Deputy Democratic Services Manager, London Borough of Lambeth

Thank you for contacting the London Borough of Lambeth as part of the Welsh Parliament consultation on committee chair job sharing.

Whilst at the London Borough of Lambeth there are not specifically job-share committee Chair's, there are two job-share Cabinet Members. These being the Cabinet Member for Healthier Communities and the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Governance and Change.

To support the management of these job-share executive positions, the Council sets out who is the acting Cabinet Member at any one time and communicates this with the organisation. This is set for a six-month period following the Annual Council meeting and switches to the other councillor following the set date. The acting Cabinet Member is the one who makes any delegated decisions and is announced at the start of each Cabinet meeting for clarity.

To ensure that the Cabinet Member job-shares remain abreast of their portfolio, they are both invited to fortnightly Cabinet Member briefings. These are meetings of the Cabinet Member and officers to discuss upcoming matters and decisions, but this is chaired by the acting Cabinet Member.

Additionally, the two Cabinet Member job-share positions include chairing some committees. These being the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Equalities Impact Assessment Panel (EIA Panel). Both councillors are members of the committees, however for the Health and Wellbeing Board there is one named Chair of the Board for the year, whilst for the EIA Panel the Cabinet Members share the chairing depending on who is the acting Cabinet Member at that moment in time. Again, this requires officers to brief both councillors to ensure they are kept informed.

In terms of the Special Responsibility Allowance for Cabinet Member, this is shared between the two Cabinet Members and is paid pro rata throughout the year.

The main challenges are ensuring that the councillors and officers are aware of the arrangements, particularly in regard to which one is the acting Cabinet Member and when this will change. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that it is clear to a member of the public who is making the decision.
