

Explanatory Note to Proposed Amendments to the Scheme of Delegations to Cabinet

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has to appoint a Leader at the Annual Council following local elections. The new Leader has the power to appoint Members to serve as Members of the Cabinet and change the portfolios.
- 1.2 Any new Cabinet appointments and consequential changes to the Scheme of Delegations, once decided by the Leader, take effect immediately. Under the Council's Constitution, the Leader is required to notify full Council of the appointments and any changes to the Scheme of Delegations. This report together with copies of the proposed Cabinet appointments (Appendix 1) and the revised Scheme of Delegations (Appendix 2), constitutes the notification to the Council under the Constitution. The changes do not come into effect until after a Leader is appointed and notifies the Chief Executive of the Cabinet appointments, which is expected to take place immediately after Annual Council. Until then they remain proposals.
- 1.3 The main changes and the rationale for the changes are outlined in the following paragraphs.

2. Deputy Leader (Executive) Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration

- 2.1 This portfolio is designed to bring creativity and energy to attracting investment and delivering regeneration in the City in an inclusive way which maximises economic, social and environmental wellbeing across our communities.

- 2.2 The aim is to pursue a positive vision for the future which looks toward a low carbon economy and maximises the opportunities to create jobs across the full spectrum of the local economy.
- 2.3 Drawing this range of important responsibilities together provides the opportunity to look beyond traditional notions of planning as an exclusively regulatory activity and tap into an emergent framework that shifts the emphasis to how planning can be used in a positive way to enable and deliver successful outcomes in the right places.
- 2.4 In challenging economic times the combination of activities within this portfolio will place the city council in a good position to explore new models of development for a number of significant projects and to work in an imaginative way with our partners to pursue economic development.
- 2.5 This portfolio also includes responsibility for Council business liaison so that there is greater co-ordination of the decision making process and more coherent and felicitous representation of the Council's policies.

3. Deputy Leader (Non Executive) Transport & Public Realm

- 3.1 One of the key priorities and challenges facing the City is resolving traffic problems. This requires a focussed and systematic approach that generates long term and sustainable transport solutions. Given the importance of this issue to the City, and given the new administration's commitment, it is considered appropriate to designate a stand alone Cabinet post dedicated to this area. The Cabinet Member will work closely with other Cabinet Members such as Environment & Sustainability, Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration. The arrangements will however enable this very important function to receive the focussed and dedicated attention it deserves.

4. Finance & Central Services

- 4.1 This brings together the functions responsible for the Council's resources (Finance, Property, ICT) and other support services (Legal, HR, Policy and Communications). This is in line with the practice in most Councils where these functions are held by the same Cabinet Member although the title may vary with some referring to "Resources" others "Central Services". This will assist in adopting a co-ordinated approach to all support services and will free up a Cabinet Member portfolio to focus on other key areas of priority.

5. Environment & Sustainability

- 5.1 This portfolio covers the key Council functions that have the most impact on peoples' sense of environmental wellbeing such as parks and open spaces, collection and disposal of waste and street cleaning. It also covers sustainability. Working closely with other Cabinet Members, especially Transport and Planning, this will help protect and improve the environment for the City.

6. Housing

- 6.1 There is no change to this portfolio except that it is proposed to move Learning & Disability into the Adult Social Care & Health portfolio, which reflects the true nature of the function and mirrors the arrangements at officer level where the service is managed as part of Adult Social Care.

7. Children & Young People

- 7.1 Given the statutory role of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the need for a coherent and co-ordinated delivery of all services relating to children, it is not proposed there be any changes.

8. Adult Social Care & Health

- 8.1 As with Children's Services, it is not proposed to make any changes except that Learning Disability Services will be moved from Housing to Adult Social Care & Health.

9. Culture, Recreation & Tourism

- 9.1 It is not proposed to make any changes to this portfolio.

10. Community, Equality & Public Protection

- 10.1 This function brings together all aspects of the Council's functions regarding the protection of the public ranging from civil contingencies to licensing and environmental health. It also covers community engagement, tackling discrimination and fostering inclusion as well as responsibility for preparing for the transfer of public health.
- 10.2 A common thread running through all the functions comprised in this portfolio is that they are community focussed and this role will increase in importance with the implementation of proposals in the Localism Bill currently going through parliament.

11. Next Steps

- 11.1 It is proposed to undertake a more comprehensive review of the Constitution including the arrangements for Scrutiny, some aspects of the Council's procedures and protocols and rationalising some of the committee arrangements. It is anticipated that the review will be led by the Governance Committee and follow normal consultation processes. The changes proposed in this paper will also be reported to the Governance Committee for information and discussion.

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