

Subject:	Adult Social Care & Housing: Changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers
Date of Meeting:	11 February 2010
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer:	Name: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis Tel: 29-1500
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Key Decision:	No
Wards Affected:	All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Following the announcement that the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing will be leaving the Council, there is an opportunity to review existing arrangements for the discharge of the functions comprised in the Scheme of Delegations to the Director to maximise efficiencies and achieve greater co-ordination of services. This report proposes the transfer of housing functions From the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing to the Director of Culture & Enterprise. The arrangements at Member level are not affected by the changes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet approves:
- (i) That the housing functions currently comprised in the delegations to the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing be transferred to the Director of Culture & Enterprise;
 - (ii) That the new Directors be renamed Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Director of Housing, Culture & Enterprise respectively;
 - (iii) That the Head of Law be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Council's constitution to reflect the above and the arrangements referred to in paragraph 3.9.
 - (iv) That the amendments come into effect on 12 February 2010.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Director of Adult Social Care & Housing will be leaving the Council on 12 February to take a position at the City of London. In line with normal good practice, the opportunity has been taken to review the existing arrangements to see whether the services currently managed within the Directorate, especially

those relating to housing, could be realigned to improve delivery, achieve efficiencies as well as taking into account challenges and opportunities likely to be faced over the coming years.

- 3.2 Given the close links between strategic housing, major infrastructure projects and economic regeneration, it is proposed that the housing functions currently discharged as part of the Adult Social Care & Housing Directorate be transferred to the Directorate of Culture & Enterprise. This will enable greater co-ordination and synergy between strategic housing (which includes private sector housing, homelessness, allocations and standards of housing) and economic regeneration. The shortage of housing nationally and, more importantly, the challenges faced by the City, mean that there is a need to co-ordinate more closely our approach to meeting housing needs with our approach towards major infrastructure/ building developments and better use of public sector land assets. The availability of affordable housing also plays a key role in the overall state of the local economy and, in particular, employment.
- 3.3 To reflect the changed roles, it is proposed that the names of the Directors/Directorates be changed to the Director/ate of Adult Social Care & Health and Director/ate of Housing, Culture & Enterprise.
- 3.4 As announced recently, with effect from 12 February, the post of Director of Adult Social Care & Health will be filled, on an Acting basis, by Denise De Souza, until a permanent appointment is made and Scott Marshall, the current Director of Culture and Enterprise, will assume the housing functions with a new title (Director of Housing, Culture & Enterprise.)
- 3.5 The Learning Disabilities function is currently delivered as part of the Housing Strategy Division and it is proposed that these arrangements continue at AD and Divisional level. However, in order to better comply with legislative and good practice requirements regarding the Statutory Director of Adult Social Services, the function will remain part of the delegations to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health. The AD Housing Strategy will report to the Director of Housing, Culture and Enterprise in regarding Housing Functions and to the Director of Adult Social Care & Health in relation to social services LD functions. This is subject to any instructions issued from the Chief Executive from time to time in accordance with the constitution in the way that Directors exercise their powers, including requiring them to lead on specific projects.

4. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 4.1 The proposals are expected to be met within existing budget provision. The interim arrangements are likely to result in a saving in 2010/11, the costs of permanent arrangements will be quantified when known and reflected in budget monitoring reports.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 26/01/10

Legal Implications

- 4.2 Under the Local Government Act 2000 and Article 15 of the Council's constitution, any changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers, are required to be approved by the Cabinet or relevant CMM. As housing functions are executive functions, the approval of the Cabinet is needed.

Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis Date: 29/01/10

Equalities Implications:

- 4.3 The proposals deal with internal Council Officer structures and there are no adverse equalities implications arising from the report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 4.4 The proposals will assist in the greater co-ordination of our approach to meeting housing needs with our approach to land use and major development and will therefore contribute positively to achieving sustainable development.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 4.5 There are no adverse crime & disorder implications arising from this report.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 4.6 There are no risks of significance identified. The proposals will open up opportunities for housing needs to factor more prominently in our approach to land development and major infrastructure projects.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 4.7 The proposals will contribute to the achievement of the Council's priorities and help the in meeting housing needs in the City by adopting arrangements that facilitate greater co-ordination of our approach to housing needs with the wider economic regeneration.

5. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 5.1 The option of leaving existing arrangements in place was considered, but given the benefits of implementing the proposals as set out in the report, and more particularly the integration of our approach to housing needs with the other functions in the Culture and Enterprise Directorate, this option was not preferred.

6. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 These are set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None