

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | Meeting: | Council Meeting |
| 2. | Date: | 8 th July, 2015 |
| 3. | Title: | Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations |
| 4. | Directorate: | Resources |

5. Summary

This report recommends the updating of the Scheme of Delegation and the revision of the Council's financial regulations. Any amendments to the constitution need to be approved by Council.

6. Recommendations

That Council approves:-

- the revised officer Scheme of Delegation, and
- the revised Financial Regulations.

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 Following the appointment of Commissioners by the Secretary of State, some reorganisation of the Council's departments took place. By way of example the licensing function of the Council has been moved from the Neighbourhood and Adult Services Department to the Environment and Development Services Department. In addition the Strategic Director Environmental Services has been appointed as Head of Paid Service. Hard copies of the revised Scheme of Delegation are to be provided in each of the respective Group Rooms and for inspection on Reception at the Town Hall and can be requested via Jacqueline Collins, Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Jacqueline.collins@rotherham.gov.uk
- 7.2 The Financial Regulations have also been reviewed by the Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the hard copies of the revised Regulations are to be provided in each of the respective Group Rooms and for inspection on Reception at the Town Hall and can be requested via Jacqueline Collins, Director of Legal and Democratic Services - Jacqueline.collins@rotherham.gov.uk
- 7.3 In order to ensure the legality of decisions the Constitution must be amended to reflect these changes.
- 7.4 The Constitution is a 'live' document and if any further changes are implemented it will need to be amended again to reflect these developments. Therefore this is very much a 'work in progress' and further amendments to the Constitution may well be necessary. These may include:-
- a) Any further organisational changes following the consultation on the Council restructure.
 - b) Any changes in the governance structure of the Council following the outcome of the Corporate Governance Review agreed at Council on 3rd June 2015.
 - c) Any changes in the legislative provisions affecting local government.
- 7.5 The Council at its meeting on 22nd May, 2015 agreed changes to the Constitution in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny functions of the Authority and these have been incorporated into the revised constitution.
- 7.6 In addition, at its meeting on 3rd June, 2015, Council agreed to change the provisions in the Constitution relating to the dismissal of senior officers. This was following the publication of a Statutory Instrument requiring that relevant Standing Orders be changed. Therefore the Constitution has also been revised to accommodate these changes.

- 7.7 A full copy of the revised Constitution will be placed on the intranet following the decision of Council in relation to this report. The proposed changes will enable clarity in decision making and protect the Council's legal position.
- 7.8 Currently the Commissioners are taking all executive decisions and those relating to licensing. The revisions make this clear but also provide for working arrangements that can be used should there be a return of functions to elected members, prior to the outcome of the review of the governance arrangements of the Council.

8. Finance

- 8.1 Apart for the revision of financial regulations recommended in the report there are no further financial implications.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- 9.1 Whilst it is important that the changes outlined the report are agreed, there will be further changes necessary in the coming months.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- 10.1 The constitution is the document that informs citizens of how the Council works. It is essential for good corporate governance that it is kept up to date and relevant.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- 11.1 The restructure proposals are subject to consultation at the moment and any recommendations from the forthcoming governance review will also be subject to consultation.

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