

Executive Committee

Monday, 24 February 2020

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor David Thain (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Julian Grubb, Bill Hartnett, Mike Rouse and Craig Warhurst

Also Present:

Salman Akbar, Juliet Brunner, John Fisher, Peter Fleming, Andrew Fry, Ann Isherwood, Anthony Lovell, Gemma Monaco, Nyear Nazir, Gareth Prosser, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith and Jennifer Wheeler

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Sue Hanley, Jayne Pickering and Deb Poole

Committee Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

115. CONSTITUTION REVIEW

The Head of Service for Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy presented a report outlining proposed amendments to the Officer Scheme of Delegations. Members were asked to consider delegating authority to Officers in respect of the following:

- To determine the Council's IT policies.
- To determine equalities, engagement and performance policies.
- To determine service restructures.

In all cases the delegated authority would enable the Council to update policies and procedures at the Council more quickly than at present. The proposed delegations would also enable the Council to adapt in a fast changing environment, including with respect to modern technology. The changes had been reviewed at a recent meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party (CRWP) and the proposals detailed in the report reflected the conclusions reached by the group.

.....
Chair

Members discussed the proposed delegations and in doing so noted that this followed previous reviews of the Officer Scheme of Delegations in recent years. As had been the case at the CRWP meeting there was general consensus that the proposed delegation for Officers to determine IT policies should be supported, as this was an internal operational matter. However, concerns were raised about proposals to delegate authority to Officers to determine equalities and engagement policies. Members noted that the Council in the past had frequently adopted progressive policies in respect of these areas prior to legislation being passed that required such action and Members would potentially want to continue to do so. In respect of service restructures concerns were raised that this could result in staff redundancies as well as impact on services provided to the local community.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the proposed change to the Officer Scheme of Delegations for the Business Transformation and Organisational Development Department, in respect of delegating authority to Officers to determine all the Council's policies and strategies relating to Equalities, Engagement and Performance be approved;**

and RESOLVED that

- 2) the proposed changes to the Officer Scheme of Delegations for the Business Transformation and Organisational Development Department, in respect of delegating authority to Officers to determine all the Council's IT policies be approved; and**
- 3) the proposed changes to the Officer Scheme of Delegations for the Business Transformation and Organisational Development Department, in respect of delegating authority to Officers to determine restructures within agreed budgets be approved.**