

# REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2014

**Present:** Councillor Melvyn Caplan (Chairman), David Boothroyd, Robert Davis and Tim Mitchell

## 1. Scheme of Delegations

- (a) Following the approval of the Cabinet on 21 July 2014 to a range of measures to establish a new operating model which will place the City Council on a more robust footing in order to address both the funding reductions and the changes that local government will need to make to meet the growth in demand in some service areas. These changes included the abolition of the previous Strategic Executive Board and the creation of a new Executive Management Team, represented by Executive Directors.
- (b) We have accordingly approved for recommendation to the Council the reallocation of existing delegations to Executive Directors to reflect the new management structure. This is outlined in the report we considered which is attached as Appendix A.
- (c) We noted that the scheme did not include any new delegations and as it had been some time since a thorough review of delegations and various thresholds we ordered a review of these to be undertaken and report to our next meeting.

**We recommend:** That the Scheme of Delegations attached to the report (Appendix A) as Appendix 1 be approved.

## 2. Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

- (a) The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 provide the public with the strengthened rights to report the proceedings at formal local government meetings by filming, photographing, audio-recording or by any other means to report the proceedings of an open meeting.
- (b) In light of the new powers in the 2014 Regulations Officers have taken the opportunity to review the Council's Standing Orders. Two additional Standing Orders are proposed which specifically address reporting of public meetings of the authority and the use of modern media tools.
- (c) The full detailed report we considered is attached as Appendix B. This report also sets out changes to the Access of Information rules relating to the recording of officer decisions.

**We recommend:** That the Council adopt the new Standing Orders 18 (a) and 36 (a) set out in the report attached as Appendix B.

### **3. Name and Terms of Reference of the Superannuation Committee**

- (a) The current Terms of Reference were last reviewed in 2008 and there have been significant changes in the way the pension fund business in the Council has developed since then.
- (b) The changes proposed reflect more accurately the matters the Committee now cover in the wider pensions area and enable any successor Committees or Officers to have a better understanding of their respective remits and to have a greater degree of alignment across Tri-borough. This last point should enable a greater degree of discussion between the Tri-borough Committee Chairmen where it is appropriate and relevant – given the degree of commonality in some areas between the three funds.
- (c) The name of the Committee has been Superannuation Committee for very many years. However, Superannuation is much less used now than it was, and is not really a term in common parlance. So as to make the title of the Committee understood to all, and to keep the title current, it is proposed that the Committee be re-named the Pension Fund Committee.
- (d) The report we considered is attached as Appendix C.

**We recommend:** That the Superannuation Committee be re-named the Pension Fund Committee with the revised Terms of Reference attached to the report (Appendix C).

### **4. Programme of Meetings 2015-2016**

- (a) We have agreed the Programme of Meetings for the Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council for the 2015-16 municipal year, having regard to the approach we have previously agreed.
- (b) We noted that the principles we endorsed in May 2012 for the scheduling of formal meetings, which allows for a more consistent approach, have worked well to date. Accordingly, these principles were carried forward for the preparation of the 2015-16 Programme of Meetings. Through this approach we have been able to ensure that most Policy and Scrutiny Committee meetings are not held on Tuesdays to avoid clashes with the Council's Planning Committees.

**We recommend:** That meetings of the Council be held as follows:

20 May 2015 (Annual): 8 July 2015, 11 November 2015, 20 January 2016,  
2 March 2016 (Council Tax), 27 April 2016 and 18 May 2016 (Annual).

Melvyn Caplan, Chairman

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Local Government Act 1972: Background Papers: None