

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

5 November 2015

SUBJECT:	Executive Arrangements and Pledge Champions
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
REPORT OF:	Head of Legal & Member Services
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Leader of the Council
KEY DECISION?	No

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the changes to executive arrangements and the discharge of executive functions by the Leader of the Council as permitted under the 'Strong Leader' model of governance operated by the Council.
- 1.2 The report also includes proposals for the creation of Pledge Champions in relation to the 20 Pledges contained within the Wirral Plan.
- 1.3 This report details/confirms:
- a) Revised Cabinet Portfolios;
 - b) Cabinet Members appointments;
 - c) Revisions to:
 - i. The Role of Cabinet (Art. 7 of the Constitution);
 - ii. Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Cabinet Members; and
 - iii. Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Officers;
 - d) Revised Cabinet/Committee Reports and Minutes templates;
 - e) Changes to Cabinet meetings; and
 - f) The creation of Pledge Champions, their role and appointments thereto.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 In July 2015, Council unanimously approved a five-year Council Plan which provides a clear ambition for the borough and defines the outcomes towards which we will work for the next five years: the 20 pledges
- 2.2 This Plan has, since approval by Council in July, now been adopted by all strategic partners from the public, private and third sectors to create the first Wirral Plan.

- 2.3 This means that for the first time partners have formally agreed to work towards a shared set of outcomes, goals and objectives, to work towards integrating services and budgets and making best use of the totality of public sector resource in Wirral, for the benefit of Wirral people.
- 2.4 As part of that agreement and progress since July, partners have committed to playing a lead role in achieving 8 out of the 20 pledges. A Delivery Plan (Phase One) has been developed and reported to Cabinet in October 2015 to provide an outline of the approach that will be taken to ensure that the ambitions and priorities set out within plan are achieved, and that they secure positive outcomes for local residents.
- 2.5 In order to deliver a five year plan, a set of operating principles have been developed to ensure that the Council working in partnership has the appropriate arrangements in place to drive forward the necessary changes to achieve the ambitions set out in the Wirral Plan. This includes ensuring that political arrangements are regularly reviewed to ensure that there is clarity on the governance and delivery of the plan pledges.
- 2.6 As a Member-led organisation it is crucial that Elected Members provide leadership to the Council and its partners to secure the best outcomes for Wirral residents.
- 2.7 Under the 'strong leader' model of governance the Leader of the Council has the discretion to create a Cabinet and up to nine Cabinet Members with their own portfolios. The Leader of the Council defines their duties and responsibilities as well as confirms any delegated powers/authorities he wishes them to exercise. The Leader of the Council can also delegate powers/authorities to Council officers.
- 2.8 The Leader of the Council has reviewed and revised the delegated executive arrangements in light of the Wirral Plan and to ensure its successful delivery:
- Appendix 1 sets out the revised Cabinet Portfolios and those members who have been appointed by the Leader as Cabinet Members to undertake and discharge the defined duties and responsibilities falling with each respective Portfolio.
 - Appendix 2 sets out the revised role of Cabinet (Art. 7 of the Constitution),
 - Appendix 3 sets out the revised Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Cabinet Members, and
 - Appendix 4 sets out the revised Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Officers.
- 2.9 As part of ensuring decisions made by the Council are more accessible, open and transparent, the current reports and minutes templates have been revised. The revised templates are set out at Appendix 5 are considered to be more 'user friendly' in layout and design and enables salient information to be ascertained more quickly.

- 2.10 Moreover, it is also proposed that the days upon which Cabinet meets and its meeting times should be more consistent and to this end, it is proposed that Cabinet meeting be held on Mondays at 10.00am (unless otherwise agreed by the Leader of the Council).
- 2.11 The Wirral Plan sets out an ambitious agenda that the Council and its partners have accepted. To help ensure the 20 Wirral Plan Pledges are achieved, it is proposed that one elected member be aligned to each Pledge and be appointed as a 'Pledge Champion'.
- 2.12 Each Pledge Champion will be required to focus on the work and activities that help to successfully delivery/achieve the Pledge. The role will require the Pledge Champion to work with Executive Members, partners, relevant committees and officers as required and necessary; and offer constructive advice and assistance to help ensure the Council meets its Pledges.
- 2.13 Pledge Champions will not have any delegated executive/Council powers/authority and will not form part of the Executive.
- 2.14 The role of the Pledge Champion is set out at Appendix 6. No special responsibility allowance is payable to any Pledge Champion.
- 2.15 Pledge Champions will be appointed by the Leader of the Council.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 It is important that powers and authorities are understood and not exceeded.
- 3.2 Any change to the reporting and decision making arrangements of the Council must comply with Access to Information obligations/requirements.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Consideration was given to possible other alternative structures for the Cabinet and Portfolios.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 No formal consultation required.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 None.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 There are no such issues arising other than it is envisaged that the executive decision making and reporting arrangements will become more efficient to operate.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The legal implications are set out in the main body of the report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No such implications arise.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 That Cabinet:

- i. Notes the revised Cabinet Portfolios and the Leader to confirm his Cabinet Members;
- ii. Agrees that Cabinet meetings from 1 January 2016 be held on Mondays at 10.00am (unless otherwise agreed by the Leader);
- iii. Notes the revised Role of Cabinet (Art. 7 of the Constitution); Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Cabinet Members; and Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Officers which shall take effect from 6 November 2015;
- iv. Approves the revised Cabinet/Committee Reports, Cabinet Agenda and Cabinet/Committee Minutes templates and agrees that they be applied as soon as practicably possible having regard to current work/reports in progress; and
- v. Approves the creation of Pledge Champions (as defined by their Job Role as set out at Appendix 6) for each Pledge within the Wirral Plan; and the Leader to make/confirm the requisite appointments.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To give effect to the changes/revisions proposed in the report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Revised Cabinet Portfolios and Cabinet Members

Appendix 2 - Revised Art. 7 - The Role of Cabinet

- Appendix 3 -** Revised Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Cabinet Members
- Appendix 4 -** Revised Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions to Officers
- Appendix 5 -** Revised Cabinet/Committee Report and Minutes templates
- Appendix 6 -** Pledge Champion – Job Role

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

None