

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Call-in of Mayor & Cabinet Decision – Management Arrangements Shared Communications Service	
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel	
Class	Part 1	Date: 10 February 2016

1. Summary

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of a call-in and associated comments agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel on 2 February 2016 in accordance with Paragraph 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

2. Purpose of the Report

To inform the Mayor of the reasons agreed for the call-in and to ask him to reconsider a decision made on “Management Arrangements Shared Communications Service”.

3. Recommendation

The Mayor is requested to respond to the call-in made by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel as described in paragraph 5 below.

4. Background

- 4.1 At a meeting of the Mayor & Cabinet held on 13 January 2016, the Mayor & Cabinet considered a report entitled “Management Arrangements Shared Communications Service”. The Mayor & Cabinet considered an officer report and in accordance with the Constitution, this decision was notified to all members of the Business Panel within 2 days of being made.

5. Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel – Reasons for Call-in

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel considered the Mayor & Cabinet decision, and the original officer report.
- 5.2 Following the presentation from the Head of Strategy, Business Panel resolved to call in the Mayor’s decision asking him to consider the issues described below:

- i. Business Panel have specific concerns as outlined below about the implementation of any arrangement under 3.1 of the Mayor's decision;

"the appointment of an interim joint head of communications with Lambeth Council on a fixed-term contract".
- ii. Business Panel was informed the Mayor's original decision was taken without full legal implications being provided to him.
- iii. Business Panel believes further advice on the practical implications of proceeding to appoint an interim joint Head of Communications was inadequate as it did not consider crucial aspects such as potential conflict of interest between the two boroughs.
- iv. Business Panel had previously raised concerns about the Council's Communication Service with the Mayor and had received assurances from him that the Communications Service would equally serve both the executive and non-executive arms of the Council. The Business Panel requests that consultation with non-executive Councillors takes place before any changes to the Communication Service are progressed.
- v. Business Panel would like the Mayor to ask the Chief Executive to review this arrangement taking into consideration the legal and practical implications.
- vi. Business Panel would like the Mayor to ask officers to ensure all the issues of having a full shared service as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report are resolved prior to a decision being made. That paragraph stated that officers were to investigate further a fully shared communications service with Lambeth Council.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council's Constitution provides that where the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel requests that the Mayor & Cabinet reconsider a decision it shall not become effective until it has been done. There may be no further call-in of the decision.
- 6.2 It is essential that a decision is made on consideration of all relevant information and ignoring irrelevancies. On this basis a decision must not be one which no reasonable authority could come to.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The report to Mayor and Cabinet on 13 January 2016 stated a shared service with Lambeth could achieve savings of £45,000 pro rata. The Business Panel was advised by the Head of Strategy that any alternative decision to appoint a sole Head of Communications for Lewisham could only achieve a saving by downgrading the salary level of the existing post.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Olga Cole Senior Committee Manager, 0208 314 8577 or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business and Committee, 0208 314 9327