

Council			
Report Title	Financial Regulations and Directorate Schemes of Delegation		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	All Wards		
Contributors	Acting Chief Finance Officer		
Class	Part 1	Date:	27 February 2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The financial controls of the Authority set out the framework and guiding principles for managing the Authority's financial affairs. They are applicable to all members of staff, elected Members, and anyone acting on behalf of the Council.
- 1.2 The Council's Financial Regulations and the Directorate Schemes of Delegation form part of the financial controls and are included in the Constitution.
- 1.3 These key financial control documents require updating as and when necessary in order for them to remain relevant and take in to account organisational and constitutional changes that may have occurred.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 To present Members with the updated Financial Regulations for approval and the Directorate Schemes of Delegation for endorsement.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve the latest version of the Financial Regulations (Appendix 1);
- 3.2 Members are asked to endorse the Directorate Schemes of Delegation (Appendices 2 to 5) as they relate to non-executive functions;
- 3.3 Members are asked to authorise officers to update the Council's Constitution accordingly.

4. POLICY CONTEXT

- 4.1 The Council's vision "together, we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn" was adopted by the Lewisham Strategic Partnership as part of the Sustainable Community Strategy, along with six over-arching priorities:

Sustainable Community Strategy

- **Ambitious and achieving:** where people are inspired and supported to their potential.
- **Safer:** where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour, and abuse.
- **Empowered and responsible:** where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.
- **Clean, green, and liveable:** where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment.
- **Healthy, active and enjoyable:** where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being.
- **Dynamic and prosperous:** where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond

Corporate Priorities

4.2 The Council's ten 'enduring' priorities were agreed by full Council and are the principal mechanism through which the Council's performance is reported and through which the impact of saving and spending decisions are assessed. The Council's priorities also describe the Council's contribution to the delivery of Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.

- **Community Leadership and Empowerment:** developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community.
- **Young people's achievement and involvement:** raising educational attainment and improving facilities for young people through partnership working.
- **Clean, green, and liveable:** improving environmental management, the cleanliness and care for roads and pavements, and promoting a sustainable environment.
- **Safety, security, and a visible presence:** partnership working with the police and others to further reduce crime levels and using Council powers to combat anti-social behaviour.
- **Strengthening the local economy:** gaining resources to regenerate key localities strengthen employment skills and promote public transport.
- **Decent Homes for all:** investment in social and affordable housing to achieve the decent homes standard, tackle homelessness, and supply key worker housing.
- **Protection of children:** better safeguarding and joined up services for children at risk.
- **Caring for adults and older people:** working with health services to support older people and adults in need of care.

- **Active, healthy citizens:** leisure, sporting, learning, and creative activities for everyone.
- **Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness, and equity:** ensuring efficiency and equity in the delivery of excellent services to meet the needs of the community.

4.3 The report is consistent with the seven priorities identified in the emergent Corporate Strategy which replaces the 2008 Community Strategy. These priorities are:

1. Open Lewisham - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
2. Tackling the housing crisis - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.
3. Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
4. Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
5. Delivering & defending: Health, Social Care and Support - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
6. Making Lewisham greener - Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
7. Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Financial Regulations and Schemes of Delegation are part of the financial controls of the Authority, setting out the framework and guiding principles for managing the Council's financial affairs.
- 5.2 Financial Regulations are approved as a schedule to the Constitution and are therefore subject to similar approval requirements. The Regulations lay down the overriding financial procedures to be followed by officers in discharging their financial duties.
- 5.3 The Directorate Schemes of Delegation set out the post titles of those officers to whom the relevant Executive Director has delegated authority to take decisions on the areas from the Mayoral Scheme of Delegation where responsibility has been delegated to that Executive Director. The Mayoral scheme forms part of the constitution, and these directorate schemes are approved as a schedule to the Constitution.

- 5.4 These key financial control documents require updating as and when necessary in order for them to remain relevant and take in to account organisational and constitutional changes that may have occurred.

6. CHANGES TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND DIRECTORATE SCHEMES OF DELEGATION

- 6.1 The Financial Regulations and Directorate Schemes of Delegation have been revised to reflect presentational changes, the changes in the Council's structure and Mayors delegation, to allow officers to operate within permitted authority. The main changes are as detailed below:

A) The Chief Finance Officer - Section 151

This is a statutory position, which must be held by a CCAB qualified accountant, to take responsibility for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. This position is currently vested in the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, who is currently serving as Interim Chief Executive.

The Executive Director has delegated this role, along with leading the Resources Directorate, to the Head of Corporate Resources. The Schemes of Delegation have been annotated to reflect this temporary change.

- B) Whilst Acting as Interim Chief Executive, the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration has delegated all functions relating to Regeneration, Planning, Building Control, and Transport to the Executive Director for Customer Services. The Schemes of Delegation have been amended to reflect this temporary change.

- C) Where job titles have changed, the Schemes have been amended to reflect such changes and keep the documents relevant. The Council is changing the Head of Service roles to become Assistant Director roles during the year, the authority delegated to a Head of Service will automatically transfer to the new Assistant Director role.

D) Contract Procedure Rules

A report was presented to the Constitution Working Party on 15 November 2018, which presented changes to the procedure rules which do not affect the substance of the rules. They were designed to be clearer and to shift provisions about the limits of delegation into the Mayoral Scheme of Delegation. These agreed changes have been made to the Directorate Schemes.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no additional financial implications other than those contained in the body of this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The approval of the Financial Regulations is a matter for Full Council. The Directorate Schemes of Delegation, to the extent that they relate to non-executive functions, are also matters for Full Council. Delegations within these Schemes relating to executive functions are for the Mayor to make.
- 8.2 Council is asked to note that the Mayor approves those Delegations appearing within the Directorate Scheme of Delegations appendices to this report which fall within his remit.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The discharge of Council functions, including those relating to the stewardship of public funds, underpin the Council's public welfare role and contribute to the delivery of the Council's equality objectives as follows:
- Tackling victimisation, discrimination and harassment
 - Improving access to services
 - Closing the gap in outcomes
 - Improving mutual understanding and respect between communities
 - Improving participation and engagement

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This report provides members with the most up to date version of the Financial Regulations and Schemes of Delegation for inclusion in the Constitution.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on this report, please contact:

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