

## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Monday, 7 June 2010

Decision No: (CAB 10/11 3358)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
SUBJECT:	THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S REGISTRATION SERVICES
AUTHOR:	Francine Lawrence

### THE DECISION

- (i) To authorise the Head of Environmental Health and Consumer Protection, following consultation with the Cabinet members for Environment and Transport and Resources and Workforce Planning, to prepare a Scheme and apply to the General Register Office for approval of a new scheme of governance for the Council's Registration Service.
- (ii) To authorise the Solicitor for the Council to sign and seal the new scheme of governance.
- (iii) To authorise the Head of Environmental Health and Consumer Protection to continue to act as the Proper Officer for the Registration Service under the new scheme of governance.
- (iv) To authorise the Head of Environmental Health and Consumer Protection, following consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and the Executive Director of Resources, to do anything necessary to give effect to the proposals in this report including but not limited to the entering into of any required Code of Practice, establishment and management of any performance management arrangements, determination of any objections to the proposed new Scheme.

### REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Currently, the Registration Service is delivered within a framework that has not significantly changed for many years and these arrangements have become anomalous and out of step with other council services. The current governance arrangements are very prescriptive and do not allow the local authority to use staff in a flexible and efficient way.

2. There is an opportunity to adopt a new scheme of governance and this new framework will enable the Registration Service to modernise and focus more on local service delivery. The new arrangements will give Southampton City Council greater control over staffing and administrative arrangements. Subject to Cabinet's approval, a provisional implementation date of the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 has been agreed with the Registrar General for the introduction of the new scheme of governance.

#### **DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

The Registration Service could do nothing and continue with the present scheme of registration. This option would prevent further modernisation of the service by not allowing the benefit of local freedom and flexibility. The General Register Office would continue to have the role of, not only inspecting the service outcomes but also the local inspection of individual officers and detailed administration activity. If new governance arrangements are not adopted then any changes to staffing would be required to continue to be approved by the General Register Office via a formal scheme change process. For these reasons, the do nothing option has been rejected.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION**

None.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Decision Maker:  
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:  
Ed Grimshaw

**SCRUTINY**

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in (*if applicable*) (*this suspends implementation*)

Call-in Procedure completed (*if applicable*)

Call-in heard by (*if applicable*)

Results of Call-in (*if applicable*)