



ITEM NO: 10

Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	8 December 2015
Reporting Officer:	Councillor Kieran Quinn, Executive Leader Sandra Stewart – Executive Director (Governance & Resources) and Monitoring Officer
Subject:	EXECUTIVE MEMBER PORTFOLIOS
Report Summary:	The report sets out revised Executive Member portfolios.
Recommendations:	Members are asked to note the revised Executive Member portfolios, which are determined by the Executive Leader in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and will take effect from the Monday 9 January 2015.
Links to Community Strategy:	The Constitution and democratic framework provides an effective framework for implementing the Community Strategy.
Policy Implications:	No direct policy implications.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no financial implications.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)	Good governance requires regular review of the Constitution to ensure fit for purpose.
Risk Management:	No direct risk implications.
Access to Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Sandra Stewart, Executive Director (Governance and Resources).  Telephone: 0161 342 3036  e-mail: sandra.stewart@tameside.gov.uk

1. LEGAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Councils can organise their decision-making process in different ways although the majority of councils operate a leader and cabinet model rather than an elected mayor who holds most of the powers of the Council. Under the leader and cabinet model, the full council elects a leader, who in turn appoints and chairs the cabinet. Each cabinet member has a specific area of responsibility as determined by the leader to cover all the executive functions of the council – for example children and young people, housing or resources.
- 1.2 The cabinet may also be called the executive and it is they who are responsible for implementing strategy and making decisions within a policy framework, budget, spending plans and constitutional framework set by the full council, on which all councillors sit. Finally there are some regulatory and quasi-judicial functions over which the Cabinet does not have responsibility – for example determining planning applications and making decisions on licensing. These are delegated to a separate planning and regulatory committees known as Speakers Panels.
- 1.3 The constitution agreed and approved by council sets out how the council conducts its business. It includes:
 - who is responsible for making decisions and how decisions are made
 - procedural matters (set out in the Standing Orders)
 - role and delegation of officers
 - standards and ethical governance.
- 1.4 Accordingly, this determines what decisions are made where. The Executive Leader determines the portfolios of the Cabinet and the purpose of this report is to ensure there is transparency as to the areas of responsibility and accountability.

2. REASON FOR REVIEW

- 2.1 Elected members are being asked to make tough decisions about services and the Executive Cabinet are legally required to lead this change and deliver a balanced budget in a way that is transparent to members and the public.
- 2.2 Councils across the country have undergone major changes in the last couple of years as we address the budget reductions. This is set to continue for the foreseeable future and at least until 2020.
- 2.3 Some transformation of local government would have been inevitable even without financial challenges facing councils. This is because as we know there is starting to be a fundamental understanding that a whole system approach is required, which includes residents and communities and is not about organisational boundaries. No more is this demonstrated better than in the health economy, where it is cheaper and more beneficial for residents to be in a residential setting or supported at home than in a hospital bed yet the cuts are being made in the Adult Social Care budgets and hospitals remain financially incentivised to keep people in beds. It is for this reason that it is important that we demonstrate leadership in this area and provide constancy of purpose to progress the Integrated Care Organisation.
- 2.4 The Council is required to face the financial decision by considering how we can continue to meet resident's needs in dramatically different ways. We need to make hard decisions expediently whilst ensuring they are as robust as possible and have the confidence of members and public that they are as transparent as possible.
- 2.5 The Executive Cabinet are legally charged with the responsibility to drive the change to deliver a balanced budget in the face of the immediacy of the cuts and need to have a relentless focus on the budget reductions and the Council's priorities.

- 2.6 One of the significant drivers for the council to do this expediently is the announcement from the Treasury that the Department for Communities and Local Government has already agreed a cut of 30% with Treasury in advance of the spending review. This will have a significant and profound impact on us as we are heavily reliant upon this central funding from government, more so than most councils, as only a third of our budget comes from council tax. This will mean we will have to implement our budget reduction plans harder, faster and deeper - making cuts into more areas.
- 2.7 We know we are looking at really unpalatable decisions as we attempt to protect those services for the most vulnerable adults and children. Reluctantly, this means looking at reviewing employee terms and conditions and other really difficult choices set out in the budget consultation.
- 2.8 The Cabinet portfolios have remained consistent since about 2010 apart from reduction in numbers from the statutory maximum of 10 to a current 8 portfolios and this constancy of leadership and purpose has assisted us in delivering over £110 million budget reductions to date.
- 2.9 However, given the significant challenge we face, now is an expedient time to review the portfolios to ensure they reflect shape of authority going forward and more importantly to provide fresh eyes and approach to driving this forward.

3. REVISED PORTFOLIOS

- 3.1 The revised Portfolios are set out at **Appendix 1** together with the Cabinet Members who will hold these posts.
- 3.2 The new roles will take effect from Monday 9 January 2016 to ensure an effective and efficient handover whilst ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place during the Christmas closure.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.