

**Record of  
Executive  
Decisions  
published  
19/Apr/2012**



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19 April 2012



## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 19/Apr/2012

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

27/Apr/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Apr/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To approve: i the revised PANs set out at 4.1 of this report; ii the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning City, be given delegated authority to determine any further exceptional changes to PANs if this is necessary.

**Reasons for decision:**

Cabinet approval of the proposed changes will address the currently identified pressures in the Washington and South areas of the City.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative is not to approve the proposed changes to PANs, which would not address the pressure on places.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Revision to School Admission Arrangements - September 2012 - Report of the Executive Director Children's Services

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 19/Apr/2012

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

18/Apr/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Apr/2012

**Full description of decision:**

That Council be recommended to;

- a) Note the Leader's decision to revise Cabinet portfolios, with effect from Annual Council, by reducing the number of Cabinet Portfolios from ten to eight (retaining the three current Leadership Portfolios) and revising Portfolio remits accordingly and to approve changes to Committees to take effect from Annual Council
- b) Approve changes to support arrangements for Cabinet, the number of Scrutiny Committees, Personnel Committee, and to strengthen the leadership of Area Committees, as follows;
  - i. Establish the role of Policy Support Member (five Members) to provide additional support for members of Cabinet
  - ii. Reduce the number of Scrutiny Committees from seven to one with one Chairman, one Vice Chairman and six Scrutiny Lead Members
  - iii. Establish five additional roles to support the Chairs and work of the Area Committees and confirm that in each Area Committee there will be one Vice Chair, Lead Area Member with responsibility for 'Place' matters and an Alternate Vice Chair, Lead Area Member for 'People' matters.
  - iv. Disestablish Personnel Committee with relevant executive decisions to be made by Cabinet and alternative arrangements to be established for exercise of those functions that are not to be the responsibility of the Executive.
  - v. Disestablish Appeals Committee arrangements following consultation upon options for an alternative appeals mechanism.
  - vi. Authorise the Head of Law and Governance to amend the constitution to reflect the revised arrangements.

**Reasons for decision:**

Approval for these proposals will ensure that the Council's Executive and Committee structures are configured in a way which will

1. enable Cabinet to manage an increasingly broad and complex agenda most effectively
2. support increased devolution of decision-making on the widest range of appropriate services to the most appropriate level
3. strengthen the influence of local councillors in the design, delivery and review of these services

Proposals are intended to strengthen the Council's capacity at a critical time in its development as Community Leader, as the Sunderland Way of Working matures and embeds within the organisation and as a fast moving national policy agenda continues to throw up major and challenges opportunities for the Council and City.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The following options were considered as part of this process

**Retain Cabinet in its current size and form.** This option was rejected as it would not align Portfolios sufficiently with key emerging challenges and responsibilities facing the Council and City. Nor would this option provide Cabinet with the additional capacity it will require to support smooth and effective moves towards increased decentralisation as described above.

**Retain Area Committee leadership structures in their current form:** This option was rejected in view of the need to strengthen current capacity within Area Committees to take on significant additional roles and responsibilities associated with the Council's proposals for increased devolution of decision-making to the Area level.

**Retain all Scrutiny Committees in their current size and form.** This was rejected for three main reasons.

Firstly, overall proposals are designed to place a clear emphasis upon the need to deliver a decentralisation agenda in an effective manner. This would have clear implications for the role and capacity of Cabinet and Area Committees and these would therefore be prioritised for further clarification and strengthening (respectively).

Secondly, practical management of decentralisation is also likely to require significant additional Member input to the set up, ongoing operation and regular review of enhanced area arrangements. It is therefore considered important to prioritise attention principally upon Cabinet and Area Committees. This would have direct knock-on implications for the focus of Scrutiny and how it should operate in the future. The preferred option was selected in view of its capacity to accommodate key legal and other requirements, to maintain the high level of effectiveness achieved by Scrutiny but to do so in a more focused, streamlined manner.

Thirdly, the preferred option also reflected the stronger local scrutiny role envisaged for both Area Boards and Area Committees.

**Retain Personnel Committee in its current form**

This option was rejected as it does not maximise the efficiency of arrangements by positioning Member and managerial responsibilities appropriately to facilitate effective decision-making.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Review of the Council's Executive and Committee Arrangements - Joint Report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

# Record of Executive Decisions Published: 19/Apr/2012

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet  
**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:** Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee/Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee/Prosperous City Scrutiny Committee and also the Planning and Highways Committee

**Date decision in force:**

27/Apr/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Apr/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To :

1. Endorse the contents of the Sunderland Retail Needs Update, the Employment Land Update and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment so that they can be used as :
  - a) Part of the evidence base to inform the emerging Local Development Framework, and
  - b) Material considerations in determining planning applications.
2. Agree that Council be recommended to:
  - a) Approve the attached Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment reports) for the purposes of public consultation and as a material consideration in assessing planning applications, pending its finalisation following public consultation;
  - b) Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to make any required amendments to the attached Sunderland Core Strategy Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment reports) as necessary prior to its publication for public consultation.

**Reasons for decision:**

The decision is required to enable the Core Strategy to proceed to its next stage (statutory consultation) in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

All local planning authorities are charged under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 with the preparation of a local development framework (LDF), which must include a core strategy. They are also charged with preparing the LDF in accordance with the provisions of an approved Local Development Scheme.

The Core Strategy must be informed by a robust evidence base. The need for evidence regarding Retail Needs and Employment Land requirements are emphasised in national planning guidance (PPS4) and Strategic Housing Land Assessments are a requirement of PPS3. To not undertake such updates in the light of the changing circumstances in the City, would undermine the planning policy framework and could jeopardise the Core Strategy at Examination.

Therefore there are no alternatives to preparing the preferred options of the Core Strategy or the supporting evidential papers

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

City of Sunderland Local Development Framework : Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options and Supporting Evidence Papers - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

# Record of Executive Decisions Published: 19/Apr/2012

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet  
**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:** Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

18/Apr/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Apr/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To note the report of the 22 March 2012 and to approve the following staffing proposals.

**City Services – Customer Service Network**

- Redesignate the post of Customer Service Network Manager, graded POG, to the post of Customer Service Delivery Manager, and regrade to POH/I

**Chief Executive's Office -Staffing Proposal – Strategy, Policy and Performance Management Function**

Delete the following full-time posts:

- Lead Policy Officer for Transport, Scale POJ
- Associate Policy Lead for Planning, Scale POG/H
- Lead Policy Officer for Communities and Equalities, Scale POJ
- Associate Policy Lead for Adults, Scale POG/H
- Performance and Improvement Lead for Economy and Place, Scale POJ/K
- Performance and Improvement Lead for People and Neighbourhoods, Scale POJ/K

Reduce the hours of the following posts to the hours each post holder is contracted to work.

These posts are occupied by officers working fewer than full time hours on a permanent basis:

- Associate Policy Lead for Health, Scale POG/H, reduce post to 32 hours per week
- Associate Policy Lead for Communities and Equalities, Scale POG/H, reduce post to 25 hours per week
- Lead Policy Officer for Economy and Sustainability, Scale POJ – reduce post to 34 hours per week
- Lead Policy Officer to the Leader and the Chief Executive, Scale POJ – reduce post to 32 hours per week
- Associate Lead for Performance Improvement, POG/H – reduce post to 34 hours per week

Redesignate and regrade the following post:

- Re-designate the post of Lead Officer for Corporate Performance POI/J as Performance Improvement Lead (Corporate, Economy and Place) and re-grade to POJ/K.

**Reasons for decision:**

To reflect additional duties and responsibilities being undertaken by the postholders and to provide an appropriate response to the development of services.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The proposals are an appropriate response to meet the requirements of the services and the proposed grades are commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the posts.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee, Part II held on 22 March 2012

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 19/Apr/2012

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet  
**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:** Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

18/Apr/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Apr/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive the award of grant from the Townscape Heritage Initiative Budget to assist in the delivery of a restoration project at 51 High Street East to enable the building to be returned to full and beneficial use as ground floor retail with two apartments above.

**Reasons for decision:**

The contribution of the proposed grant towards the overall cost of the renovation of the building will assist in advancing the Council's objectives of securing the regeneration of the Old Sunderland THI area through the refurbishment of a vacant and derelict historic building currently at risk. An award of THI grant will assist in bringing back into beneficial use an important heritage asset of the East End.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

Not to offer a grant. Without the offer of the grant, there is a risk that the scheme will not be carried out and works that will contribute to the regeneration of Old Sunderland will not proceed and the building will continue to deteriorate.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Old Sunderland Townscape Heritage Initiative: Award of Grant to Assist works to restore 51 High Street East, Sunderland - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None