



## Council Cabinet Portfolios: Proposed Re-Allocation of Youth Service

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council Cabinet agrees to the re-allocation of the Youth Service to the Council Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, C&YPS, and seeks ratification of the change at the meeting of full Council 19 July 2006.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 There will be a 'joint area review' during 2007 and ahead of that the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services. 'Youth Matters', the Department for Education and Skills document which deals with the youth element of Every Child Matters, states 'Our vision for reform is to create an *integrated system* [emphasis added] which is responsive to the needs of the individual, which supports all teenagers to achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes, and which strikes an appropriate balance between supporting and challenging young people'.
- 2.2 At a practical level split in political management responsibilities may create unnecessary complications in decision making and thus detract from achievement of the coherence of strategy necessary to deliver the required 'integrated system'.
- 2.3 The Council has previous experience of external inspectorates making observations on its Member structures. In September 2002 OFSTED had expressed concerns about the cross-cutting portfolio of the (then) Lifelong Learning and Culture Commission. This directly led to a reconfiguration of scrutiny portfolios at the 2003 Annual Meeting with the creation of the Education Commission symmetrical to the Council's LEA functions.
- 2.4 Under the Act 2004 Act the Council is required to appoint both a Director and a Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services. Should an external inspector query the present allocation of the Youth Service it may be difficult to make a case for it being detached from the Lead Member's portfolio which covers the other services to 16 to 19 year olds, including the link to Connexions.

- 2.5 The benefits of one-to-one co-terminosity was recently shown during the Social Care and Health Commission's evidence-based review of the proposed Primary Care Trust reconfiguration and the Commission's conclusion had been endorsed by Council Cabinet. As good practice this would also apply to the Council's own internal arrangements.
- 2.6 A further consequence of the current allocation of the Youth Service to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, linked to the decision of the 2006 Annual Meeting that the scrutiny function mirror Cabinet portfolios, is that the Youth Service comes within the portfolio of the Adult Services and Health Commission.
- 2.7 The Youth Service is an LEA-related function of the City Council. In the Council constitution overview and scrutiny rules OS6 and 7 give effect to statutory requirements in Section 21 of, and Schedule 1 to, the Local Government Act 2000. The rules read:

### **Education representatives**

OS6 The overview and scrutiny commission dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives:

- a. one Church of England diocese representative;
- b. one Roman Catholic diocese representative;
- c. two parent governor representatives; and
- d. one representative of other faiths or denominations.

OS7 A relevant overview and scrutiny commission in this paragraph is an overview and scrutiny commission of a local education authority, where the commission's functions relate wholly or in part to any education functions which are the responsibility of the authority's Executive. If the overview and scrutiny commission deals with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

- 2.8 If the present allocation of the Youth Service to the Adult Services Cabinet Member stands the five statutory representatives would have a right to be included in the Adult and Health Services Commission when that service was being discussed.
- 2.9 The full Council meeting on 19 July 2006 would afford an early opportunity to re-allocate the Youth Service to the statutory lead member for Children and Young People's Services.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. None.

**Legal**

- 2 Set out in the report. Any comments of the Legal Division will follow.

**Personnel**

- 3 None directly arising.

**Equalities impact**

- 4 None directly arising.

**Corporate Priorities**

- 5 The proposed change relates to **deliver excellent services, performance and value for money**. Although the quality of service received by users is completely unaffected by political management arrangements, external inspectorates judgments affect the official rating of services.