



Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

22 (e) Part 3 Scheme of Delegation October 2022



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GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
Chief Officers	Directors and Chief Executive
Committee	Any reference to a Committee shall be read to include Panel, Board or Sub-Committee and shall be deemed to include reference to a successor Committee, Panel, Board or Sub-Committee provided that the subject matter of a particular delegation can be found within the terms of reference of both the earlier and the successor Committee or Sub-Committee.
Court	To be construed widely including but not limited to tribunals, inquiries and other quasi-judicial hearings.
Decision Notice	As per the Council's Decision-Making Guidance.
Executive Decisions	Decisions made in connection with a function of the Council which are the responsibility of the executive or which have been designated by the Council as an executive function.
Local Authority Incident Director	The Incident Director may be the Chief Executive, or another Chief Officer appointed to the role by the Chief Executive (as a deputising officer). This is laid out in the Council's Emergency Plan (https://intranet.sandwell.gov.uk/info/20397/resilience_team/3540/emergency_plans).
Non-Executive Decisions	Decisions made in connection with a function of the Council which are not the responsibility of the executive or which have not been designated executive functions by the Council.

E1. SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

- 1.1 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution, each Chief Officer has a number of delegations which are set out below. The following sections set out the delegations to officers:
 - Officer delegated decision making setting out general notes on the parameters of the delegations and the process for taking officer delegated decisions;
 - Financial delegations to Chief Officers setting out the financial and governance delegations to all Chief Officers (the Chief Executive and Directors);
 - Functional Delegations to each of the Chief Officers.
- 1.2 Each of these delegations must be supplemented by a written Scheme of Sub-Delegations, which confirms the delegated authorisations by Chief Officers to officers within their directorate and/or under their management and/or control.

E2. OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION MAKING - GENERAL

- 2.1 Officers may take all routine and day-to-day operational service decisions consistent with their roles within agreed policies and or in accordance with the officer sub-delegation scheme provided that any decision can be implemented within overall approved budgets in relation to the services for which they are responsible, subject to any other requirements imposed by the Constitution.
- 2.2 All delegated functions shall be deemed to be exercised on behalf of and in the name of the Council.
- 2.3 The exercise/discharge of a delegated power, duty or function shall:
 - i) Be in accordance with the law (including primary and secondary legislation and bye-laws);
 - ii) be subject to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework;
 - iii) be subject to the provisions of the Council's Constitution;
 - iv) comply and/or adhere to all relevant and applicable codes and protocols, and statutory and Council guidance.
- 2.4 An officer to whom a power, duty or function is delegated may authorise another officer, to exercise that power, duty or function, subject to the requirements that follow:
 - i) such authorisations shall be in writing and shall only be given to an officer over which the officer with the original delegated power, duty or function has control;
 - ii) such authorisations should only be given where there is significant administrative convenience in doing so;
 - iii) the officer authorised by the other may act in their own name or in the name of the officer who received the original delegation unless otherwise stated in the

SANDWELL MBC SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS – OCTOBER 2022 Scheme of Delegation;

- iv) no authorisation may be given if statute or the law prohibits it.
- 2.5 Onward authorisations referred to in paragraph 2.3 involving significant issues or matters should not be considered to be the norm but used only in appropriate circumstances and after assessing the risk. There can be no additional such delegation.
- 2.6 Any mis-categorisation of a delegation as being Executive, non-Executive or anything else shall not invalidate the delegation.
- 2.7 References to any Act, Regulation, Order or Byelaw shall be construed as including any re- enactment or re-making of the same, whether or not with amendments.
- 2.8 Any reference to any Act of Parliament includes reference to Regulations or subordinate legislation upon which either UK legislation is based, or from which powers, duties and functions of the Council are derived.
- 2.9 Where the exercise of powers is subject to prior consultation with another officer, that officer may give their views in general terms in advance to apply to any particular circumstances, to remove the need for consultation for each proposal.
- 2.10 Subject to any express instructions to the contrary from the delegating body, any power to approve also includes the power to refuse, and the power to impose appropriate conditions.
- 2.11 Delegations to officers are subject to:
 - i) The right of the delegating body to decide any matter in a particular case;
 - ii) The officer may, in lieu of exercising their delegated power, refer to the delegating body for a decision;
 - iii) Any restrictions, conditions, or directions of the delegating body;
 - iv) The overarching discretion of the officer to not exercise the delegated power, but refer the matter for determination by the executive, relevant committee/board, or full Council as appropriate.
- 2.12 In exercising delegated powers, the officer shall:
 - i) Take account of the requirements of this Constitution and shall address all legal, financial, risk and other relevant implications including professional safeguards as if the matter were not delegated;
 - ii) Shall exercise the delegation so as to promote the efficient, effective and economic running of that Directorate and the Council, and in furtherance of the Council's vision values, and priorities; and
 - iii) Where and when appropriate and/or necessary, report back to the appropriate delegating body as to the exercise of those delegated powers.
- 2.13 Except where otherwise expressly provided either within the Scheme of Delegation or by resolution of the delegating body, the exercise of any delegated power, duty or function is subject to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

- 2.14 Save in respect of any statutory roles that are not capable of delegation, any power conferred on a subordinate officer shall be exercisable by the Director.
- 2.15 The Scheme of Delegation is maintained by the Director Law and Governance and shall be available on the Council's internet and intranet pages.
- 2.16 Officers shall notify the Director of Law and Governance of any changes in legislation, legal duties and obligations that may impact upon or require changes to the Scheme of Delegations.
- 2.17 The Director Law and Governance shall have the power to amend the Scheme of Delegations to reflect legislative changes, re- organisations, changes in job titles and vacancies, minor errors or omissions and other administrative requirements where said changes result in re-distributing existing delegations and not the creation of new ones.
- 2.18 Any post specifically referred to in the Scheme of Delegations shall be deemed to include any successor post, or a post which includes within the job description, elements relevant to any particular delegation, which were also present in the earlier post and shall include anyone acting up or seconded. Any power contained within this Scheme in anticipation of any reorganisation may be exercised in accordance with the preceding Scheme to the date of that reorganisation.
- 2.19 Where a power or duty is delegated to an officer, and the exercise of that power or duty is contingent upon the opinion of the Council that particular conditions or factual circumstances exist, then the officer in question has the power to determine whether or not those circumstances exist or those conditions have been fulfilled in the name of and with the authority of the Council.
- 2.20 All matters of interpretation of this document will be determined by the Director Law and Governance.
- 2.21 Advice on procedures and matters to be taken into account in exercising officer delegated powers, is set out in guidance on decision-making issued by the Director Law and Governance.
- 2.22 If a power is delegated to an officer, but that delegation cannot be exercised, that must be reported to the delegating body.
- 2.23 Functions, matters, powers, authorisations, delegations, duties and responsibilities etc within this Scheme shall be construed in a broad and inclusive manner and shall include actions that are deemed necessary to facilitate or deemed incidental or conducive to the discharge of anything specified.
- 2.24 Non-Executive functions are specified in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended. Any function that is not therefore specified must be assumed to be an

SANDWELL MBC SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS – OCTOBER 2022 Executive function.

- 2.25 For the avoidance of doubt, where a power or duty delegated under this scheme includes at source a power to recover costs, fees, or charges, the delegation shall include the power to take all necessary action to recover such fees, costs or charges by way of civil debt or otherwise and shall be without prejudice to any other power to charge or recover costs that the Council may have under legislation.
- 2.26 Where there is doubt over the responsibility for the exercise of the delegated function and/or power, the Chief Executive shall be authorised to determine the issue and determine which officer shall exercise the function/power.

E3. OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION MAKING – PROCESS AND RECORDING OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

- 3.1 Officers should ensure that delegated powers are exercised in accordance with relevant Council policies and procedures and also put appropriate systems in place for recording the exercise of delegated powers in the following manner and circumstances:
 - i) All decisions with a value of between £10,000 and £25,000 made by Officers under delegated powers should be recorded in writing. Utilising the Council's procurement portal shall be sufficient for the purposes of meeting the requirement to be in writing;
 - ii) All decisions with a value of between £25,001 and £100,000 made by Officers under delegated powers shall be recorded in writing and that record of decision shall be produced to the relevant Cabinet Member on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December) each year;
 - iii) All decisions with a value of between £100,001 and £500,000 made by Officers under delegated powers shall be recorded in a formal Decision Notice following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and accompanied by a detailed report, which includes all material and relevant considerations such as finance, legal, HR, equality implications. Such decisions shall be reported to the next available Cabinet Meeting following the date of decision;
 - iv) All non-monetary decisions that are significant or high profile shall be recorded in writing following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. For the purposes of this specific provision, significant means any decision that is considered likely to attract considerable media attention or scrutiny from Scrutiny Boards, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, External Auditor and the like. High profile for the purposes of this provision means any decision or proposed decision in respect of which there is a significant public interest.
- 3.2 Additionally, all decisions taken by Cabinet Members (based on a written report by the Chief Officer) should be recorded in a formal Decision Notice. These decisions are only effective and actionable when posted on the Council's website by Democratic Services and subject to call-in.

E4. DELEGATIONS TO CHIEF OFFICERS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 The Council, its Committees or the Executive will make decisions on matters of significant policy. The Chief Executive and Chief Officers are given express authority to take all necessary actions to implement Council, Committee and Cabinet decisions that commit resources within agreed budgets, as set out below.
- 4.1.2 In relation to all delegated authorities conferred on Chief Officers, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and Director of Finance, may allocate or reallocate responsibility for exercising particular delegations in the interests of the effective use of resources as they think fit.
- 4.1.3 Chief Officers may take all decisions necessary to give effect to implement the contents of any approved Budget and Policy Framework plan (including approved capital programme), in relation to the services for which they are responsible, and within agreed budgets in the case of financial resources, as necessary and appropriate.

4.2 General Delegations

4.2.1 The Chief Executive and Chief Officers have the following delegated powers in respect of all matters which are not "key decisions" or not reserved for decision by the Council or by a Committee, Panel, Board or other fora of the Council, or reserved for decision by the Leader, Cabinet Member, Cabinet or Cabinet Committee:

4.2.1.1 Expenditure and Payments

- (i) To make decisions and approve expenditure relating to the functions of their Directorate providing that:
 - The sum expended is within the approved budget for the Directorate and/or relevant portfolio, and
 - The amount in relation to any single matter does not exceed £500,000 or
 - The amount in relation to any single matter that is between £500,001 and £999,999 and is approved by the relevant Cabinet Member(s) via a valid Decision Notice (see Executive Procedure Rules);
 - The requirements of the Financial Regulations and Procedures in this Constitution and other requirements in the Constitution are complied with.
- (ii) The Chief Executive and Chief Officers have delegated authority to approve and make payments in connection with the duties of the council where it holds monies in the capacity of an "Accountable Body". In all such cases where the Council is the Accountable Body, the Chief Executive or any Chief Officer

has authority to make lawful payments in compliance with the terms under which the Council holds monies as the Accountable Body and in accordance with any requirements approved by the Council as Accountable Body, up to but not exceeding the total amount held under each agreement with the grant giver.

(iii) To agree in-year changes (increases or decreases) to fees and charges, up to a maximum of 10%, in consultation with the Leader, relevant cabinet member(s), Chief Executive and Director of Finance.

4.2.1.2 Employment

- (iv) With the exception of posts which are defined as Chief Officer posts in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; where funding is available within existing budgets, from direct specific grants or other sources of external funding or has been approved by the relevant cabinet member, the Council or a committee and acting within current employment law, the Council's corporate pay, terms and conditions and grading structure:
 - To deal with the appointment, promotion, redesignation, resignation, redundancy (voluntary or otherwise), and secondment of employees, including the deletion of posts, the establishment of new posts and the submission of individual posts for a salary review under the approved corporate job evaluation process.
 - Determine employment matters relating to staff including all changes to staffing structures below Deputy Chief Officer level (as defined in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules) and the annual implementation of the contractual pay increment system. These powers will not include changes to terms and conditions of employment (the Sandwell Contract).
- (v) Chief Officers have authority to approve and sign off severance payments in accordance with approved Council policies and financial limits and other compensatory sums below £20,000.

4.2.1.3 Contracts and Procurement

- (vi) To approve tender strategies and award contracts in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules where the supplies, materials, or services to be purchased or the works to be executed are between the prevailing National Procurement Thresholds over the contract length.
- (vii) Where the relevant Chief Officer determines that no other viable alternative exists, to approve contract extensions, where no extension option in the contract exists, in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules where the supplies, materials, or services to be purchased or the works to be executed do not exceed £100,000 in consultation with the Head of Procurement. Contract extensions between £100,001 and £500,000 will also require approval from the Director of Finance, Director of Law and Governance, and where considered appropriate by the Chief Officer, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

4.2.1.4 Grants

- (viii) To approve and submit grant applications for external funding, in consultation with the Director of Finance, and the relevant Cabinet Member.
- (ix) To accept grant funding offers, in consultation with the Director of Finance, and the relevant Cabinet Member.
- (x) To authorise the allocation of external funding awarded to the Council, subject to prior consultation with the Director of Finance and relevant Cabinet Member.

4.2.1.5 General

- (xi) To take any action to give effect to a decision of Full Council, the Executive, Committees, Boards, Panels and other fora;
- (xii) To authorise Council officers to attend and conduct legal matters in court (as appropriate).

4.3 Chief Executive and the Director of Finance

- 4.3.1 The Chief Executive and the Director of Finance together have the following additional powers to make decisions, in consultation with the Leader or relevant Cabinet Member, in relation to:
 - All future forms of indemnity on behalf of the Council including the signing of certificates under the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997;
 - ii) The Council's loan and investment portfolios in accordance with the statutory borrowing limits determined by the Council and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy as approved from time to time by the Council;
 - iii) Trust fund and accountable body investments;
 - iv) Banking arrangements including opening bank accounts and credit card facilities;
 - v) Non land and building leases;
 - vi) The application for financial assistance to the Council and the authorisation of any grant schemes, proposals and/or claims;

4.4 Chief Executive and the Director of Regeneration and Growth and Director of Housing

- 4.4.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Regeneration and Growth and Director of Housing have the following additional powers to make decisions in relation to:
 - i) The acquisition and disposal of leasehold interests for rent (including the granting and surrendering of any rights over such land and property) provided that any rental does not exceed £200,000 per annum and is consistent with

- the Protocol for the Disposal of Council Owned Land and Buildings. This should be in consultation with Director of Finance;
- ii) The acquisition and disposal of freehold and leasehold interests at a premium, provided that the premium does not exceed £500,000 and is consistent with the Protocol for the Disposal of Council Owned Land and Buildings. This should be in consultation with the Director of Finance;
- iii) The management of all of the Council's land and properties, including the authorising and payment of discretionary contributions towards trade/loss and or removal expenses and all payments due under an approved Compulsory Purchase Order

4.5 Director of Children and Education

4.5.1 The Director of Children and Education (and in their absence the Director of Finance) have the authority to authorise and approve the completion of (but not limited to) the grant of long-term leases, commercial transfer agreements and any other ancillary documentation relating to the changing status of schools, as well as requesting the making and varying of instruments of government or maintaining Schools, subject to the agreement of the Director Law and Governance.

4.6 Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law and Governance – Birmingham International Airport.

- 4.6.1 The Chief Executive and Director of Finance be authorised severally, in conjunction with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council, to take such action as may be required for the purpose of implementing any decision of the Cabinet in relation to the sale or purchase of shares in Birmingham Airport Holdings Ltd, or Birmingham International Airport Ltd.
- 4.6.2 The Chief Executive, or in their absence, be appointed Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Joint Committee, be authorised to discharge all functions in relation to Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited, as provided for at Clause 5.4 of the Birmingham Airport Districts Side Agreement, and to sign and attest the fixing of the common seal of the Council to any documents in connection therewith, in consultation with the Council's Director of Law and Governance and Director of Finance, where appropriate and reasonably practicable.
- 4.6.3 The Chief Executive and Director of Law and Governance is authorised severally to sign, witness the seal or execute on behalf of the Council any document including any legal agreement, written resolution, notice, form or proxy, consent to short notice or other document or to attend any meeting of shareholders as representatives of the Council as may be required for the purpose of any decision in relation to the sale or purchase of shares in Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited or Birmingham International Airport Limited.
- 4.6.4 The Director of Law and Governance is authorised, in consultation with the Leader, or in their absence or inability to act, the Deputy Leader of the Council, to determine any request from Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited for the consent of the Council to any proposal affecting Birmingham International Airport and to sign and attest the fixing of the Common Seal of the Council to any documents in connection therewith;

4.6.5 The Director of Law and Governance is authorised to consider and determine any applications for consent from Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited to enter into easements and wayleave agreements with third party utility companies for the supply of gas water, electricity, communication cabling and foul and surface water drainage in the circumstances that such a proposal affects Birmingham International Airport and to sign and attest the fixing of the Common Seal of the Council to any documents in connection therewith.

4.7 Emergency Planning/Business Continuity

- 4.7.1 Chief Officers and Statutory Officers (or deputising officers) are empowered to authorise all necessary actions in relation to emergencies and business disruptions as designated under the Council's Emergency Plan when activated.
- 4.7.2 In the event of the Emergency Plan being activated, and following action taken, the Chief Officer must notify the Director of Finance and Chief Executive in writing of the circumstances and estimated financial impact and report formally to the relevant Cabinet Member or, for non-executive matters, to the next available meeting of the relevant committee.
- 4.7.3 Where it is considered necessary or appropriate the Chief Executive or the Director of Law and Governance shall convene a meeting of the Council's Emergency Committee (Part 3 Responsibility for Functions Constitutional Committees) to consider the Council's further response in the event of an emergency or business disruption.
- 4.7.4 The principles of decision-making set out in Article 13 (Decision Making) and Part 3s and 4 of the Constitution will apply.

E5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

5.1 Overall Responsibility

- 5.1.1 The Chief Executive shall be the Head of Paid Service and be provided by the authority with such resources as they deem necessary to perform that role, as set out in Article 12 of the Constitution.
- 5.1.2 The Head of Paid Service shall have overall corporate management and operational responsibility for the way in which the organisation delivers its services, and includes the following functions:
 - i) The Chief Executive may discharge all functions and exercise all powers (including Proper Officer powers) in cases of emergency and/or significant urgency where action is needed to prevent significant risk and/or harm to the Council or residents of the borough.
 - ii) The Chief Executive has all the authority in respect of all approved executive and non-executive expenditure, and as may be necessary and subject to the provisions in the constitution, determine which Directorate discharges any particular Council function if this is not clear.
 - iii) The Chief Executive, where no other Director is appointed or is unable to act may exercise voting rights at general meetings of companies of which the Council is a member or by written resolution and may take any necessary action to protect, safeguard and effectively manage the Council's interest in such companies.

iv) The Chief Executive has, in accordance with statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by Local Authorities, authority to approve, in conjunction with the Leader, and sign off Special Severance Payments between £20,000 and £99,999. The Leader's approval must be recorded in writing.

5.2 Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

- 5.2.1 The Chief Executive shall act as the Registration Officer for the purposes of s8(2) Representation of the People Act 1983 (officer of the Council to be the Registration Officer), and shall be authorised to undertake all necessary functions and responsibilities of an Electoral Registration Officer in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- 5.2.2 The Chief Executive shall act as the Returning Officer for the purposes of Representation of the People Act 1983 and shall be authorised to undertake all necessary functions and responsibilities of a Returning Officer in accordance with the relevant legislation.

5.3 Emergency Reports

5.3.1 Part 3 of the Constitution states that:

"In the event of a serious incidents and/or major emergencies where the District Emergency Co-ordinator (or equivalent) considers that the Emergency Committee is required to be convened, the Committee shall:

- (1) consider and approve requests for funding above and beyond normal allocated budget expenditure;
- (2) provide guidance on issues of national significance:
- (3) assist in briefing Council Members as appropriate;
- (4) authorise any other actions that may be deemed appropriate under the prevailing circumstances which would otherwise require a decision of the Cabinet, an individual Cabinet Member or the full Council."
- 5.3.2 In either case, if the Chief Executive is satisfied that it is not expedient, practicable or necessary in the circumstances to convene the Emergency Committee then the following shall apply:
 - i) The Chief Executive shall have the power (or may designate a Director who will then have power) to determine the question or matter or to implement the recommendation (as the case may be) in the name of and without further reference to the Cabinet.
 - ii) The exercise by the Chief Executive, and Director of any powers under this delegation, shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - that the determination of the question or other matter or implementation of the recommendation is capable of determination under law in this manner;
 - that the Chief Executive, or designated Director, before making a

decision shall consult with the Leader (or in their absence the Deputy Leader);

- that the Chief Executive, or designated Director, before making a decision shall consult with the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Finance or their nominated deputies;
- Any decision to be taken under this section shall not exceed £1m;
- that a record of all decisions made or recommendations implemented, together with the consultations referred to in (ii) and (iii) above shall be published on the Council's website within 10 working days; and
- that any decisions made or recommendations implemented under this provision shall be reported to the next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet (for noting).
- 5.3.3 Each Director (in their service area) and Director Law and Governance (all areas) may each exercise the powers of the Chief Executive in the event of their incapacity, absence or unavailability.

5.4 Immediate Implementation

- 5.4.1 If the interests of the Council are jeopardised unless an executive decision is implemented immediately then the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader (or Deputy Leader in their absence), Director of Law and Governance, and Director of Finance may designate such executive decision as so urgent that its implementation cannot wait until the expiry of the call-in period.
- 5.4.2 The exercise of such power shall be clearly noted on the record of the decision, which shall clearly detail the reasons for urgency.
- 5.4.3 In the event of the Emergency Plan being activated, the Chief Executive (or deputising officer) is empowered to authorise all necessary actions as the Local Authority Incident Director. All authorities relevant to the management of the incident are delegated to duty officers as set out in the plan.

E6. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- 6.1 The Director of Finance shall be the Council's Chief Finance Officer and the responsible officer for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 151. A summary of the functions of the Director of Finance are set out in Article 12 (Officers) of this Constitution.
- 6.2 The Director of Finance is authorised to take all action as is necessary or expedient to fulfil the statutory obligations under Section 151 Local Government Act 1972.
- 6.3 The Director of Finance is nominated as the Council's Money Laundering Regulations Officer in accordance with the Money Laundering Regulations 2007.
- 6.4 The Director of Finance may appoint one or more deputy Section 151 Officers each of whom has power to exercise all the powers and duties of the Section 151 Officer during the absence or incapacity of or during the vacancy of the role of,

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- 6.5 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director of Finance, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions falling within the Finance Directorate, including:
 - Ensuring effective financial management and controls, including:
 - Reporting on the robustness of the Council's financial plans;
 - Managing the Council's borrowing and investment requirements;
 - Managing and monitoring the Council's revenue budget and capital programme;
 - Preparation and closure of the Council's financial accounts;
 - Managing the Council's tax affairs; and
 - Internal audit.
 - Setting, supporting and monitoring the council's policies and procedures for managing:
 - Budgets;
 - Procurement and purchasing;
 - Commissioning;
 - Contract management;
 - Internal trading operations;
 - Business Charter for Social Responsibility;
 - Risk management and Insurance.
 - To make standing orders in relation to Finance and contracts;
 - Appointeeship and Deputyship for Adults;
 - Charging and financial assessments including undertaking financial assessments and the provision of deferred payments;
 - Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Benefit and Sundry Debt collection;
 - Investigation of Fraud;
 - Money Laundering;
 - Right to Buy sign off;
 - Mortgage Applications;
 - Matters relating to the transfer of pension rights.

- 6.6 Set the surplus/deficit on the Collection Fund annually in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources.
- 6.7 Approving Business Rates income and NNDR 1 return each year in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources.

6.8 Write offs

6.8.1 To write off any individual debt(s) (including any associated court costs and bailiffs' fees) up to the value of £25,000 per individual or organisation, which is considered to be uneconomical to collect or is irrecoverable. All individual debts above this amount shall be done in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources, and Director of Law and Governance.

6.9 Revenues and Benefits

- 6.9.1 The Director of Finance shall be responsible for the following and is authorised to undertake all necessary action in connection with the effective administration/delivery of:
 - Revenues and Benefits services including:
 - i) Council tax processing and billing arrangements including Council Tax Reduction Scheme;
 - ii) Local Council Tax Reduction and recoverability of excess Council Tax Reduction payments;
 - iii) National non domestic rates;
 - iv) Local hardship schemes;
 - v) Housing benefit, including recoverability of overpayments;
 - vi) Financial and social inclusion initiatives;
 - vii) Discretionary Housing Payments.

E7. Director of Law and Governance

7.1 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director, Law and Governance, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions falling within the Law and Governance Directorate, including:

7.1.1 Law and Governance

- To give effect to a decision of the Council (including decisions taken by a Council committee in accordance with its terms of reference or by a Director in accordance with this scheme of delegation).
- ii) To institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings or settle (up to the value of £250,000 excluding legal costs and disbursements), if appropriate, any actual or threatened legal proceedings in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council or in any case where the Director Law and Governance considers that such action is necessary to safeguard and protect the Council's interests. Decisions above this financial threshold will be made by the Director of Finance and/or the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director Law and Governance and Leader of the Council or relevant Cabinet Member.
- iii) Legal advice and related support services.

7.1.1 Registration Services

- i) To appoint a Proper Officer under Registration Service Act 1953 to carry out functions under the Act, including births, marriages, deaths, and exercising powers under a local registration scheme.
- ii) The Proper Officer will have responsibilities under the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 which govern the process for the approval of premises for the solemnization of marriages and the formation of civil partnerships.
- iii) To appoint a Registrar for burials and cremation for the purposes of Cremation Regulations 2008 and Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.
- iv) The Director of Law and Governance is authorised in applying fees and charges to take into account individual circumstances and make flexible commercial fee related decisions to ensure the charges are appropriate whilst also seeking opportunities to maximize income.
- v) To provide service to support the Council's role as the relevant authority for the Black Country Coroners Services.
- vi) Bereavement Services (Cemeteries, Crematoria, closed churchyards including the authority's role as burial and cremation authority)
- vii) Citizenship Ceremonies.

7.1.2 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- The Director of Law and Governance is the Lead Officer for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Agenda.
- ii) The Director of Law and Governance has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake all necessary action in connection with the effective administration/delivery of the Council's EDI Agenda.

7.1.3 Monitoring Officer

- i) The Director Law and Governance is the Monitoring Officer for the Council. The Monitoring Officer is a statutory appointment and provides advice to protect and safeguard the Council. The functions are summarised in Article 12 and the Protocol on the Discharge of the Functions of the Monitoring Officer.
- ii) Supporting the corporate governance of the council, particularly in respect of:
 - Setting, supporting and monitoring the council's policies and procedures for managing and access to information including data protection laws;
 - To administer the Members' Allowance Scheme;
 - The power to make, amend or revoke byelaws;
 - To report to the Council or the Cabinet in any case where the Ombudsman, after investigation, has reported that any proposal, decision or omission by the Council or any Committee, Sub-Committee or Joint Committee of the authority, the Cabinet or any member or officer of the authority has given rise to maladministration or injustice;
 - To determine whether the disclosure of information by the authority in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs;
 - To investigate any proposal, decision or omission by the Council or any Committee, Sub-Committee or Joint Committee of the authority, the Cabinet or any member or officer of the authority which he/she has reason to believe may have given rise to or is likely to or would give rise to:
 - Illegality;
 - Maladministration;
 - o failure to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
 - To secure the lawfulness and fairness of decision-making, including advising on whether a decision or proposed decision is an executive or non-executive decision, and whether it is contrary to or not in accordance with the authority's approved budget and policy framework;
 - Responsibility for co-ordinating Ombudsman matters and whistleblowing functions of the Authority;
 - Appointment as Proper Officer for the Data Protection Act 2018, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2001:
 - To consult regularly with the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, Assistant Chief Executive and the Chief Internal Auditor to

identify areas where the probity of the authority can be improved or better protected, and to take appropriate actions.

7.1.4 **Democracy Services**

- i) Democracy Services including support to elected members in their responsibilities, particularly in respect of:
 - The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members;
 - · The Mayor;
 - · Councillors via group support offices;
 - The full Council meeting;
 - Cabinet;
 - Committees, Boards, Panels, other for appointed by full Council;
 - Overview & Scrutiny;
 - Training and development of councillors.
- ii) To make any necessary appointments to fill casual vacancies that may arise on Committees, boards and outside bodies carrying out or relating to nonexecutive functions, in consultation with the relevant political group leader, where the need to make the appointment is considered necessary for business efficacy by the Director of Law and Governance before the next meeting of Council.
- iii) To make arrangements for appeals against exclusion of pupils from maintained Schools;
- iv) To make arrangements for appeals regarding school admissions;
- v) To make arrangements for appeals by governing bodies, under s87 School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

7.1.5 Information Governance:

- i) Director of Law and Governance shall be the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner.
- ii) The Director of Law and Governance is authorised to designate an officer of the Council to be the Data Protection Officer pursuant to the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

E8. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

8.1 The Director of Public Health is a statutory appointment as a Chief Officer of the Council appointed jointly with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

- 8.2 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director, Public Health, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions of public health, including the following:
 - Responsibility to protect and improve the health of the local population;
 - Responsibility to ensure arrangements for planning for, and responding to, emergencies;
 - Ensuring co-operation with police, probation and prison services in relation to violent and sexual offenders;
 - Provide public health response as a responsible authority to Licensing applications;
 - Responsibility for ensuring provision of Healthy Start vitamins where child health clinics and maternity services are commissioned by the local authority;
 - Write an annual Director of Public Health report;
 - Be an active member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - Such other public health functions as the Secretary of State specifies in regulations.
 - Public Health Protection and Control of Statutory Nuisance including:
 - Domestic, commercial and industrial noise, fumes and odours;
 - Air quality management; and
 - Other forms of pollution harmful to public health.
 - Environmental Health including:
 - Monitoring and control of infectious diseases;
 - Any function relating to contaminated land;
 - To serve an abatement notice in respect of a statutory nuisance;
 - To pass a resolution that Schedule 2 of the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 should apply in the authority's area;
 - To inspect the authority's area to detect any statutory nuisance;
 - To investigate any complaint about the existence of a statutory nuisance;
 - o The control of pollution or the management of air quality.
 - To have the day-to-day responsibility for the ring-fenced public health grant along with overall responsibility for ensuring that this is invested in order to improve health locally.

E9. DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Summary

- 9.1 The Director of Adult Social Care, is the responsible officer for the Adult Social Services.¹
- 9.2 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director, Adult Social Care, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions of adult social care, including the following:
 - 9.2.1 Provisions of the Care Act 2014;
 - 9.2.2 Services to support adults including:
 - Delivering an integrated whole system approach to supporting communities by working in partnership with the wider Council and Integrated Care System;
 - Integration and personalisation of health and social care services across the borough for the benefit and health and well-being of Sandwell citizens;
 - Prevention and Recovery: to take steps to prevent, reduce or delay the need for care and support for all people including:
 - i) Information, advice and advocacy;
 - ii) Preventative Services: Provision or arrangement of community and home-based services to adults with less intensive needs; and
 - iii) Re-ablement Services: Provision or arrangement of early intervention time-limited services to meet the immediate requirements of adults with short-term social care needs.
 - Long Term Care and Support;
 - Home care;
 - Extra care;
 - Supported Living;
 - Day Opportunities;
 - Residential and Nursing Care;
 - Social Work and Therapy.

¹ Appointed under Section 6 Local Authority Social Services Act 1970

- 9.2.3 Safeguarding including:
 - Ensuring the safety of vulnerable adults in Sandwell;
 - Co-ordination of multiagency arrangements to ensure that resources are deployed in safeguarding vulnerable adults;
 - To promote and enable identification of and appropriate action for vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect;
 - Ensure effective compliance to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Liberty Protection Safeguards) under the Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act; and
 - Delivery of safeguarding training.
- 9.2.4 Assessment and eligibility;
- 9.2.5 Charging and financial assessments including undertaking financial assessments and the provision of deferred payments;
- 9.2.6 Accountability for assessing local needs and ensuring availability and delivery of a full range of adult social services;
- 9.2.7 Creating a diverse and sustainable market;
- 9.2.8 Addressing market failure;
- 9.2.9 Monitoring quality and safety.

E10. DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

Summary

- 10.1 The Director of Children and Education, is the responsible officer for the Children's Services².
- 10.2 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director, Children and Education, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions of children and education services, including the following:
 - 10.2.1 Education of Children and Young People including:
 - School improvement and educational attainment;
 - School places and travel to and from school;
 - Oversight of the Dedicated Schools Grant;

² Appointed under Section 18 Children Act 2004

- School Attendance.
- 10.2.2 Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education;
- 10.2.3 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and alternative provision;
- 10.2.4 Special Educational Needs and Disability Information and Advisory Support Services;
- 10.2.5 Early Years and Childcare Provision;
- 10.2.6 Children's Services and Safeguarding, including:
 - Oversight and management of the contract with Sandwell's Children's Trust;
 - · Safeguarding and Child Protection;
 - Services for Looked After Children;
 - Early Help;
- 10.2.7 Youth Offending Services;
- 10.2.8 Fostering and adoption;
- 10.2.9 Corporate Parenting;
- 10.2.10 Skills and employability;
- 10.2.11 Skills and entrepreneurship in schools;
- 10.2.12 Employment Opportunities;
- 10.2.13 Youth Services;
- 10.2.14 Family Information Service;
- 10.2.15 Residential/Activity Centres;
- 10.2.16 Schools and Governors Support including appointment of local authority Governors.

E11. DIRECTOR, REGENERATION AND GROWTH

- 11.1 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director, Regeneration and Growth, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions of regeneration and growth, including the following:
 - 11.1.1 International and domestic inward economic investment including tourism and the visitor economy.

11.1.2 Economic growth, including:

- Development programmes;
- Land use planning;
- Housing development.

11.1.3 Transport & Connectivity including:

- Development of the Council's transport strategies and programmes;
- The authority's strategic traffic management role and network planning;
- Street naming and numbering;
- Design of minor and major transport and highways projects;
- The making of agreements for the execution of highways works under S278 Highways Act 1980;
- Powers and duties relating to rights of way (including closures) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, Highways Act, Town and Country Planning Act or Clean Neighbourhoods Act;
- Air Quality via the Clean Air Zone.

11.1.4 Local Land Charges functions including:

- Maintenance of the Local Land Charges Register;
- Responsibility for processing local authority searches;
- Management of the planning service;
- Building conservation and urban design;
- Obtaining of information as to interests in land.

11.1.5 Property Services including:

- Council land use and property;
- Operational Property Management;
- Asset Management;
- Facilities Management;
- Valuations and Acquisitions;
- Property Sales;
- Property Strategy Delivery;
- Investment Estate & Property Management;
- Property Asset Management and Income;
- Strategic Investment Property Management;

- Property Development;
- Security Services.
- 11.1.6 Compulsory Purchase Orders.
- 11.1.7 Disposal of Assets as follows:
 - In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration &
 Growth, with Ward Members as appropriate and with the Director of
 Finance and s151 Officer, declaring assets between £100,000 and
 £500,000 in value surplus;
 - In consultation with the Director of Finance and s151 officer, approving the disposal of assets between £100,000 and £500,000;
 - In consultation with the Cabinet Member and with Ward Members as appropriate, declaring assets up to £100,000 surplus;
 - Approving the disposal of assets up to £100,000 in value;
 - Overseeing the negotiation of property transactions;
 - Approving the details of transactions in accordance with delegations put in place by Cabinet;
- 11.1.8 Building Control;
- 11.1.9 To undertake the functions of the local planning authority including:
 - Deal with any applications for planning permission and other related applications;
 - Enforcement action (both Planning and Building Control) and the ability to investigate/ issue notices/take prosecution/direct action;
 - Development of the Council's planning and transport policies;
- 11.1.10 Power to create footpaths and bridleways;
- 11.1.11 Power to stop up footpaths and bridleways;
- 11.1.12 Power to divert footpaths and bridleways;
- 11.1.13 Powers relating to the preservation of trees;
- 11.1.14 Powers relating to the protection of important hedgerows;
- 11.1.15 The control of pollution or the management of air quality;
- 11.1.16 To obtain information about interests in land;
- 11.1.17 To obtain particulars of persons interested in land;
- 11.1.18 To make agreements for the execution of highways works.

E12. DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

12.1 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of

the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director, Housing, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions of housing, including the following:

12.1.1 Housing Services including:

- i) Rent administration and collection;
- ii) Maintenance and monitoring of Housing Revenue Account 30-yr Business Plan:
- iii) Council housing management including:
 - · repairs and maintenance;
 - housing allocations/options;
 - Anti-Social Behaviour.
- iv) Liaison with Registered Social Landlords;
- v) Tenant engagement in social housing;
- vi) Homelessness (Strategic Housing);
- vii) Landlord Licensing Schemes, including Overcrowding Notices;
- viii) Tenancy Management;
- ix) House in Multiple Occupation;
- x) Housing Enforcement:
 - Debt collection, including enforced sale.
 - Compulsory Purchase, Demolition and Prohibition Orders (extended from just Demolition Orders);
- xi) Private Rented Sector;
- xii) Declaration of Clearance Areas;
- xiii) Disabled Facilities Grants;
- xiv) Enforcement of Grant Conditions;
- xv) Housing Fraud Investigations;
- xvi) Enforcement of Housing Standards;
- xvii) Powers of Entry;
- xviii) Housing Developments.

E13. DIRECTOR OF BOROUGH ECONOMY

13.1 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director of Borough Economy, has

responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions of borough economy, including the following:

13.1.1 Regulation and Enforcement, including

- Environmental Health Service, Trading Standards Service, Regional Investigation team, the Licensing Services, the Environmental Enforcement;
- Enforcement activities, including the authorisation of proceedings and defending proceedings on behalf of the council in relation to civil and criminal matters in respect of these services and other services as appropriate.

13.1.2 Licensing functions including:

- Functions of a licensing authority including (but not restricted to):
 - The administration of licenses for entertainment, gambling and the sale of alcohol;
 - Taxi and Private Hire;
 - Miscellaneous licensing functions.

13.1.3 Environmental Health including:

- Food hygiene and safety;
- Health and safety at work;
- Monitoring and control of infectious diseases;
- Private water supply monitoring; and
- Animal health and welfare enforcement.

13.1.4 Trading Standards including:

- Appointing the Chief Inspector for Weights and Measures and their deputy;
- Tackling rogue traders;
- Product safety;
- Misleading claims, scams and illegal trading practices;
- Underage sales;
- Illegal advertising.

13.1.5 Public Health Protection and Control of Statutory Nuisance including:

- Fly tipping, commercial and household Duty of Care and rubbish accumulations;
- Domestic, commercial and industrial noise, fumes and odours;
- To serve an abatement notice in respect of a statutory nuisance;

- To pass a resolution that Schedule 2 of the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 should apply in the authority's area;
- To inspect the authority's area to detect any statutory nuisance;
- To investigate any complaint about the existence of a statutory nuisance;
- Air quality management; and
- Other forms of pollution harmful to public health.
- 13.1.6 To authorise action and exercise powers in relation to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014;
- 13.1.7 Setting, supporting and monitoring the council's policy on Community Safety including:
 - CCTV;
 - Safer communities, including Modern Day Slavery;
 - Domestic abuse:
 - Prevent and Counter-terrorism;
 - To discharge local authority approvals for S35 Dispersal Orders and other statutory instruments relating to local community safety;
 - To Host the Community Safety Partnership and produce a Community Safety Strategy including reducing reoffending and serious violence strategies.
- 13.1.8 Waste Strategy and Services including:
 - Waste collection;
 - Waste disposal;
 - Recycling;
 - Waste Policy and Enforcement.
- 13.1.9 Cleaner Neighbourhoods including:
 - Street cleansing:
 - · Pest control;
 - Litter bin provision and maintenance;
 - Provision and cleaning of public conveniences;
 - Graffiti removal;
 - Dog control and dog warden service;
 - Enforcement.
- 13.1.10 Arts, Culture and Sports, including:
 - Museums and galleries;
 - Arts:
 - · Sporting events.

- 13.1.11 Leisure Services, including facilities;
- 13.1.12 Community sports provision;
- 13.1.13 Library provision;
- 13.1.14 Parks and Allotments including:
 - Creation, management and enhancement of green spaces;
 - Creation, management and enhancement of related visitor attractions and facilities;
 - Public rights of way and provision and maintenance of footpaths and bridleways;
 - Woodland and tree management;
 - Provision of educational events and programmes;
 - Grass cutting and grounds maintenance;
 - Management of designated conservation sites.
- 13.1.15 To discharge the Council's statutory obligations in relation to the operation of the Community Right to Bid for Assets of Community Value and the Community Right to Challenge;
- 13.1.16 Compulsory Purchase Orders;
- 13.1.17 All Highways and Infrastructure and related functions, including:
 - Duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of highways;
 - The making of agreements for the execution of highways works under S38 Highways Act 1980;
 - The making of agreements for the execution of highways works under S278 Highways Act 1980;
 - Powers and duties relating to rights of way (including closures) under the Road traffic Act and Traffic Regulation Act;
 - The authority's role as a highways, traffic and streetworks authorities;
 - Maintenance of highway assets of roads, bridges, retaining walls, street lighting and associated infrastructure;
 - Design and delivery of major and minor highway schemes:
 - The making of agreements for the execution of highways works under S278 Highways Act 1980;
 - Powers and duties relating to rights of way (including closures) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, Highways Act, Town and Country Planning Act or Clean Neighbourhoods Act;

- Powers relating to the removal of things so deposited on highways as to be a nuisance;
- Duty to keep a definitive map and statement under review;
- Duty to reclassify roads used as public paths;
- Power to make limestone pavement order;
- Discharging statutory duties with respect to the delivery of operational parking functions, including Civil Parking Enforcement;
- Flood and water management including:
 - Discharging duties as Lead Local Flood Authority and other duties and responsibilities associated with the Flood Water Management Act;
 - · Land drainage activities;
 - The delivery and maintenance of flood alleviation schemes;
 - Flood response.
- 13.1.18 The council's borough-wide resilience and emergency planning functions;
- 13.1.19 Neighbourhood Management;
- 13.1.20 Any function relating to contaminated land;
- 13.1.21 Event management, subject to the following:
 - Events above 500 people with community impact must be in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member;
 - Events above 5,000 people (one day) must have approval from the relevant Cabinet Member;
 - Events above 5,000 people (multiple days) must have approval from Cabinet.

E14. DIRECTOR - BUSINESS STRATEGY AND CHANGE

14.1 Unless otherwise stated or delegated in the Constitution or confirmed by the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive functions), the Director, Business Strategy and Change, has responsibility for and is authorised to undertake/exercise/discharge all responsibilities, duties, powers in connection with the effective administration/delivery of all executive and non-executive functions of business strategy and change, including the following:

14.1.1 Human Resources

 Setting, supporting and monitoring the council's policies and procedures for managing human resources and effective organisational development (including Occupational Health and Wellbeing, and Health and Safety);

- ii) Recruitment of staff and to determine terms and conditions of employment;
- iii) To undertake the payroll function for all Council employees and associated bodies;
- iv) To make arrangements to consider and determine employee appeals in relation to grievances, grading and dismissal;
- v) To implement standing orders in relation to officer employment;
- vi) Unless otherwise delegated to the Director of Finance, discharge functions relating to local government pensions.

14.1.2 Information and Communications Technology

- Enabling effective ICT support, hardware, software, and necessary ICT infrastructure to ensure compliance with relevant ICT security standards including requisite connectivity to business applications and information that reside either on-premise or Cloud hosted;
- ii) Delivering the Council's Information and Communications Technology Digital Strategy (or equivalent).

14.1.3 Customer Services and Business Support

- i) Delivery of the Council's Customer Access Strategy;
- ii) The Council's corporate customer services and business support functions including:
 - The telephone contact centre and front-facing customer service;
 - Digital access including the council's website and e-services;
 - Customer feedback.
- iii) Communications and Corporate Affairs;
- iv) Corporate Transformation:
- v) Corporate Strategy and Performance.

E15. SANDWELL CHILDREN'S TRUST

- 15.1 The Director of Children's and Education:
 - 15.1.1 As the statutorily responsible individual for the delivery of children's social care the Director of Children and Education will be the Council's duly authorised individual in respect of the Service Delivery Contract between the Council and

Sandwell Children's Trust and shall be deemed to be empowered and authorised to act on behalf of the Council (in accordance with the relevant delegations set out in Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) in the Council's constitution for such purposes connected with this Agreement.

15.2 The Director of Finance is authorised to:

- 15.2.1 enter into any future borrowing, credit facility or investment arrangement (other than trade credit in the ordinary course of business) that has not been approved in the Business Plan; (Articles of Association ref. 9.2.3);
- 15.2.2 deal with any future surpluses of the Sandwell Children's Trust, other than those surpluses which are agreed, pursuant to the Services Delivery Contract, shall be retained by the Sandwell Children's Trust (Articles of Association ref. 9.2.4);
- 15.2.3 amend the Sandwell Children's Trust's bank mandates (Articles of Association ref. 9.2.5);
- 15.2.4 acquire or dispose of any assets of the Sandwell Children's Trust with an aggregate value not exceeding £250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand pounds) (Articles of Association ref. 9.2.8);
- 15.2.5 approve or amend the Business Plan (Articles of Association ref. 9.2.13);
- 15.2.6 enter into any new third-party contracts (which the Sandwell Children's Trust proposes to enter into outside the scope of the Services Delivery Contract for the provision of services by third parties to the Sandwell Children's Trust) with a capital value greater than £250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand pounds) or revenue value greater than £250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand pounds) (Articles of Association ref. 9.2.15);
- 15.2.7 enter into any new third-party contracts (which the Sandwell Children's Trust proposes to enter into outside the scope of the Services Delivery Contract for the provision of services by the Sandwell Children's Trust to third parties) with either a capital value greater than £250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand pounds) or revenue value greater than £250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand pounds) (Articles of Association ref. 9.2.16);
- 15.2.8 Approve the appointment of the external auditor.