

Revisions to the Officer Scheme of Delegation – May 2009

New delegations required for approval – Neighbourhoods Directorate.

Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

1. To approve after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member terms for the repurchase of property sold through the Right to Buy process and compensation payments to business tenants to facilitate site assembly for Estate Regeneration Projects, where Cabinet approval exists for these land acquisitions.
2. Following consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible, Solicitor to the Council, Head of Finance and Head of Property to dispose of the following land held within the Housing Revenue Account subject to best consideration being received:
 - (a) Single vacant properties which are not economic to repair; or
 - (b) Small vacant sites of up to 0.1 hectares in size and capable of accommodating no more than 10 new homes for the purposes of estate regeneration and the development of new housing.

Head of Neighbourhood Services

1. To approve modifications to the Southampton's Tree Operational Risk Management System (STORMS) following consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, the Council's Risk and Insurance Manager and the Council's Health and Safety Manager to ensure the system remains fully effective.

Amendments to Existing Delegations

- 6.7.14 Power to make, modify or vary, revoke **but not confirm** Tree Preservation Orders under Sections 198 and 201 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and to confirm such orders except where valid objections are received (granted by Planning & Rights of Way Panel 3.4.07 in addition to Development Control Manager) This will also apply to 4.8.5)

Estate Regeneration Manager

Reason - Following the establishment of revised management structures in 2008, the Estate Regeneration Manager will need to share or assume responsibility for certain delegations in relation to the Estate Regeneration Programme.

To have duplicate delegations in respect of:

- 6.3.1 To serve Notices of Seeking Possession and/or Notices to Quit where appropriate and to take necessary action upon the expiry of such Notices.
- 6.3.2 To institute proceedings for the recovery of possession of property and/or land occupied by squatters.

- 6.3.3 To serve notices and to institute forfeiture proceedings to Council tenants in appropriate cases.
- 6.3.4 To evict, where lawful, necessary and expedient.
- 6.3.11 To authorise variations in shop leases, rents and terms of tenure where this is consistent with effective management of estates.

Duplicate delegation required for Head of Housing Management / Housing Solutions and Estate Regeneration Manager

Reason – Following the internal restructure due to the Estate Regeneration Programme, this power needs to be shared by these 3 Heads of Service above.

- 6.5.2 To approve homeloss, disturbance and ex-gratia payments for removal expenses for displayed tenants on modernisation or major works of Council dwellings.

Transfer of Delegations from Head of Communities and Regeneration to Head of Neighbourhood Services, with relevant amendments.

Reason – Following an internal management restructure, the Stronger Communities and Safer Communities Teams are transferring to the Head of Neighbourhood Services. Therefore related Delegated Powers also need to transfer.

- 5.4.1 Following consultation with the Head of Finance and the appropriate officers dealing with European matters, to complete and submit expressions of interest for funding or initiatives relating to, equalities, cohesion, community safety and community involvement to any UK or EU funding agencies.
- 5.4.2 To act in all matters associated with the delivery of neighbourhood renewal, inclusion, community safety and community involvement and other programmes, partnerships or arrangements managed by external partnership bodies where the Council is the accountable body or is responsible for or is a partner in the programme, partnership or arrangement, and in particular to do so following consultation with the board or other body responsible for the management of the programme, partnership or arrangement, and to seek and replace members of such bodies.

Action should only follow appropriate consultation at the outset. Where land use and planning processes are involved this must be with the Head of Finance, Solicitor to the Council and the Head of Planning and Sustainability. Where there is existing or intended Council ownership this must include the Head of Property Services. As appropriate, this shall also include clients such as, but not confined to, Children Service and Learning.

- 5.4.4 The power to enter into grant agreements for the award of grants derived from Government funded regeneration programmes and to determine when a legal charge is required on property to secure the repayment of any grant award.

- 5.4.7 To formally sign off regeneration Delivery Plans and Funding Agreements with the appropriate Funding Agencies for all externally funded projects and programmes relating to equalities, cohesion, community safety and community involvement following consultation with the Head of Finance.
- 5.4.8 To determine Community Chest Grant applications taking into account recommendations made by the Grants Advisory Panel.
- 5.4.10 To undertake any duties in respect of new work in the areas of community safety, new communities, community cohesion, community involvement and inequalities as a result of any revisions to Service and Financial Plans.
- 5.4.14 To revise, if required, revenue subsidies to Category B Council owned community centres and the funding to support the development of community involvement activities linked to the operation of such centres.