

Chairman - Councillor P M M Farrington

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

F Beatty	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
J M Pert	Community and Health Portfolio
J K Price	Environment Portfolio
R M Smith	Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio

Also present Councillors J Hood, R Kenney and M Phillips

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	Chief Executive
Dr T Redpath	Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr J Dean	Democratic Services Officer

CAB49 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2022 as published on 4 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB50 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C V Trowbridge.

CAB51 Interim Position Report - First Stage of the Business Case for the Extension of the Shared Service Arrangements

Considered a report establishing the case for continuing with detailed work to establish a comprehensive business case for the extension of shared services between Stafford Borough and Cannock Chase Council to include the sharing of a Senior Management Team led by a shared Chief Executive.

The Leader of the Council appraised this complex issue reiterating that to this point no final decisions or commitments to action had been made, and that the aim of the report was to present the business case for the potential for further shared services. Councillor Farrington was keen to stress the importance of maintaining the sovereignty of both Councils in question and to fully engage with all staff throughout the process.

Continuing, the Leader detailed the current shared services which had bought considerable efficiencies to both Councils, before outlining the proposed next steps as detailed in paragraph 11 of the report.

In conclusion, Councillor Farrington repeated that the driver for further shared services was not based on financial considerations but also took into account other issues such as devolution, future resilience, capacity and effective service delivery before highlighting the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report.

Cabinet Members welcomed the report and highlighted the key drivers for further shared services as set out in paragraph 6, again noting the importance of transparent communication with all Members and Officers.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendations, which were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Leader of the Council be approved as follows:-

That (subject to approval of the proposals by Cannock Chase Council at its Council meeting on 27 April 2022) the following be recommended to Council for approval:-

- (i) the opportunities of further shared services with Cannock Chase Council continue to be explored;
- (ii) that the Joint Chief Executive be authorised to continue to develop the second stage of the detailed business case to be reported to Cabinet on 6 October 2022 and Council on 22 November 2022 ("the Term") together with an outline implementation plan;
- (iii) during the Term, Mr Clegg remain employed by Stafford Borough Council and seconded to Cannock Chase Council by agreement under section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Council agree to continue to share the full costs of the Joint Chief Executive post with Cannock Chase Council on a 50/50 basis (as set out in the report to Council on 17 May 2021;
- (iv) the Joint Deputy Chief Executive arrangements remain in place during the Term to support the completion of the detailed business case in line with the report to Council on 17 May 2021 in order to continue to provide adequate cover arrangements and to provide a mechanism in relation to conflicts of interests;

- (v) the non-decision-making Shared Services Board continue to consider any matters that arise in the interim. The Board would report to both Councils' Cabinets with the final proposal being put to each Council meeting for final determination;
- (vi) the Head of Law and Administration together with the interim Deputy Chief Executive (Joint Shared Head of Human Resources), in consultation with the Leader of each Council be authorised to finalise the necessary legal and HR arrangements in relation to the above recommendations;
- (vii) the budget provision be increased for independent Advice and support to the development of the second stage of the business case to £60,000; the full cost to be shared 50:50 by each Council;
- (viii) the Local Government Association be invited to:
 - Engage with Members early in the development of the second stage of the business case to seek their views on the wider sharing of services;
 - Hold one to one sessions with all Heads of Service to obtain feedback on existing shared services and their considerations and thoughts on the proposals;
 - Review the second stage of the completed business case, prior to its submission to both Councils for consideration, to ensure that it provides sufficient and balanced information for Members to make a final decision on.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 19 APRIL 2022.

CAB52 Stafford Borough Council Climate Adaptation Strategy

Considered a report introducing the Stafford Borough Council Climate Adaptation Strategy and to propose that the document be subject to a period of public consultation

Councillor J K Price paid tribute to the efforts of Dr Redpath and colleagues in preparing said strategy, before detailing the key issues as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

The Cabinet Member reiterated the importance of working in collaboration with partner organisations to progress this issue before highlighting the proposals as set out in paragraph 2.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendations, which were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That the output of the Stafford Borough Council Climate Adaptation Strategy be noted and approved for public consultation

CHAIR