Dear Members

Council Meeting

I hereby give notice that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford on **Tuesday 24 July 2018 at 7.00pm** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.

Tim Clegg
Chief Executive
AGENDA

1 Approval of the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council held on 21 May 2018 as published in Digest No 243 on Friday 1 June 2018

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Declarations of Interest

4 Announcements (paragraph 3.2(iii) of the Council Procedure rules)

5 Public Question Time - Nil

6 Councillor Session - Nil

7 Notice of Motion - Nil

Page Nos

8 Community Governance Review 3 - 6

9 Committee Business Planning Reports 7 - 21

10 Any Items Referred from Scrutiny Committee

Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Riverside
Stafford
ST16 3AQ
COUNCIL
24 JULY 2018
Community Governance Review

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider a request and supporting petition received for a Community Governance Review from residents of the Parish of Swynnerton requesting the establishment of a separate Yarnfield Parish Council.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That:-

(a) the Council conduct a Community Governance Review of Swynnerton Parish with the terms of reference set out in paragraph 5.4;

(b) the arrangements for the review be delegated to the Head of Law and Administration;

(c) the Resources Scrutiny Committee conduct the review and make recommendations to the Council;

(d) budget provision of £5000 be made for the cost of the review to be met from reserves

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 made provision for Community Governance Reviews to be carried out by District Councils. The Borough Council may carry out a Community Governance Review of all or part of its area at any time. The Council must carry out a Community Governance Review if it receives a valid Community Governance Petition. A Review considers the arrangements for community governance in the area under review and may recommend:-

- the constitution of new parishes
- changes to the area of a parish
- the abolition of parishes
• the change in name of a parish
• the creation or abolition of a council for a parish
• the grouping or degrouping of parishes
• the electoral arrangements which should apply to a new or existing parish

The recommendations of a review may, with two exceptions, be put into effect by an order made by the Council.

3.2 A valid Community Governance Petition has been received for the Parish of Swynnerton asking for a review with a view to constituting a new parish for Yarnfield. The Council is obliged to carry out this review.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities that promote health and wellbeing.

5 Report Detail

5.1 The power to review community governance arrangements was devolved from central government to local government by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. In shire districts the power is devolved to the district council. Community governance arrangements are all matters relating to the administrative parishes in the area including which areas should be parished, the boundaries of the parishes, the names of the parishes, which areas should have a parish council and the electoral arrangements for the council. The Borough Council has the power to conduct such reviews within its area and may do so at any time but is required to do so if it receives a valid petition signed by the specified number of electors for the area concerned. It is for the Council to set the terms of reference of the review although, where there is a valid petition the terms of reference must allow for the consideration of the matters raised in the petition. The cost of any reviews falls on the Borough Council.

5.2 The conduct of the review is a matter for the Council subject to certain mandatory requirements in the Act and to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The Council is required to consult the local government electors in the area under review and any other person or body which appears to have an interest in the review. The Council must have regard to the need to secure that the arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community and are effective and convenient. The Council must take into account other arrangements for community representation and engagement and any representations received during the review.

5.3 There are regulations which govern the financial, property and other consequential issues which may arise from a review.

5.4 The Petition in respect of Swynnerton Parish specifically requests the creation of a new Parish Council for the area of Yarnfield which is currently part of Swynnerton Parish. This could only be achieved by the creation of a new Parish and the establishment of a new Parish Council. This would reduce the area of Swynnerton Parish and the area represented by Swynnerton Parish
Council. If the review were to recommend the establishment of a new parish it would also have to make recommendations for the governance and electoral arrangements for both the new parish and the remaining part of Swynnerton Parish.

Swynnerton Parish has 4174 electors and for electoral purposes is split into 4 wards; Swynnerton (588 electors), Trentham (1160 electors), Yarnfield (1578 electors) and Tittensor (848 electors). Each ward is represented by 3 Parish Councillors, with the exception of Yarnfield which has 4. It is recommended that the terms of reference be:

“To review the community governance arrangements for the Parish of Swynnerton including:-

(a) The possibility of dividing the Parish into more than one parish.

(b) The boundaries of the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes.

(c) The electoral arrangements for the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes.

(d) The name of the Parish and any recommended new or altered parishes.

With particular reference to considering the creation of a new parish for that part of the Parish comprising Yarnfield and to make recommendations to Stafford Borough Council accordingly.”

5.5 The arrangements for the review and the consultation and gathering of evidence can be conducted by Officers. The final decision on whether to implement any recommendations by order will be taken by the Council. The consideration of the evidence and the formulation of recommendations to Council should be undertaken by Members. Research has indicated that other Councils have used a variety of methods of involving Members including using the full Council, setting up a new committee or working group, using an existing general purposes committee, scrutiny committee or the Audit and Governance Committee.

It is recommended that Council delegate the review to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and the arrangements for the review to the Head of Law and Administration.

### 6 Implications

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| 6.2 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations | The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:--
| | Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. |

| Previous Consideration | Nil |

| Background Papers | File available in Law and Administration |
COUNCIL
24 JULY 2018
Committee Business Planning Reports

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow the Council to consider the annual reports from the Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6.3 of the Council’s Constitution, along with the annual report of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That the annual reports from the various Committees be received.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The annual reports from the Scrutiny Committees on their past workings and future work programme are submitted for consideration in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6.3 of the Council’s Constitution, together with the annual report of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 The Committee process supports all of the Council’s Corporate Priorities.

5 Report Detail

5.1 The following annual reports from the following Committees on their past workings and future work programme are submitted for consideration:-
Committee

Audit and Accounts  APPENDIX 1
Resources  APPENDIX 2
Economic Development and Planning  APPENDIX 3
Community Wellbeing  APPENDIX 4

6  Implications

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Previous Consideration - Nil

Background Papers  - File available in Law and Administration
COUNCIL
24 JULY 2018
Committee Business Planning Reports

The following report was approved by the Audit and Accounts Committee at its meeting held on 12 June 2018 (Minute No AAC9/18).

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To review the programme of business considered by the Audit and Accounts Committee in 2017/18 with a view to the report being submitted to the Council.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is recommended to approve this report as its Annual Report to the Council.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 During the past municipal year the Audit and Accounts Committee have considered a number of issues under its remit, as set out in the Council’s Constitution.

3.2 Representatives of the External Auditor continue to attend each meeting of the Committee, and provide Members with a confidential briefing session prior to each meeting. The Chief Internal Auditor has also met with the Committee.

3.3 The Committee continues to control its own work programme, which is populated with a range of issues for the forthcoming Municipal Year, along with the statutory functions of the Committee.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 This report is most closely associated with the Priority Area “Leading and Delivering for our Communities”.

5 Report Detail

5.1 Under its Terms of Reference the Audit and Accounts Committee have exercised its delegated powers as set out in Article 8.5 of the Council’s Constitution.

5.2 The Committee has convened on 4 occasions in accordance with the Council’s Calendar of Meetings for 2017/18.
5.3 The Committee controls its own work programme and makes appropriate adjustments, taking into account its statutory functions. The work programme has focussed on 4 key areas:-

(i) Financial matters;
(ii) Internal Audit;
(iii) Risk Management; and
(iv) Governance.

Each of these areas is covered in more detail in the points that follow.

5.4 **Financial Matters**

5.4.1 The Committee has received the following reports from the Head of Finance:-

- Annual Treasury Management Report 2016 -17
- Treasury Management - Mid-Year Report 2017/18
- Financial Statements Audit 2016/17 - Management Representation Letter
- Statement of Accounts 2016/17

5.5 **Internal Audit**

5.5.1 The Committee received the following reports from the Chief Internal Auditor and the Head of Governance:-

- Internal Audit Annual Report
- Internal Audit Progress Reports
- Internal Audit Plan 2018/2019
- Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit

5.6 **Risk Management**

5.6.1 The Committee has received the following reports from the Head of Governance:-

- Risk Management Reports

5.7 **Governance**

5.7.1 The Head of Governance submitted the following reports:-

- Code of Governance and Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17
- Annual Governance Statement Progress Report

5.7.2 The Head of Law and Administration supplied the following reports:-

- Work Programme
- Business Planning Report
5.8 **External Audit**

5.8.1 Members have also considered the following reports as submitted by the External Auditor:-

- Planned Audit Fee for 2017/18
- Audit Plan for Stafford Borough Council
- The Audit Findings for Stafford Borough Council
- External Audit Plan - Year Ended 31 March 2018
- Progress and Update Report for Stafford Borough Council
- Annual Audit Letter
- Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Stafford Borough Council 2017/18
- Certification Work for Stafford Borough Council for Year ended 31 March 2017

5.9 **Training**

5.9.1 Training on the following was provided for all Members:-

- Accounts
- Audit/Governance/Risk

5.10 It is intended that this report, with the addition of any appropriate information concerning the current meeting, be taken to the most appropriate meeting of the Council as the report back from this Committee.

### 6 Implications

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**Previous Consideration** - Nil

**Background Papers** - File available in Law and Administration
The following report was approved by the Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 14 June 2018 (Minute No RSC7/18).

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To review the programme of business considered by the Resources Scrutiny Committee in 2017/18 with a view to the report being submitted to the Council.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is recommended to approve this report as the Annual Report to the Council.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 During the past year, the Resources Scrutiny Committee considered a wide variety of issues in support of the Corporate Business Objective to be a well-run, financially sustainable and ambitious organisation responsive to the needs of our customers and communities and focussed on delivering our objectives.

3.2 The Committee have completed both a Capital Programme Task and Finish Review and their Annual Review of the Constitution.

3.3 The Committee will continue to control its own Work Programme, which is already populated with a range of issues for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 The work of the Resources Scrutiny Committee is most closely associated with the following Corporate Business Objective 3:-

To be a well-run, financially sustainable and ambitious organisation responsive to the needs of our customers and communities and focussed on delivering our objectives.
5 Report Detail

5.1 During the 2017/18 Municipal Year, the Resources Scrutiny Committee considered a wide variety of issues, including Complaints Monitoring and Final Accounts, that supported the Corporate Business Objective to be a well-run, financially sustainable and ambitious organisation responsive to the needs of our customers and communities and focussed on delivering our objectives.

5.2 The Committee completed a Capital Programme Task and Finish Review which made a number of recommendations to Cabinet in relation to the capital approval and monitoring process.

5.3 The Committee has also undertaken a Task and Finish Review relating to the Annual Review of the Constitution, which has led to a number of recommendations being endorsed by Council, including a re-formatted Scheme of Delegation.

5.4 The Committee considered the following items that were called-in for further scrutiny:

- Council Tax and Business Rates Arrears Submitted for Approval to Write Off (on two occasions)
- Shared Services - Phase 2

5.5 The Committee considered a Councillor Session item related to Member Training.

5.6 The Committee considered the following items that were referred to it directly from the Cabinet:

- Draft Asset Management Plan 2018 - 2021
- Draft Corporate Equality Policy 2018 - 2021
- Financial Plan 2017-18 - 2020-21
- Fees and Charges Review 2018
- General Fund Revenue Budget and Financial Plan 2017-18 to 2020-21 and Capital Programme 2017-18 to 2020-21

5.7 The Committee held a joint meeting with the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in order to consider the proposed award of the concession contract for the management and delivery of Leisure and Cultural facilities, events and services that had been referred to it directly from the Cabinet.

5.8 The Committee continues to control its own Work Programme and makes adjustments as appropriate.
5.9 Under its Terms of Reference, the Committee received details of the General Fund Budget and Capital Programme for the whole Council and the Resources Portfolio as well as receiving regular reports that monitored both operational and financial performance.

5.10 The Resources Scrutiny Committee’s Work Programme is already populated for the forthcoming Municipal Year with various items and will again undertake the annual Review of the Constitution early in the New Year.

5.11 It is intended that this report, with the addition of any appropriate information concerning the current meeting, be taken to the next available meeting of the Council as the report back from this Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 6.3 of the Constitution whereby the Committee is required to report annually to the Council on its workings and future Work Programme.

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**Previous Consideration - Nil**

**Background Papers** - File available in Law and Administration
The following report was approved by the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 19 June 2018 (Minute No EDP6/18).

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To review the programme of business considered by the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee in 2017/18 with a view to the report being submitted to the Council.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is recommended to approve this report as the Annual Report to the Council.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 During the past year, the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee considered a wide variety of issues that has helped to embrace its new role in ensuring that the Council delivers sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs.

3.3 The Committee controls its own Work Programme which is already populated with a range of issues for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 This report is most closely associated with the following Corporate Business Objective 1:-

To deliver sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs.

5 Report Detail

5.1 During the past year, the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee has considered a wide variety of issues that supported the Council’s Business Objective of delivering sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs.
5.2 In order to achieve this, the Committee have received detailed presentations related to the following:-

- Economic Development of the Borough
- Employment Sites
- Local Plan Review
- The Role of Health in Planning

5.3 The Committee have had regular updates concerning the economic issues surrounding Stafford Town Centre and have closely monitored Borough-wide planned events.

5.4 The Committee have considered the following items that were referred to it directly from the Cabinet:-

- Fees and Charges Review 2017

5.5 The Committee continues to control its own Work Programme and regularly makes appropriate adjustments.

5.6 Under its Terms of Reference, the Committee has received details of the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio as well as receiving regular reports that monitored both operational and financial performance.

5.7 The Committee received details of the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Final Accounts for 2016/17.

5.8 The Work Programme is populated with a variety of issues for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

5.9 It is intended that this report, with the addition of any appropriate information concerning the current meeting, be taken to the next available meeting of the Council as the report back from this Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 6.3 of the Constitution whereby the Committee is required to report annually to the Council on its workings and future Work Programme.

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### 6.2 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations

The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:

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**Background Papers** - File available in Law and Administration
The following report was approved by the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 10 July 2018 (Minute No CWB7/18).

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To review the programme of business considered by the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in 2017/18 with a view to the report being submitted to the Council.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is recommended to approve this report as the Annual Report to the Council.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 During the past year, the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has considered a wide variety of issues supporting the Council’s Corporate Business Objective to improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities and promote health and wellbeing.

3.2 The Committee has maintained its close links with the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee and continue to will participate in Joint Accountability Sessions that hold NHS Hospital Trusts accountable to elected representatives across Staffordshire.

3.3 The Committee continues to control its own Work Programme which is populated with a range of issues for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 This report is most closely associated with the following Corporate Business Objective 2:-

To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities and promote health and wellbeing.
5.1 During the past year, the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee considered a wide variety of issues supporting the Council’s Corporate Business Objective to improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities and promote health and wellbeing.

5.2 In order to achieve this, the Committee have considered a range of issues including:

- The Health Impacts of Private Rented Housing
- Taxi Licensing Policy and Licence Conditions 2017
- The role of Health in Planning
- Litter Campaign
- Safer Schools Programme
- Consultation on the Use if Civil Penalties for Dealing with Poor Conditions in the Private Sector
- Stafford and Surrounds Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh update

5.3 The Committee considered an urgent item in relation to the Tenancy Strategy Allocations Policy.

5.4 The Committee sustained its close links with the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee by receiving regular reports on the work of the Committee, which was accordingly reciprocated. In addition, the Committee will continue to participate in the Joint Accountability Sessions that hold NHS Hospital Trusts accountable to elected representatives across Staffordshire.

5.5 The Committee held a joint meeting with the Resources Scrutiny Committee in order to consider the proposed award of the concession contract for the management and delivery of Leisure and Cultural facilities, events and services that had been referred to it directly from the Cabinet.

5.6 The Committee have considered a number of items that were “Called-in” for further scrutiny from the Cabinet, including:

- Use of the Private Rented Sector to Provide Additional Housing Options solutions
- Sport and Recreation Investment Strategy
- Proposed Allocations Policy for Glover Street Gypsy and Traveller Site
5.7 The Committee have considered the following items that were referred to it directly from the Cabinet:-

- Fees and Charges Review 2018

5.8 Under its Terms of Reference, the Committee has received details of the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for the Community, Environment and Leisure Portfolios as well as receiving regular reports that monitored both operational and financial performance.

5.9 Other issues considered by the Committee included:-

- Food Safety Annual Report
- Health and Safety Annual Report
- Final Accounts 2017/18

5.10 The Committee continues to control its own Work Programme, regularly making appropriate adjustments and is already populated for the forthcoming Municipal Year with a variety of issues.

5.11 It is intended that this report, with the addition of any appropriate information concerning the current meeting, be taken to the next available meeting of the Council as the report back from this Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 6.3 of the Constitution whereby the Committee is required to report annually to the Council on its workings and future Work Programme.

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