

Councillor Phillip A Leason MBE JP (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

J A Barron	W J Kemp
R J Barron	R Kenney
F Beatty	A M Loughran
A R G Brown	B McKeown
R P Cooke	D McNaughton
A G Cooper	A Nixon
M G Dodson	J A Nixon
A P Edgeller	L Nixon
P M M Farrington	G P K Pardesi
I D Fordham	A N Pearce
A T A Godfrey	J M Pert
A S Harp	M Phillips
A D Hobbs	J K Price
J Hood	R M Smith
R A James	R M Sutherland
E G R Jones	C V Trowbridge
P W Jones	M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
Mr I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance
Mr C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Resources and Section 151 officer
Mr W Conaghan	-	Press and Communications Manager
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

**C51 Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 February 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record.

**C52 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C A Baron, B M Cross, M Green and P Roycroft.

## **C53 Announcements**

### **(a) Presentation to Councillor Jack Kemp**

The Mayor presented Councillor Jack Kemp with an award for 50 years continuous service given to Stafford Borough Council and noted that Cllr Kemp was not seeking re-election.

The Council subsequently paid tribute to Councillor Jack Kemp for his outstanding service given to Stafford Borough Council over the last 50 years.

### **(b) Retiring Members**

The Leader of the Council then marked the service given by a number of long serving Members who were also retiring from political office, in particular Councillors R M Smith, R M Sutherland, A S Harp, A R G Brown and P Roycroft.

The Council subsequently paid tribute to all retiring Members, including Councillors M Green, M V Holmes and C Baron. Special mention was given in respect of Cllr Christine Baron who had been unwell and unable to seek re-election.

### **(c) Mayor's Charity Appeal**

The Mayor thanked everyone who attended the Valuation Evening by Charles Hanson, which was held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 and raised over £800.

### **(d) Mayor's Civic Dinner**

The Mayor thanked everyone that supported the Civic Dinner that was held Thursday 30 March 2023, which was an enjoyable evening.

### **(e) Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III in Stafford**

The Mayor announced that there would be a Choral Evensong Service in The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Stafford at 6.30 pm on Sunday 7 May 2023 in Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. An invitation was extended to all Members to attend the civic service.

## **C54 Notice of Motion**

A Notice of Motion pursuant to Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor A N Pearce and Seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey as follows:-

"The Centre of Stafford, and especially the North end, is populated with empty shops and a general air of neglect which must act as a deterrent to those thinking of visiting and shopping here. Whilst the work on the Market

Square will help, it comes after years of neglect with a complete failure to properly maintain and repair it. Moreover, there are many empty buildings belonging to the County Council, largely as a result of the decision to move to Staffordshire Place. This is contributing to the lack of footfall in the Town and, as many of them are listed, and/or in a conservation area, we are seeing many of them deteriorate, to the detriment of the Town Centre. The Borough Council will, as a matter of urgency, have discussions with the County Council to see if these buildings can be brought back into use and be properly maintained.”

Members discussed the Motion as provided by paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules.

Members then voted on the Motion as set out above which was declared to be lost.

### **C55 Shared Services: Framework and Delegations**

Considered the report of the Leader of the Council (V1 5/4/2023).

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The proposal was seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council.

Members of the Council then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: that:-

- (a) The framework agreement, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (b) Stafford Borough Council be the Lead Authority for the provision of shared services in respect of the Economic Development & Planning, Operations, Transformation & Assurance and Law & Governance Functions listed at Appendix 2 to the report, and that Cannock Chase District Council be the Lead Authority for the provision of shared services in respect of Regulatory Services, Wellbeing, Housing & Corporate Asset Management, Finance and Transformation & Assurance Functions listed at Appendix 3 to the report;
- (c) All non-Executive functions that relate to licensing and registration, or regulatory matters, except where decisions on those functions have been reserved to full Council or to one of its committees, be delegated to Cannock Chase District Council under section 101

of the Local Government Act 1972 with immediate effect;

- (d) the delegation by Cannock Chase District Council of all non-Executive functions that relate to town and country planning and development control (including functions relating to Tree Preservation Orders, hedgerow protection and high hedge regulation), except where decisions on those functions have been reserved to full Council or one of its committees, be accepted;
- (e) the Town and Country Planning and Development Control functions delegated under paragraph 2.1(d) be delegated to the Officers of Stafford Borough Council in accordance with the scheme of delegation for its own Town and Country Planning and Development Control functions.
- (f) All Council officers are placed at the disposal of Cannock Chase District Council, under section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972, for the purposes of any functions undertaken by a shared service.

#### **C56 Review of the Constitution**

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V3 28/03/2023).

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendation as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor R A James.

Members of the Council then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the amendment to the Constitution detailed in the report, be approved.

#### **C57 Vote of Thanks**

The Leader of the Council led the Council in a vote of thanks to the Mayor for his chairmanship of the Council over the last year and to the Scrutiny Officer who would be taking early retirement.

MAYOR