

Councillor Peter W Jones (Deputy 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
B M Cross	J A Nixon
M G Dodson	L Nixon
A P Edgeller	G P K Pardesi
P M M Farrington	A N Pearce
I D Fordham	J M Pert
A T A Godfrey	M Phillips
A S Harp	J K Price
A D Hobbs	P Roycroft
M V Holmes	R M Smith
J Hood	R M Sutherland
R A James	C V Trowbridge
E G R Jones	M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
Mrs J Aupers	-	Head of Governance
Mr I Curran	-	Head of Law and Administration
Mr W Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
Mr J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

C32 Apologies

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

C33 Councillor F Beatty - Announcement

At the invitation of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor F Beatty, Economic Regeneration and Planning Portfolio holder detailed correspondence received from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities confirming that following receipt and assessment of the Council's Investment Plan the Secretary of State had allocated funding for 2022/23, with further indicative allocations for the two financial years up to and including 2024/25.

Funding was to be used solely in line with the UKSPF Prospectus and the additional guidance issued. Funding was also subject to compliance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding. The indicative allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25 would be reviewed on submission of reporting requirements detailing progress on spend and confirmed in annual Grant Determinations.

Further detail would be supplied to Members at the appropriate time.

C34 Appointment of Section 151 Officer

Considered the report of the Leader of the Council (**V1** 24/11/2022).

Councillor P M M Farrington introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey.

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

RESOLVED:- that Chris Forrester, be appointed as the Section 151 Officer for Stafford Borough Council.

C35 Announcements

The Deputy Mayor invited all present to join him in observing a minutes silence in memory of the late former Member of the Council Denis James Skelland.

The Deputy Mayor reminded Members that the Borough Civic Carol Service was to be held in the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Stafford on Sunday 18 December 2022 at 6.30pm; invitations had been circulated;

The Deputy Mayor reminded Members of the Mayor's Black and White Charity Ball taking place at the Staffordshire County Showground on Friday 17 February 2023, with invitations to be sent out shortly.

C36 Business Case for Shared Services

Considered the report of the Chief Executive (**V1** 24/11/22).

Councillor P M M Farrington introduced the report by acknowledging that the proposals represented one of the most complex and significant decisions to be taken by the Council for many years before reiterating the point made in Paragraph 5.16 that it 'would not be a merger of the two Councils' and the content of Paragraph 5.17 which detailed retaining the sovereignty of both Authorities.

Continuing, the Leader of the Council highlighted the detail contained within Paragraph 3, which would not have been possible without the hard work of Officers in developing said proposals and stressing that open communication with all Council staff had been paramount throughout this process.

Councillor Farrington stated that the Council had a proven track record of successfully sharing some of its services for many years.

Reference was made to the financial pressures and savings as set out on pages 35 to 38 of the agenda with much of the future uncertainty due to circumstances beyond the control of the Council.

The Leader of the Council concluded his comments by recommending that the well thought out proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The proposal to approve the recommendations was seconded by Councillor J M Pert who acknowledged the role of the Councils Leadership Team in developing the business case for further sharing with Cannock Chase District Council and noting the findings of the Local Government Association, as set out in Paragraph 5.21 of the report.

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

RESOLVED:- that:-

- (a) the wider sharing of services including a shared Chief Executive and Leadership Team (ie Option 1 set out in the business case) be approved. All services to be shared with the exception of:
 - Housing services funded by the Housing Revenue Account at Cannock Chase Council;
 - Management of the Housing Registers for both Councils; and
 - Management and delivery of Elections;
- (b) the following be approved:-
 - (i) the Senior Management Structure set out at section 9 of the business case which comprised:

- 1 x Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
- 2 x Deputy Chief Executives (one of which would be the s151 Officer); and
- 7 x Heads of Service (one of which would be the Monitoring Officer)

(This would give rise to a financial saving of £88k (6.7%) at current salary rates.

The shared senior management structure to be put into place as quickly as possible with a target start date of 1 April 2023).

- (ii) the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the two Leaders) to finalise the terms and conditions of employment for the Chief Officers comprising the senior management structure;
 - (iii) the creation of a Joint Appointments Committee for elected Members of both Councils to make appointments to vacant posts on the shared senior management team;
 - (iv) to commence the recruitment process for the new Deputy Chief Executive - Place;
 - (v) the governance arrangements for overseeing the implementation and ongoing oversight of shared services (as set out in section 11 of the business case). This included establishing:
 - A Joint Strategic Shared Services Board
 - A Joint Operational Shared Services Board
- (c) for the transitional period from the date of the Council decision until the new shared services arrangements comes into effect, the following be approved:-
- (i) the ongoing sharing of the Chief Executive; and
 - (ii) the continuation of the interim Deputy Chief Executive arrangements at both Councils in order to provide adequate cover and to provide a mechanism in relation to conflicts of interests whilst the arrangements for sharing services are put into place;

- (iii) the non-decision-making Shared Services Board continue to consider any matters that arise in the interim;
- (iv) the Head of Law and Administration together with the interim 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.

MAYOR