

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A N Pearce	-	Climate Change Portfolio

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
W Conaghan	-	Press and Communications Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

CAB38 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2025 as published on 17 October 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB39 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A F Reid.

CAB40 Proposal for Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

Considered a report setting out the potential options for Local Government reorganisation in Staffordshire and to propose a single unitary council for southern and mid Staffordshire.

The Leader of the Council, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3, 5 and the associated appendices before concluding his comments by recommending that Cabinet endorse the recommendation of the recent Council meeting in supporting Option A.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) Option A as detailed in paragraph 5.13 of the report be supported.

CAB41 Local Government Reorganisation and Shared Services Transformation

Considered a report setting out the proposed approach to prepare for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the impact this will have on our work plans for shared services and transformation.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1, 3, 5 and 6 before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor I D Fordham noted that in light of the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation the recommendations were necessary and was sure residents of the Borough would welcome the Councils focus on customer service and continuous improvement.

Councillor R Kenney highlighted how the report demonstrated the impact of LRG on the resources of the Council.

Councillor A N Pearce stated that the only 'crumb of comfort' to come from LGR for the residents of Stafford Town was their local representation through the proposed Stafford Town Council.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

- (a) the shared services transformation programme not be proceeded further and the shared services savings be removed from the base budget for future years;
- (b) plans for project work prior to the vesting day for the new council(s) as set out in 5.13 to 5.26 of the report;
- (c) re-direction of the budget set aside for transformation to preparing for LGR;
- (d) creation of an additional fixed term post for the communications team to support LGR as well as wider council communication needs.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Leader of the Council thanked Officers for their efforts regarding LGR. Whilst looking forward to Government's response to its submission Councillor Godfrey was sad to note the end of 50 years of the Council providing services to its residents,

CHAIR