

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S

REPORT TO CABINET

04 June 2024

Report Title: Staffordshire Leaders Board

Submitted by: Interim Chief Executive

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

<p><u>Purpose of the Report</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Key Decision Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>To update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the Staffordshire Leaders Board and the integration of Stoke on Trent City Council formally onto the Board.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <p>1. Approve the Staffordshire Leader's Board's Constitution for a Joint Committee.</p>
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>To ensure Cabinet is kept updated on the developing governance arrangements regarding the Staffordshire Leaders Board and the combined / collective work that the Board undertakes across Staffordshire with Newcastle as a key partner.</p>

1. Background

- 1.1** Staffordshire County Council, Stoke on Trent City Council and Staffordshire's eight District and Borough Councils have worked together over a number of years in many ways to benefit residents. This includes our collective response to the pandemic, supporting businesses and the economy, creating jobs and opportunities, delivering nationally important employment sites (such as i54 South Staffordshire and, Keele University Science and Innovation Park), reducing waste and increasing recycling, tackling climate change, and by reimagining and reshaping our High Streets and Town Centres.
- 1.2** The Leaders Board was created to build on this collaboration by recognising that a formal joint committee would be able to speak to central Government for the area and our communities. It also provides the foundation for exploring the potential of a deal with government, when the right time comes to do so, for the devolution of powers and funding to the area.

1.3 Although Stoke on Trent City Council were not one of the original members of the Leaders Board it was always hoped that they could be brought on board at some point, and agreement has now been reached to enable this to happen. This will however require a number of amendments to be made to the Terms of Reference of the Board, and these amendments need to be considered and agreed by all parties, hence this report.

2. **Issues**

2.1 The revised Terms of Reference need to be agreed by all of the partner Cabinets across Staffordshire and Stoke in order that Stoke on Trent City Council can formally join the Staffordshire Leaders Board going forward.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Approve the Staffordshire Leader's Board's Constitution for a Joint Committee.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To ensure Cabinet is kept updated on the developing governance arrangements regarding the Staffordshire Leaders Board and the combined / collective work that the Board undertakes across Staffordshire with Newcastle as a key partner.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 To provide regular updates to Cabinet.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The proposed Joint Committee acts as a Joint Committee under Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

6.2 The establishment of joint arrangements in respect of executive functions rests with the Cabinet and is for Cabinet to approve.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The work of the Council in this regard is to strengthen the effectiveness of cross County work for the benefit of the entire Borough, through stronger two tier working with other Council's across Staffordshire. There will be no negative impacts on residents by signing up to the Joint Committee.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no immediate and significant financial implications arising from the establishment of the Leaders Board in itself. As and when individual projects are commissioned the board will give consideration to the resource requirements necessary to deliver those projects.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 There are no major risks identified at this stage.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 As an update report, this is not a Key Decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 2nd February 2022 Cabinet Report.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Appendix 1. Staffordshire Leaders Board Constitution of a Joint Committee.