

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

26TH JANUARY 2012 (6.45 PM)

Present:

Councillors: M Ahmed, J Aston, J Baker, G W Ballinger, R Bishop, A J Buckley, J-P Campion, S J M Clee, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, P Dyke, N Gale, D R Godwin, J Greener, I Hardiman, P B Harrison, J A Hart, V Higgs, A T Hingley, J Holden, T Ingham, M B Kelly, H J Martin, C D Nicholls, F M Oborski, T L Onslow, J W Parish, J Phillips, M Price, K H Prosser, C Rogers, M A Salter, A M Sewell, J A Shaw, D R Sheppard, N J Thomas, S J Williams, and G C Yarranton.

The Chairman reminded Members of his annual dinner and welcomed their attendance and donations.

C.66

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: B Glass, M Hart, P Hayward, and D McCann.

C.67

Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

C.68

Wyre Forest District Council Management Structure

The Council received a report from the Chief Executive on the proposed Management Structure for the Council. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of the outcome of the consultation, and for the Council to agree the future management structure of the Council.

The Leader of the Council explained the rationale behind the report, in particular the need for capacity within the senior management team to deliver the changes and projects that were needed by the Council. Members were also reminded that the Peer Review Team had recommended that 4 Directors were needed to support the Council through its transformation, and without the capacity that afforded, the Council would not be able to deliver the necessary changes contained within the transformation programme. Further reduction would be considered in the future, but the S151 Officer was a key member of the Management Team and essential to ensure the financial robustness of any decision making.

Members were advised that there were two amendments to the recommendations. The Director of Economic Prosperity would be the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place and the Director of Well-Being would be the Director of Well-Being and Environment, therefore aligning

more closely with the corporate plan.

The proposals were seconded by the Cabinet Member for Resources

During the debate that ensued, some Members felt that the resignation of the Director of Resources should be used as an opportunity to reduce the number of Directors and to realise the savings that would be produced. However, other Members felt that the Council needed the resource and expertise that would be made available by engaging a new Director with responsibly for finance. Moreover, that the Council was going through significant change and a senior management team of 3 Directors would not have the capacity to meet the forthcoming challenges.

The Leader of the Council assured Members that the decision did not fetter any future Council. Moreover, the decision was giving the Directors two years of stability before any future structure would be considered. It was felt that the Council would be able to attract able and suitable candidates that would be a credit to the Council.

Decision

- 1. The Council agrees the structures set out in the appendix subject to the following amendment:**
 - The Director of Economic Prosperity would be the Director for Economic Prosperity and Place and the Director of Well-Being to be the Director of Well-Being and Environment.**
- 2. In accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council appoints Tracey Southall as its acting chief financial officer, with effect from 1 March 2012 until the Director of Resources has taken up his or her appointment.**
- 3. The Council amends article 12.2 of the Constitution so that it reads as follows:**

“The Council’s Appointments and Appeals Committee will engage persons for posts at the grade of Director.

The full management structure is set out in Section 18 of this Constitution.”

And to amend article 12.4 so that it reads as follows:

“The Head of Paid Service will determine and publicise a description of the overall structure of directorates of the Council showing the management structure and deployment of officers. This is set out in Section 18 of this Constitution.”

There being no further business meeting ended at 19:18.