

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

4 DECEMBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
TEAM**

CABINET DECISION ITEM

Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook

REFERENCE FROM THE COUNCIL, DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

SUMMARY

This report addresses the motion submitted by Councillor Niall Innes at the Council meeting on 22 November 2023, concerning the proposed introduction of a new 'Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth' role. In line with Council Procedure Rule 3.42, this motion has been automatically referred to the Cabinet for further consideration.

Councillor Innes's motion challenges the introduction of the 'Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth' position, citing a lack of full Council consultation and questioning the allocation of resources. The motion proposes reallocating the intended salary for this role towards employing civic enforcement officers/street wardens and establishing a 'Community Safety Hub' in Ingleby Barwick.

THE MOTION

The motion submitted to the Council Reads:

"The Cabinet and Senior Leadership of this Council have recently sought to introduce a new 'Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth' without consulting the full Council.

Despite the exercise undertaken last year in which this council provided 'Golden Goodbyes' and reduced Director positions while increasing salaries, it has now been decided that a further Management position is required at an estimated cost of over £120,000 per year to the Taxpayers of Stockton.

Rather than continue to spend residents' money on yet another Director, this motion urges the Cabinet to think again and to ensure that the money is used for public good and suggest that it be used to employ more enforcement officers/street wardens and create a 'Community Safety Hub' in Ingleby Barwick.

The salary set aside for this single director could be used to recruit as many as three civic enforcement officers / street wardens and space could be set aside in property already owned by this authority to host a community security hub, providing a base from which enforcement officers and the police could operate.

This motion seeks to ensure that resident's money is being used on initiatives that deliver for them, and keep our communities safe, not create more bureaucracy and more waste!"

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is required to decide whether to reconsider its original decision regarding this new role and subsequently inform the full Council of this decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet agree to note the motion, consider any related representations, and determine whether there is merit in revisiting their initial decision.

DETAIL

1. The Cabinet has made a decision to provide funding for a new chief officer post, the 'Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth'. This decision is executive in nature and has been made within the Cabinet's remit.
2. The appointment of a chief officer, is a non-executive decision, it falls under the Council's jurisdiction and has been delegated to an appointments panel. The implementation of the Cabinet's funding decision necessitates a non-executive action by the Council.
3. The motion submitted to the Council raises concerns about the new post, urging the Cabinet to reconsider its funding decision. This motion is advisory, the full Council does not have the authority to require the Cabinet to reconsider its decision.
4. The Cabinet maintains the discretion to either note the motion or reconsider or uphold its decision. While the motion from the Council may be considered, it does not compel the Cabinet to alter its decision.
5. The rationale for the original decision to introduce the new role is detailed in the Cabinet report titled "Powering our Future - Senior Management Capacity Review" (CAB/16/23).
6. The arguments for revisiting the decision are set out in the motion.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. The proposal's implications in terms of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, health inequalities, consultation and public engagement, carbon neutrality, and area or ward impact have been considered. No significant issues have been identified. The proposed reallocation of funds from the director role to community safety initiatives could impact community safety and wellbeing, but the benefits outlined in the original report would not be delivered.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no new financial implications arising from a reconsideration of the decision. Should Cabinet decide to revoke their original decision then a fresh decision would be required to commit funding allocated to a new proposal.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Most functions, including executive decisions, fall under the Cabinet's responsibility. The Full Council's role is more limited, and it cannot override Cabinet decisions on executive matters. When the Cabinet makes an executive decision within the budget and policy framework, it is exercising its authority as outlined in The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities)

(England) Regulations 2000. The Full Council have no power to determine an executive matter. The Motion has gone through the appropriate process and cannot progress further once the Cabinet have considered the issue.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. Cabinet Decision and Report, "Powering our Future - Senior Management Capacity Review" (CAB/16/23).

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