

# Report to Council

**21 May 2024**

<b>Subject:</b>	Executive arrangements – Cabinet Member Portfolios and appointments
<b>Director:</b>	Mike Jones – Monitoring Officer, Assistant Director Legal & Assurance
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mike Jones <a href="mailto:Mike_Jones1@sandwell.gov.uk">Mike_Jones1@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations

For the reasons set out in the report, it is recommended that Full Council note the decision of the Council Leader to –

- 1.1 establish Cabinet Member portfolios and responsibilities; and
- 1.2 appoint Councillors to the positions of Statutory Deputy Leader, non-statutory Deputy Leader and the established Cabinet Member portfolios as detailed in the report.



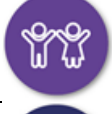



## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council operates a ‘Leader and Cabinet’ model of executive arrangements, as required under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended).
- 2.2 These executive arrangements grant powers to the executive Leader to determine Cabinet Member portfolio responsibilities and to appoint up to nine Cabinet Members, one of which to be designated as Deputy Leader of the Council.



2.3 This report sets out the decision of the Leader on these arrangements.

### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	All executive functions vest in the Leader of the Council, who together with Cabinet Members, the Cabinet and officers discharge those functions.  Vision 2030 will influence and help determine how those executive functions will be discharged.
	
	
	
	
	

### 4 Context and Key Issues

#### Introduction

4.1 Under the Council's current Leader and Cabinet Executive (England) model, Full Council elects the Leader of the Council. The Leader in turn is responsible for:

4.1.1 determining the membership size of the Cabinet (which can be between 3 and 10 excluding the statutory Deputy Leader);

4.1.2 determining and allocating portfolios or areas of responsibility to individual Cabinet Members, Cabinet, Committees of the Cabinet, and/or officers;

4.1.3 appointing Cabinet Members;



4.1.4 allocating decision-making powers to the Cabinet and to individual Cabinet Members, Cabinet, Committees of Cabinet and officers; and

4.1.5 removing and replacing Cabinet Members.

### **Organisational context**

4.2 Leadership arrangements for the Council represent the shared space between political and managerial operations, with the strategic policy objectives and policy framework set by elected members, and all aspects of operational structure and delivery reserved to the council's officers, overseen by the Strategic Leadership Team.

4.3 Full Council at its meeting of 24 October 2023 approved proposals for a new strategic leadership structure for the officers of the Council. This structure lies at the heart of the continued transformation and improvement journey of the Council, moving beyond intervention and sustaining the transition to excellence. The approved structure comprises the following roles –

4.3.1 Chief Executive

4.3.2 Assistant Chief Executive

4.3.3 Executive Director – Finance & Transformation

4.3.4 Executive Director – People

4.3.5 Executive Director – Place

4.4 The Strategic Leadership Team also extends to include the Council's Monitoring Officer as part of assurance frameworks for the governance and control environments of the Council.

4.5 This new structure introduced a more effective and strategic model of operation, encompassing considerably broader and more complex service areas than was previously the case.

4.6 Crucially, this structure places the Council in a strong position to focus and align resources with key and emergent priorities which include the requirement for transformational change, improvements in the customer journey, managing significant service pressures and demands, and ensuring the council can deliver against a robust medium term financial plan.



4.7 The interaction and relationship between political and officer leadership structures are essential to the effective and efficient operation of governance. It is similarly important to establish clear reporting arrangements which will enable the council's scrutiny boards to discharge their responsibilities to best effect.

4.8 The development of Cabinet Member portfolios has been informed taking account of current and emergent policy objectives to maximise the efficient and accountable operation of the Council. Crucially, this will provide a laser focus on sustained transformation and improvement as the Council journeys towards efficiency and excellence and resets its relationships with residents, communities, businesses, and stakeholders.

### **Cabinet portfolios**

4.9 Nine Cabinet Member portfolios are to be established – the Leader and eight further roles. The proposed roles are designed to align with current and emergent policy objectives for the Council, whilst taking account of strategic leadership structures to ensure efficiency of operation and accountability.

4.10 The portfolios are –

4.10.1 Leader.

4.10.2 Statutory Deputy Leader, Finance & Resources.

4.10.3 Deputy Leader, Neighbourhoods & Community.

4.10.4 Business & Skills.

4.10.5 Housing & Sustainable Development.

4.10.6 Environment & Highways.

4.10.7 Regeneration & Infrastructure.

4.10.8 Adult Services, Health & Well-being.



#### 4.10.9 Children & Families.

4.11 Further detail on the portfolio responsibilities including alignment with the strategic leadership team model and scrutiny boards are set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

## 5 Alternative Options

5.1 None. The recommendations are in line with the Council's constitution.

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no strategic resource implications arising from this report. The Council has in place an approved Members' Allowances Scheme.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The Council is subject to statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) and successor legislation to elect a Leader of the Council under the Leader and Cabinet Executive model with the Leader determining the size of Cabinet and portfolio responsibilities to enable effective decision making. This report discharges those obligations.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no direct implications of the proposals on health and wellbeing of our communities arising from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	There are no direct implications of the proposals on health and wellbeing of our communities arising from this report.
<b>Social Value</b>	There are no direct implications for social value arising from this report.



<b>Climate Change</b>	There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	There are no direct corporate parenting implications arising from this report.

## 7 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Member portfolios and appointments

## 8 Background Papers

None.



## Appendix 1 - Cabinet Member Portfolios & Appointments

Portfolio	Summary responsibilities	Cabinet Member	Executive Directorate(s)	Key Services	Scrutiny Board
Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ICT</li> <li>✓ Democratic Governance</li> <li>✓ Corporate Policy, Performance &amp; Improvement</li> <li>✓ Corporate Communications</li> <li>✓ Equalities</li> <li>✓ Animal Welfare</li> <li>✓ WMCA</li> </ul>	Councillor Kerrie Carmichael	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>  <b>Finance &amp; Transformation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Communications</li> <li>✓ EDI</li> <li>✓ Democratic Services</li> <li>✓ Monitoring Officer</li> <li>✓ ICT &amp; Transformation</li> <li>✓ Service Improvement</li> </ul>	<b>Budget &amp; Corporate Scrutiny Board</b>
Statutory Deputy Leader, Finance & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Finance</li> <li>✓ Customer Journey</li> <li>✓ Digital</li> <li>✓ Oracle Fusion</li> <li>✓ Revenues &amp; Benefits</li> <li>✓ HR &amp; Payroll</li> <li>✓ Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>✓ Legal Services</li> <li>✓ Information Governance</li> <li>✓ Procurement</li> <li>✓ Risk and assurance</li> <li>✓ Internal &amp; External Audit</li> </ul>	Councillor Paul Moore	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>  <b>Finance &amp; Transformation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Finance</li> <li>✓ HR</li> <li>✓ Corporate Customer Services</li> <li>✓ Legal and Assurance</li> </ul>	<b>Budget &amp; Corporate Scrutiny Board</b>





Portfolio	Summary responsibilities	Cabinet Member	Executive Directorate(s)	Key Services	Scrutiny Board
Deputy Leader, Neighbourhoods & Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Neighbourhood Working</li> <li>✓ Libraries</li> <li>✓ Community Safety</li> <li>✓ Licensing</li> <li>✓ Voluntary and Community Sector</li> <li>✓ Community Cohesion</li> <li>✓ Community Centres</li> <li>✓ Culture</li> <li>✓ Parks &amp; Play</li> <li>✓ Coroners &amp; Registrars</li> <li>✓ Bereavement Services</li> </ul>	Councillor Suzanne Hartwell	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>  <b>Place</b>  <b>Finance and Transformation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Neighbourhoods</li> <li>✓ Service Improvement</li> <li>✓ Green Spaces</li> <li>✓ Libraries and Archives</li> <li>✓ Heritage and Tourism</li> <li>✓ Public Protection and Community Safety</li> <li>✓ Registration Services</li> </ul>	<b>Safer Neighbourhoods &amp; Active Communities Scrutiny Board</b>
Business & Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increasing employment</li> <li>✓ Vocational Skills</li> <li>✓ Businesses support</li> <li>✓ Six Towns</li> <li>✓ Commercial property</li> </ul>	Councillor Sukhbir Gill	<b>Place</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Business Support and Economic Growth</li> <li>✓ Strategic Land and Assets</li> </ul>	<b>Economy, Skills, Transport &amp; Environment Scrutiny Board</b>





Portfolio	Summary responsibilities	Cabinet Member	Executive Directorate(s)	Key Services	Scrutiny Board
Housing & Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Housing Services</li> <li>✓ Housing maintenance</li> </ul>	Councillor Vicki Smith	Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Housing Management</li> <li>✓ Housing Asset Management and Improvement</li> <li>✓ Building Safety and Compliance</li> <li>✓ Housing Partnerships and Programmes</li> </ul>	<b>Safer Neighbourhoods &amp; Active Communities Scrutiny Board</b>
Environment & Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Carbon and emission reduction</li> <li>✓ Environmental Management</li> <li>✓ Waste and recycling</li> <li>✓ Highways management</li> <li>✓ Street Lighting</li> <li>✓ Parking</li> <li>✓ Air Quality</li> <li>✓ Walking &amp; Cycling</li> <li>✓ Environmental Health</li> <li>✓ Pest Control</li> <li>✓ Grounds Maintenance</li> <li>✓ Transport</li> </ul>	Councillor Keith Allcock	Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Highways</li> <li>✓ Public Protection and Community Safety</li> <li>✓ Regeneration &amp; Growth</li> <li>✓ Environment – Contracts, Projects, Strategy and Policy</li> </ul>	<b>Economy, Skills, Transport &amp; Environment Scrutiny Board</b>



Portfolio	Summary responsibilities	Cabinet Member	Executive Directorate(s)	Key Services	Scrutiny Board
Regeneration & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ WMCA</li> <li>✓ Strategic highways Infrastructure</li> <li>✓ Major infrastructure projects</li> <li>✓ Transport infrastructure</li> <li>✓ Planning &amp; Building Control</li> <li>✓ Asset and Facilities Management</li> </ul>	Councillor Peter Hughes	Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strategic Assets and Land</li> <li>✓ Development Planning and Building Consultancy</li> <li>✓ Spatial Planning and Growth</li> </ul>	<b>Economy, Skills, Transport &amp; Environment Scrutiny Board</b>
Adult Services, Health & Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adult Safeguarding</li> <li>✓ Adult Social Care, Commissioning</li> <li>✓ Care Strategy</li> <li>✓ Adult Care Market Strategy</li> <li>✓ Public Health</li> <li>✓ Public Protection</li> <li>✓ Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</li> <li>✓ Integrated Care Board</li> <li>✓ Drugs &amp; Alcohol Commissioning</li> <li>✓ Dementia services</li> </ul>	Councillor Jackie Taylor	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adult Social Care</li> <li>✓ Public Health</li> </ul>	<b>Health &amp; Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</b>



Portfolio	Summary responsibilities	Cabinet Member	Executive Directorate(s)	Key Services	Scrutiny Board
Children & Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Education</li> <li>✓ Schools &amp; Joint Commissioning</li> <li>✓ Sandwell Childrens Trust (Children's Social Care, Children's Safeguarding)</li> <li>✓ UNICEF child friendly borough objective</li> </ul>	Councillor Jalal Uddin	<b>People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Children &amp; Education</li> <li>✓ Sandwell Childrens Trust</li> </ul>	<b>Children's Services &amp; Education Scrutiny Board</b>

