

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

<b>Report Title:</b>	Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers - Consultation for South Warwickshire Council Proposal
<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	6 December 2021
<b>Report Director:</b>	Chief Officer - Legal and Governance
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance
<b>Ward Relevance:</b>	N/A
<b>Prior Consultation:</b>	The Executive Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, relevant Portfolio Holder and opposition Group Leaders
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aftab Razzaq, Chief Officer - Legal and Governance <a href="mailto:aftab.razzaq@rugby.gov.uk">aftab.razzaq@rugby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Public or Private:</b>	Public
<b>Report Subject to Call-In:</b>	No
<b>Report En-Bloc:</b>	Yes
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	This report relates to the following priority(ies): <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C) <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E) <input type="checkbox"/> Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC) <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O) <a href="#">Corporate Strategy 2021-2024</a> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but was considered as the this Council is a stakeholder consultee.
<b>Summary:</b>	An urgent decision was taken under delegated powers with regard to a consultation on the proposed merger of both Stratford-upon-Avon

District Council and Warwick District Council. A copy of the Council's response to the consultation is attached at Appendix 1.

<b>Financial Implications:</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.
<b>Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:</b>	There are no direct risk management or health and safety implications arising from the report.
<b>Environmental Implications:</b>	There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report.
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	All legal implications are detailed within the urgent decision at Appendix 1.
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from the report.
<b>Options:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommendation:</b>	The report be noted.
<b>Reasons for Recommendation:</b>	To comply with the Council's Constitution.

**Cabinet - 6 December 2021**

**Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers - Consultation for South Warwickshire Council Proposal**

**Public Report of the Chief Officer - Legal and Governance**

**Recommendation**

The report be noted.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the Council's urgent decision procedure under delegated powers, the following item was determined.

**2. ITEM DETERMINED UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS – NOVEMBER 2021**

**2.1 Consultation for South Warwickshire Council Proposal**

An urgent decision was taken on 1 November 2021 to provide a response to the consultation on the proposed merger for a South Warwickshire Council.

A copy of the urgent decision, together with the Council's response, is attached at Appendix 1.

**2.1 Consultation**

The Executive Director consulted with the Leader of the Council (Councillor Lowe), Ms Robbins (Portfolio Holder – Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance), Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) and Mrs O'Rourke (Leader of the Labour Group).

Councillors Roodhouse and Mrs O'Rourke were disappointed that the matter had not been debated at a Cabinet/Council meeting as the consultation had been in the public domain for some time. Both Members reserved judgement on the content of the consultation letter and response.

Councillors Lowe and Ms Robbins both agreed that the Council's consultation response, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.

**Name of Meeting:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 6 December 2021

**Subject Matter:** Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers - Consultation for South Warwickshire Council Proposal

**Originating Department:** Legal and Governance

**DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY**  YES  NO

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

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Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A

**Agenda No****AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

<b>Report Title:</b>	South Warwickshire Stakeholder Consultation
<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	1 November 2021
<b>Report Director:</b>	Chief Officer - Legal and Governance
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance
<b>Ward Relevance:</b>	All
<b>Prior Consultation:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aftab Razzaq- Chief Officer Legal & Governance
<b>Public or Private:</b>	Public
<b>Report Subject to Call-In:</b>	No
<b>Report En-Bloc:</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	This report relates to the following priority(ies):
<b>(C) Climate</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C)
<b>(E) Economy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E)
<b>(HC) Health and Communities</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC)
<b>(O) Organisation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O)
	<a href="#">Corporate Strategy 2021-2024</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/> This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but
<b>Summary:</b>	The Council has been invited
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	None arising directly from this report.
<b>Risk Management Implications:</b>	None arising directly from this report.
<b>Environmental Implications:</b>	None arising directly from this report.

<b>Legal Implications:</b>	This decision is being exercised under emergency cabinet powers as detailed within Part 2B and specifically 2.1(a) of the Scheme of Delegations. Previously it was envisaged that a separate delegated power would be exercised. It has now been determined that Cabinet powers should be exercised and given the urgency to submit the Council's response the use of emergency powers are deemed appropriate.
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	None arising directly from this report.
<b>Options:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To submit the consultation response as per the recommendation.</li><li>2. To not submit a consultation response.</li></ol>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	To approve the consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1.
<b>Reasons for Recommendation:</b>	The Council is a key stakeholder and should constructively engage with the consultation process.

## Agenda No

### Cabinet - 1 November 2021

#### South Warwickshire Stakeholder Consultation

#### Public Report of the Chief Officer - Legal and Governance

**Recommendation:**

**To approve the consultation response as detailed in Appendix 2.**

#### 1. Background

In February 2021 both Stratford-Upon-Avon and Warwick DCs announced that they were considering a proposal to merge both councils. This merger would create a single authority covering South Warwickshire by 2024.

Following this announcement both Council's approved resolutions to progress the proposal and commence a consultation process.

As a stakeholder the Council was invited to submit a consultation response. A copy of the letter is set out in Appendix 1.

The full details of the consultation are set out within the below link;

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>

#### 2. Consultation Response

The Council is a key stakeholder within Warwickshire and on this basis has been invited to engage with the consultation process.

At this stage the proposed merger does not have a direct impact upon Rugby Borough Council. The proposal is within its preliminary stages, and as set out within the council's response, it is not viewed as a key driver for further reform across Warwickshire.

The consultation response reflects the preliminary stages of the proposal and the Council's position that this is primarily a matter for the residents and elected members of South Warwickshire.

**Name of Meeting:** Please select

**Date of Meeting:** 1 July 2021

**Subject Matter:**

**Originating Department:** Please select

**DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY**  YES  NO

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Title of Document and Hyperlink</b>

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

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Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A</b>



**Web:** <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>

**My ref:** DB/CE/cjb

**Date:** 8 September 2021



**Working Together**

To: Stakeholders of Stratford-on-Avon  
and Warwick District Councils

Dear Stakeholder

### **Consultation on Proposed South Warwickshire Council**

As you will be aware Local Government is facing a very uncertain time. Funding for the sector especially District Council's has been significantly reduced and following the impact of COVID pandemic it is estimated that there once more could be further reductions. At the same time the cost of delivering valued services is increasing, this is particularly the case in relation to the refuse and recycling service.

Faced with these pressures the elected members of both Councils agreed earlier this year to explore the principle of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council to formally merged, and agreed the following vision:

"To create a single statutory South Warwickshire Council covering all of the activities currently carried out by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council by 1 April 2024."

In order to achieve this vision by April 2024, Government have informed us that we should make a formal submission to request a merger by the end of the year. In making any submission the Councils will need to demonstrate that the proposals address the following:

- improve the area's local government;
- command local support, in particular that the merger is proposed by all councils which are to be merged and there is evidence of a good deal of local support; and
- the area is a credible geography, consisting of two or more existing local government areas that are adjacent, and which, if established, would not pose an obstacle to locally-led proposals for authorities to combine to serve their communities better and would facilitate joint working between local authorities.

The proposal to merger would be a massive decision for both authorities, it would see the abolition of both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils which have provided valued services to residents and businesses for almost 50 years. However, we believe that this approach would be best of preserving along with investing in services and to ensure that a financially sustainable into the future.

A full consultation exercise was launched on Monday 6 September 2021 and this will run until 24 October 2021 and we invite you to have your say through this process. A dedicated website has been established for the consultation is <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>.

In addition to the wider exercise, as a valued stakeholder if you have any specific issues that you would like to discuss relating to the then please let us know and we will arrange a direct conversation to discuss the proposals.

Yours sincerely



David Buckland  
Chief Executive  
Stratford-on-Avon District Council



Chris Elliott  
Chief Executive  
Warwick District Council

Dear .....

**Consultation on proposed South Warwickshire Council**

Thank you for your letters dated 8<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October and the invitation to comment on the proposals to formally merge Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council.

I note that the financial pressures for both Councils and the impact of Covid has driven the elected members of both councils to pursue this option. For that reason, I consider this is a matter primarily for the elected members and residents of both districts.

I also note both Councils recognise the value of the role district/borough councils undertake at place level, including serving the local population to meet health and wellbeing needs and supporting local economic growth. As Leader of Rugby Borough Council, I feel very strongly about this important responsibility, along with our responsibility to deliver on the Government's levelling up priorities. Therefore, I do not consider the proposals for a South Warwickshire Council to be contrary to supporting this national agenda, nor do I consider the proposals to be a driver for local government reform within Warwickshire.

Overall, I would like to confirm our support for these proposals and also that I look forward to the forthcoming White Paper and working with all tiers of local governments across Warwickshire and our wider partners on a County Levelling Up deal.