

Chief Executive's Chat Issue no. 245

Following last night's Cabinet meeting it has been agreed that we will now start the formal consultation process for a new corporate management structure.

The structure we are consulting on is attached and you will see that it is significantly more streamlined than the structure we currently operate.

The proposal means a radical reduction in our senior management posts. In real terms it would reduce our management by 20% and create savings in management and support costs of around £1m. It would also mean that this authority would have the leanest management structure of any metropolitan borough council. This would place Dudley 'ahead of the curve' but would also allow us to maintain the fabric of the authority for future years.

Before any final decision is made on restructuring there will be a statutory period of consultation with affected staff and the relevant Trade Unions. The Cabinet will consider the outcome of the consultation on 01 October and will make a recommendation to full Council on the new structure at its meeting on 13 October.

As well as the restructure there is still a continuing need to make significant budget savings and we are giving officers another opportunity to enter expressions of interest for voluntary redundancy. This proposal was also agreed at Cabinet last night and will go forward to full Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. Subject to their agreement we will be able to issue full details regarding a corporate "expressions of interest process" which will be open for employees to register their interest from late July to early September 2014. Employees who have previously applied will need to complete a new submission to demonstrate their current interest. As with previous years, there is no guarantee that your application will be taken further at this stage. The register of interest will be held and used for the ongoing budget savings as required.

Please do not attempt to register your interest yet: further details will follow after the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

John Polychronakis

Chief Executive

4 July 2014

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Following my earlier chat I have been asked to clarify the following issue. The structure chart that I have circulated does not refer to **posts** below Chief Officer level but to **services**. When the Strategic Directors and Chief Officers have been appointed later this year, they will be responsible for developing the structure for their directorate which will be the subject of a further consultation before any final decision is taken. This consultation is scheduled to start in the week commencing the 8 December 2014 and will close on the 30 January 2015.

John Polychronakis

Chief Executive

4 July 2014