

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE  
Leader of the Council**

**By Alan Dudson**

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**Question**

My Group was not in favour of setting up All Party Working Groups but we accept the majority decision by Council and, in the spirit of genuine cross-party working, my name was put forward to the Leader as a nomination for one of the four Chairs. Why have I and the Opposition Leader not received the courtesy of a response from Cllr Atkins?

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**Reply**

As discussed at December's County Council, All Party Working Groups will continue to be tasked with providing a forum to drive the debate and overview around the medium to long term issues that affect the communities of Staffordshire and how public services, working with the private and voluntary and community sector, can plan for and address these issues.

As agreed with Council in December there are 2 All Party Working Groups, taking an even more rigorous focus on developing new ideas and solutions to key challenges. Also as agreed the investigations will be Jointly Chaired by the All Party Working Group Cabinet Support Members and driven by community and digital first thinking. These will draw further on community perspectives and the Elected Member's important role to help shape policy and reform of public services.

This is absolutely in the spirit of all party working and I'm sure that all County Councillors will be aware that an open invitation has been issued to each and every Elected Member to be part of this. It's important that we build on this together and to help develop and strengthen the 'thought leadership' we have right across the Council - and for Staffordshire as a place.

The All Party Working Groups are Jointly Chaired by Mr Alastair Little and Mr Mike Davies; and Mr Simon Tagg and Mr Keith Flunder.

It's clear for me that harnessing the vast skills, experience and insight across Elected Members is crucial to help the Council to think differently and tackle the key issues the Council and our communities face – and I welcome Mr Dudson and wider Members to be part of the All Party Working Groups.

The appointment of APWG Chairs is a matter for the County Council, not the Leader of the Council.