

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 17 February 2021

Present: Mark Deaville, Julia Jessel, Johnny McMahon, Jonathan Price, Mike Sutherland, Mark Sutton, Alan White (Chairman), Philip White, David Williams and Victoria Wilson.

Cabinet Support Member in attendance - Gill Burnett

PART ONE

80. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16

The following Member declared an interest in accordance with Standing Order 16.5:-

Member	Minute Nos.	Interest	Reason
Mark Deaville	85	Personal	Owner of a small business

81. Decision notices of the meetings held on 20 and 27 January 2021

Decision – That the notes of the meetings held on 20 and 27 January 2021 be approved.

82. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including 15 million of the most vulnerable people in the UK being offered their first vaccination against Covid-19 (including more than 250,000 Staffordshire residents); the news of a Stafford case of the South African variant and the request for adults in Stafford borough to get tested in the coming weeks; the county council's "Do it to Feel Good" campaign which offers loads of useful hints and tips on keeping active and staying healthy in body and in mind; the Council securing £1.5m from Government to protect the victims of domestic abuse and their children; and the launch of a new loan scheme for rural businesses which will provide an extensive package of support during the pandemic, to help them bounce back and return to profit quickly and sustainably; be noted.

83. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 3 February 2021

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 3 February 2021 be received.

84. Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Reasons for the Decision – To consider an update from the COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board including the number of cases of Covid-19 across the

country and in Staffordshire falling but remaining high, placing on-going pressure on the NHS; the vaccination programme was proceeding according to the priority groups defined by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation, with those at highest risk from Covid-19 vaccinated first; most residents of care homes for older people and those aged 80 and above had already received their first dose of the vaccine and the NHS was now focusing on vaccinating frontline health and social care workers who provide care for clinically vulnerable people, as well as those aged 70-79, and individuals who were clinically extremely vulnerable; the next groups to be vaccinated were those aged 65-69 and individuals with a range of underlying health conditions; and the Council and its partners continuing efforts to prevent and control the spread of the virus with more testing being made available for people with and without symptoms.

85. Staffordshire Means Back to Business

Decision – That the oral report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills giving an update on “Staffordshire Means Back to Business” activity including the following matters be noted:

- UK clothing firm Asos’s decision to build a £90million distribution centre in Staffordshire at Fradley Park, Lichfield, creating 2,000 jobs over the next three years.
- A £48million distribution base for national retailer Pets at Home has been approved in Stafford creating 1,200 jobs.
- Pledges from District and Borough Councils in Staffordshire totalling just under £3M to support the following initiatives:
 - Staffordshire 500, Apprentices Wage Support
 - Nil Cost Training for Employers Top Up Project
 - Small Business “To Thrive” Financial Support
- The Council taking ownership of the former Magistrates building in Stafford which will form part of the Eastgate regeneration scheme.
- The extension of i54 in South Staffordshire and the discussion with a potential investor on the site.
- 158 people signing on to the Staffordshire Start Up Scheme.
- The Council’s new Start-Up Business Loans scheme was now operational.
- The work with the Council’s Destination Management Partners to support the Leisure Tourism and Hospitality sectors.

86. Climate Change Strategic Development Framework



“Climate change is a huge issue which impacts all of us, both now and in the future. It is crucial that we take steps now to tackle climate change and its effects, so we can all look forward to a greener future for the county.

This framework reflects on the work we have done so far to tackle climate change in the county and sets out how we will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Everyone can play their part in reducing our carbon emissions. This will take years, not months, but I am

	<p>confident that with all of our services taking action, and through our work with partners and the wider community, we will be able to reach this target”.</p> <p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the Council’s proposed Climate Change Strategic Development Framework which sets out, in simple terms, the Authority’s approach to the complex challenge of achieving net carbon zero which is a legal requirement set by government in May 2019.

Decision – (a) That (subject to any final minor changes required by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change) the Authority’s Climate Change Strategic Development Framework document be noted and approved.

(b) That the progress that has been made in reducing the Authority’s carbon emissions since 1991 be noted.

(c) That the significant positive carbon reduction that has been made on the Authority’s own carbon emissions since the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency in July 2019 be noted.

87. Implementation of the updated Staffordshire County Council Education Infrastructure Contributions Policy (SEICP)

	<p>“It is essential that we ensure there are enough school places available for children in the county, and that any child who wants to learn in a mainstream school has the opportunity to do so. Therefore, it is important we assess the impact of any new housing development and ensure we have sufficient places.</p> <p>Updating our contributions policy means we can continue to secure enough mainstream and early years places, as well as securing special education places and home-to-school travel assistance for eligible pupils”.</p> <p>Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the updated Education Planning Obligations Policy, now called “Staffordshire Education Infrastructure Contributions Policy” (SEICP) in response to new and revised guidance/legislation. The Policy outlines the Council’s approach to assessing the impact of new housing developments on mainstream and early years educational provision and the appropriate mitigation measures.

Decision – That the implementation of the updated “Staffordshire Education Infrastructure Contributions Policy” from 1st March 2021 be approved.

88. SEND Strategy

	<p>“We want all children with special educational needs and disabilities to be able to reach their potential by receiving the right support at the right time in their own communities, at their local school or place of education.</p> <p>We have worked hard to meet increased demand and part of that development process has been to work closely with partners, professionals and parents to find the best way forward.</p> <p>This strategy lays down the principles upon which our work will be based, particularly using the funding available to have pupils educated more inclusively closer to home, while multiple groups work together better for each child’s benefit.”</p> <p>Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the updated SEND Strategy 2021-26 which details how the Council and its partners will support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This Strategy builds on the outcomes of the 2018 Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND Inspection and the Written Statement of Action.

Decision – (a) That the update to the SEND Strategy, in light of the responses received during the consultation period, be noted.

(b) That the Staffordshire SEND Strategy be approved as the core vision and key priority areas that the County Council, along with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and partners (including education and health providers) will use to drive our ambition for improving provision for our children and young people.

89. Staffordshire History Centre: National Lottery Heritage Fund - Round Two Submission

	<p>“Staffordshire’s residents have been making history for thousands of years; as traders, inventors, writers and first-hand witnesses of the changes to Britain from the Anglo-Saxon period to the 21st century.</p> <p>These invaluable collections allow both individuals and communities to reflect on our past and inform our future.</p> <p>If our round two bid for National Lottery Heritage Funding for the Staffordshire History Centre project is successful, it will create imaginative and exciting ways to connect Staffordshire people and their stories, and at the same</p>
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	<p>time, will secure access to historic collections for the next fifty-five years.”</p> <p>Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the round two bid for National Lottery Heritage Funding for the Staffordshire History Centre project which, if successful, will create imaginative and exciting ways to connect Staffordshire people and their stories, and at the same time, will secure access to historic collections for the next fifty-five years.

Decision – (a) That the Round Two application to deliver the Staffordshire History Centre (which will provide additional storage, release the current QB Archive Outstore and support the Property Strategy) be submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund on 1 March 2021.

(b) That if the application referred to above is successful, the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities be authorised to accept the grant funding, terms and conditions, and, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture, deliver the project.

(c) That the planned capital investment and project delivery costs of £6.332m for the four-storey extension of the Staffordshire Record Office be approved (subject to confirmation of NLHF funding) and that this is added to the Council’s capital programme.

(d) That additional revenue provision of £0.196m be made from 2023/24 to meet the additional costs of this property venture.

90. Digital First – Update and Plan for the Digital Principle

	<p>“Staffordshire County Council has already embarked on an ambitious programme, working with partners wherever possible, to transform how the public can access our services in a digital age.</p> <p>This authority’s resilience during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic also demonstrated our ability and willingness to use new ways of working.</p> <p>Now the many projects detailed in this paper, taken together, are another step in the essential process of moving Staffordshire’s residents and businesses forward so that we are equipped to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise.”</p> <p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider a new strategy for the digital principle called ‘Digital First’ which builds on the progress the Council has made with digital so far and

sets out how the Authority will become a genuinely digital organisation for the 21st century.

Decision – (a) That the progress made by the digital principle to date be noted.

(b) That a new strategy for the digital principle called Digital First, be agreed.

(c) That the proposed delivery plan for Digital First, featuring 32 projects and continuous digital improvement for the organisation, be agreed.

91. Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 3



“The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a considerable impact on our finances and operations – though we have met the challenge with the whole council working incredibly hard to support our communities through this difficult time.

Our ongoing work with the NHS to combat the spread of coronavirus in Staffordshire has included identifying hotspots with targeted community testing programmes and latterly supporting the vaccine roll-out. We have now distributed six million items of PPE to care staff, social workers and other frontline roles in addition to the provision of PPE to over 2,000 small businesses. Through our #DoingOurBit initiative, 109 community groups have now received grants and we have continued to support our schools and early years settings in any way we can.

Our five-year economic recovery programme has seen a new year launch of proposals to work with our district and borough councils on new support programmes for businesses and to increase employee and apprenticeship skills. It follows on from our comprehensive business start-up support package. Meanwhile our major regeneration projects continue at pace and we have seen more companies commit to invest in Staffordshire and create hundreds of jobs.

Covid-19 will remain a huge challenge throughout this year and beyond. However we can assure people that our effective management of our finances and operations have put us in a strong position as we move forward; and we are confident that with the rapid roll-out of the vaccine and continued efforts of all partners, our residents and businesses, there is light at the end of the tunnel.”

Alan White, Leader of the Council

“The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic remains a huge

	<p>challenge to our finances, but one which we continue to manage resolutely.</p> <p>At the end of Quarter 3, the latest revenue forecast outturn shows a forecast overspend of £600,000 which equates to 0.1 per cent of our budget. This compares to £1.8m for Quarter 2.</p> <p>The pandemic will undoubtedly impact on the county council and its finances in the months and years to come. However, we can assure people that our effective management of them means we retain our focus on supporting those most in need, our communities and businesses as we move forward from this difficult period.”</p> <p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider an overview of the County Council’s progress, performance and financial position in delivering against its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan.

Decision – That the report be received.

92. Supportive Communities - Update and Delivery Plan 2021/22

	<p>“This council is committed to working with communities and the voluntary sector to deliver local, financially sustainable services that are valued by those who need them.</p> <p>This approach showed its value during 2020 when those in need received a wide range of help and support, including food deliveries, collection of medical prescriptions and a friendly voice at the end of the phone.</p> <p>Our intention now is to further improve the digital-based support available and, with the help of communities, the voluntary sector and parish councils, use different approaches to ensure those who are ‘digitally excluded’ are not left behind”.</p> <p>Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the achievements of the Supportive Communities Programme during 2019/20, including its response to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lessons learned, and the Council’s aims and priorities for 2020/21.

Decision – (a) That the ‘lessons learned’ from the Supportive Communities Programme in 2020 be noted.

(b) That the achievements of the programme so far be noted.

(c) That the high level aims and priorities for the programme in 2021/22 be agreed.

93. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers

Decision – That the following decisions taken by Cabinet Members under delegated powers be noted:

Cabinet Member	Decision
Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing	In approving that the Council proceeds to consult with clients, carers and staff regarding the refurbishment of an older persons Day Centre in Lichfield to use for provision of services.
Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing	Approval to passport the additional monies received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Disability Facility Grant to the district/borough councils and to enter into agreements with district/borough councils regarding the transfer of the additional monies.
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills	Approval to the amended Heads of Terms for the purchase of the former Magistrates Court Stafford.
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change	Approval in principle to the Staffordshire Flood Risk Management Plan measures detailed in Measure Development Tool for 2021-2027.

94. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 17 March to 21 July 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Capital Programme for Schools 2021/2022	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2021/22	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Holiday Activities and Food Programme (Department of Education)	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Protect and Prepare Board	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
HWRC Update	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 4	Name: Andrew Donaldson/

	Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 276354
Staffordshire Community Learning Annual Self-Assessment Report 2019-20	Name: Anthony Baines Tel: (01785) 895984
Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People Service	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079

95. Exclusion of the Public

Decision – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of Local Government Act 1972 indicated below.

PART TWO

96. Specialist Education Provision for Pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Aged 11-19 Years (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals to secure special educational day provision in an Ofsted registered school to meet the needs of 25 young people aged 11 – 19 years with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or undergoing an EHCP Assessment with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH).

Decision – That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed.

Alan White
Leader of the County Council