

## DECISION NOTICE

### Cabinet Meeting - 19 September 2018

Present: Philip Atkins, OBE (Chairman), Mark Deaville, Helen Fisher, Gill Heath, Mike Sutherland, Mark Sutton, Alan White, Philip White and Mark Winnington.

Cabinet Support Member in attendance - Gill Burnett

Also in attendance - Susan Woodward

#### PART ONE

#### 26. Decision notice of the meeting held on 18 July 2018

**Decision** – That the notes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 be approved.

#### 27. Leader's Update

**Decision** – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the opening of John Taylor Free School in Tatenhill, near Burton, the first brand new secondary school to open in Staffordshire for 25 years; the intensive work by the Council's Skills and Employability team resulting in fewer than 3% of Staffordshire children and young people being classed as not in education, employment or training, a reduction of 5.5% since 2015-16; the official opening of the new Gestamp facility at Four Ashes in South Staffordshire last week, safeguarding hundreds of Staffordshire jobs; the expansion plans for Keele University; and the work across the health and care system to streamline and speed up people's transfer from hospital back to their own homes, and commissioning more reablement and home care services; be noted.

#### 28. Minutes of the meetings of the Property Sub-Committee

**Decision** – That the minutes of the meetings of the Property Sub-Committee held on 1 August and 5 September 2018 be received.

#### 29. Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019 - 2024



“Over the past nine years the county council has reduced running costs by £240m. In that time, we have supported a flourishing economy with record low unemployment, and created better jobs, education and training opportunities, all with one of the lowest county council taxes in the country.

We have a track record of delivering results and working with partners across the Midlands to help make the lives of Staffordshire people more rewarding. Our commitment to do this remains undiminished and we remain ambitious for Staffordshire and its people.

Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities also remains a key priority and a fundamental statutory duty of the county council.

In the last ten years we have seen costs for adult's social care and children's care soar by £100m, at the same time as national funding has continued to fall. As a consequence we face a £35m shortfall in our budget next year.

As we have already reduced our own running costs in the past nine years, we now have no choice but to make some extremely difficult decisions about what we can continue to fund.

We will continue to lobby Government on the critical need for more money for social care. We are bidding to be in the next wave of a business rates pilot scheme and pressing for flexibility around council tax increases – all of which would help to bridge the £35m gap.”

Philip Atkins, Leader of the Council



“This county council has a proud record of managing taxpayers’ money wisely and well to deliver the best possible results for the people we serve. However, we are in unprecedented times, and we need to do things differently.

While we have a good grip on our finances this year, with a £35m shortfall in our budget in 2019/20, we have acted swiftly to plan and prepare so that we can meet our legal duty to balance the books and ensure financial sustainability for the 2019-2024 MTFS period.

This report presents a credible plan to close that gap, but we do not underestimate how difficult some of the savings options are. Where possible we are protecting frontline services for vulnerable people and communities.

However, our current financial position means that the only way to present a balanced budget is by securing considerable extra funding or a significant reduction in services citizens may expect in core areas such as care, highways and transport.

Although these are still proposals, it is right that we progress with our plans to ensure we are in a position to be able to deliver a balanced budget, which we have a

	legal duty to do”
	Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Draft Budget for 2019/20.

**Decision** – (a) That the progress made regarding the development of the financial planning for the council for the period 2019-24, in the light of the direction contained in the Strategic Plan, be noted.

(b) That, in respect of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2019-24 and the 2019/20 revenue budget -

- (i) the updates to the financial plans, as set out in the report, be noted;
- (ii) the additional savings, as set out in paragraphs 55 -75 and the appendices to the report, be agreed;
- (iii) the risks associated with these additional savings, as set out in the report, be noted and the Senior Leadership be requested to undertake the appropriate engagement arrangements required to deliver the savings;
- (iv) the draft revenue budget for 2019/20 be noted;
- (v) a further report be submitted to Cabinet in January 2019, once the details of the Local Government Finance Settlement are known, to recommend a Revenue Budget, MTFS and Council Tax to Full Council in February 2019;
- (vi) the Corporate Review Committee be requested to scrutinise the proposed pressures and cost reduction options against the principles of a good and balanced budget; and
- (vii) the Chief Executive be given authority on behalf of the County Council, in consultation with the Leader, to approve the terms of, and subscribe to, the Business Rates Pilot Application to be submitted by Staffordshire authorities.

**30. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers**

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

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Cabinet Member for Communities	In approving the deaccessioning and disposal of items from the Staffordshire Archive collections.
Cabinet Member for Communities	In approving the disposal of items from the Staffordshire County Council Museum collection.

**31. Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 17 October 2018 to 20 February 2019, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

<b>Subject Matter</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 2 2018/19	Name: Robert Flinter, Rob Salmon and Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 277090/276354/ 278399
Residential Housing Development Joint Venture	Name: In Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
i54 Western Extension Project Update	Name: Anthony Hodge Tel: (01785) 277204
Sexual Health Services in Northern Staffordshire	Name: Lucy Hegarty Tel: (07890) 325511
Outturn Report for Treasury Management for half year ended 30 September 2018	Name: Jahirul Alam Tel: (01785) 276011
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Proposal to Enlarge Holy Trinity CE (C) Primary School, Burton-upon-Trent	Name: Andrew Marsden Tel: (01785) 278787
Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019 - 2024	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Approval for Staffordshire County Council to Join Midlands Connect Sub-National Transport Body as a Constituent Member	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Treasury Management, Annual Investment and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategies 2019/20	Name: Jahirul Alam Tel: (01785) 276011
Annual Review of Penda Property Partnership Plan and SAMP	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 3 2018/19	Name: Robert Flinter, Rob Salmon and Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 277090/276354/ 278399

### **32. Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** - 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**

The Cabinet then considered the following matters and took decisions thereon:

### **33. Exempt Decision Notice of the Meeting held on 18 July 2018** (Exemption paragraph 3)

**Decision** – That the exempt notes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 be approved.

**Philip Atkins OBE  
Leader of the County Council**