

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 21 October 2020

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

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins

PART ONE

30. Decision notice of the meeting held on 16 September 2020

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 16 September 2020 be approved.

31. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the rapid increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in Staffordshire, along with the rest of the country; the need for Staffordshire people to look after their own physical and mental wellbeing including getting their flu jab if they are eligible; the launch of #talksuicide information on the Council's website and social media channels; the launch of "Together4Children", an exciting new partnership to speed up adoptions for vulnerable children; the commencement of a six-month action plan which includes changes that make climate change central to the Council's day-to-day thinking; and the launch of a new Community Climate Action Fund for people to apply to for grant funding of up to £1,000 to support projects in their communities; be noted.

32. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 7 October 2020

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 7 October 2020 be received.

33. 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 Council's response to outbreaks in Newcastle-under-Lyme, due in part to an outbreak at Keele University, as well as in Stafford, due in part to an outbreak at HMP Stafford, and in South Staffordshire; and issues about the difficulties some people were experiencing in booking a test.

Decision – That the report be received.

34. Impact of COVID-19 on SCC Communities, Economy and Organisation - October 2020 Update

	<p>“Throughout this pandemic, the people of Staffordshire have pulled together to help keep people safe, protect the vulnerable and support one another.</p> <p>With Covid-19 now tightening its grip once again and cases rising rapidly across Staffordshire, we must redouble our efforts and remain resilient.</p> <p>It is important that while focusing on the resurgence of Covid-19 that we don't lose sight of what we have achieved and what we want to achieve going forward”.</p> <p>Alan White, Leader of the Council</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the approach that the County Council will take to its planning and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; the learning taken from the response phase; and the high level priorities for recovery across the Council together with the progress against these.

Decision – (a) That the impact of COVID-19 on Staffordshire since June 2020 be noted.

(b) That the approach being taken to resetting the Corporate Strategy be noted and endorsed.

(c) That the progress made towards the high-level priorities and plans from each recovery area be noted.

(d) That the approach to the County Council's management of the Recovery process moving forward be endorsed.

35. Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 2

	<p>“Throughout the pandemic we have continued to support those who need us most, including the care sector, vulnerable families and local businesses.</p> <p>We continue to support the care sector and frontline workers and up to now have distributed over four million items of PPE. This has helped ensure every care home and care provider in Staffordshire has what it needs to care for the most vulnerable.</p> <p>We continue our efforts to control the spread of the virus. Our COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan continues to help manage local outbreaks and preparations for winter planning are ongoing, with additional capacity being</p>
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	<p>secured to deal with the increase in extra cases.</p> <p>We will continue to do what we can and spend what is needed to control the virus, but we still need longer-term help from the Government to face issues such as funding adult social care and children’s and family services. We need the Government to work with us in finding a long-term sustainable solution.</p> <p>We have a huge amount of work to do to control Coronavirus and deal with the immediate economic and social consequences of this Spring’s lockdown and the ongoing restrictions on our lives. In the longer term I am confident that we can overcome this, but for now, we must all do our bit and follow the official advice to help reduce the spread of the virus”.</p> <p>Alan White, Leader of the Council</p> <p>“Coping with the Covid-19 pandemic continues to put extra pressures on our finances, but we continue to manage them effectively and we will do what is needed and spend what is required to support those who need it.</p> <p>We are forecasting an overspend of just under £2 million this year, mostly due to the effects of Covid-19. We have already received an extra government grant, which is welcome, but it is still a bit short compared to the overall financial impact this year. The financial impact of the pandemic in future years also remains a serious concern as does the impact on council tax and business rates collection.</p> <p>By keeping our finances in a strong position, we will be able to invest in reigniting and renewing the economy through investment in skills and training and supporting businesses to adjust to a post Covid-19 world. We will continue to manage all our finances effectively and to ensure we provide good value for money for local taxpayers”.</p> <p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</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 – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That the use of £0.384m of Contingency to fund part of the agreed pay award for 2020/21 be approved.

36. Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2020-21 and the Disabled Facilities Grant

	<p>“Providing joined up health and social care for people in their homes or in their local communities remains a key priority for both the county council and NHS partners. The Better Care Fund enables us to fund schemes across Staffordshire that help us to achieve this goal.</p> <p>We have made great progress in areas such as strengthening our Homefirst Reablement services to support people returning home from hospital, and in reducing delays in people returning home from hospital when they are well enough to do so, resulting in an improved quality of life. This is better for our residents and helps to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society.”</p> <p>Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) performance, 2019-20; BCF Funding for 2020-21; BCF Guidance and Planning for 2020-21; and the transfer of Disabled Facilities Grant funding to Districts.

Decision – (a) the progress of the Staffordshire BCF during 2019-20 be noted.

(b) That the extension of the 2019-20 BCF schemes, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report, be approved.

(c) That the final approval of the Staffordshire BCF Plan for 2020-21 be delegated to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs, including the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.

(d) That the passport of monies received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Disability Facility Grant to the district/borough Councils, as set out in table 8 of the report, be agreed and the entering into agreements with the district/borough councils to passport the monies, be approved.

(e) That approval to enter into the section 75 agreements for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 be delegated to the Director for Health and Care.

37. West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Framework Contract

	<p>“The provision of good quality supported accommodation for those leaving the care of a local authority is an important part of a young adult’s transition to independence and a happy, fulfilling adulthood.</p> <p>This long-term arrangement with other councils across the West Midlands gives us the opportunity and flexibility to provide support and stability, usually for around a hundred young people at any one time, while managing the costs in a responsible manner.”</p> <p>Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider supporting a regional commissioning approach to the procurement of supported accommodation provision across the West Midlands to support children in care in their transition to independence.

Decision – (a) That it be agreed that Staffordshire County Council should partake with other West Midlands local authorities with responsibilities to “Looked after Children” in creating a Flexible Framework Agreement to ensure that the local authorities involved can meet their responsibilities to provide supported accommodation for young people who are in the process of leaving care; and commissions a West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Framework Contract (12th July 2021 to 11th July 2025), with an option to extend for a further 2 years (12th July 2025 to 11th July 2027).

(b) That the proposal that Staffordshire County Council leads the setting up of the Flexible Framework Agreement on behalf of the following West Midland’s local Authorities be supported: Birmingham City Council / Birmingham Children's Trust, City of Stoke-on-Trent Council, City of Wolverhampton Council, Coventry City Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Herefordshire Council, Sandwell Children's Trust, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Telford and Wrekin Council Walsall Council Warwickshire County Council, Worcestershire County Council (through Worcestershire Children First).

(c) That the term of the proposed Flexible Framework Agreement (begins on 12 July 2021 and ends on 11 July 2025) be approved, but there be an option to extend the term for a further 2 years (12 July 2025 to 11 July 2027) should there be an operational need.

(d) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities to award contracts and thereafter enter into contracts with providers who successfully apply to be included in the proposed Flexible Framework Agreement.

38. 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 Children and Young People	In approving the payment of compensation to a family where, following an investigation by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman, the Council have been advised that fault was found, leading to injustice to family

39. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 18 November 2020 to 17 March 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Adult Learning Disability 2022 Community Offer: Update on Learning Disability Services Directly Provided by Staffordshire County Council	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Children's and Families (including SEND) System Transformation – Update	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Mitigation Plans for Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
West Midlands Rail Ltd (WMRL) - Governance Evolution	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021 - 2026	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Communities Principle Update	Name: Janene Cox/ Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 278368/ 278399
SEND Strategy	Name: Julie Day Tel: (01785) 895372
North Staffordshire Ministerial Direction for Nitrogen Dioxide	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Contract for the Supply of Gas and Associated Services	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 3	Name: Andrew Donaldson/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 276354
Climate Change Action Plan Update	Name: Tim Cooper Tel: (01785) 276204

40. 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

41. Eastgate Regeneration

(Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the programme budget and funding proposals to progress the required activities.

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

Alan White
Leader of the County Council