

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 20 February 2019

Present: Mark Deaville, Helen Fisher, Gill Heath, Mike Sutherland, Mark Sutton, Alan White and Mark Winnington.

Cabinet Support Member in attendance: Gill Burnett.

Apologies for absence: Philip Atkins OBE and Philip White.

PART ONE

67. Decision notice of the meeting held on 30 January 2019

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 be approved.

68. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the action taken to close the £35m forecasted shortfall and deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20; the need to continue to work with MPs and partners to press the Government for a long-term solution on the funding of care; the latest statistics showing that the Delayed Transfers of Care from hospitals for people waiting for social care have fallen steadily every month from July 2018; the Council's focus on its key priorities including growing a strong economy for Staffordshire, helping people lead healthier and independent lives, investing in key roads and schools, taking a stronger role in housing, promoting community solutions and focusing on digital and innovation; and the £1.9m 'live lab' project at Keele University which will develop, test and demonstrate how a smart highways network can be designed, maintained and extended to local roads, be noted.

69. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 6 February 2019

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 6 February 2019 be received.

70. Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2019/20



“Providing more joined up health and social care for people in their homes or in their local communities remains a key priority for both NHS partners and ourselves.

The Better Care Fund allows us to channel funding to support schemes which help us achieve this goal. In the long-run this is not only better for residents and more affordable for taxpayers, but actually reduces pressure on NHS hospitals.

	<p>Together with NHS partners we continue to make good progress, but recognise there is still more to be done to ensure that everyone across Staffordshire has access to quality community care.”</p> <p>Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider a summary of the BCF progress during 2017-19 together with the policy framework for 2019-20 as well as the key aspects of the proposed BCF plan for 2019-20.

Decision – (a) That the progress of the Staffordshire BCF during 2017-19 be noted.

(b) That it be agreed that the Staffordshire BCF Plan for 2019-20 extend the existing schemes as set out in paragraphs 16-24 of the report.

(c) That it be noted that the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board will be asked to approve the Staffordshire BCF Plan for 2019-20 in principle and delegate final approval to the Chairs, including the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Well-being.

71. Changes in Charging and Deferred Payment Policies

	<p>“As a county council we want to be as open as possible when it comes to how much people pay towards the care they receive. The redesign of how we carry out financial assessments has demonstrated a need for changes to improve their efficiency, consistency and transparency.</p> <p>We want to simplify our charging process, so people know how much they are likely to pay before a full financial assessment is completed, and are charged based on the annual cost of their care.”</p> <p>Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposed policy changes to adult social care financial assessments which aim to streamline and clarify the process whereby people are assessed to pay towards the cost of their care, in line with the Council’s ambition to provide more services online.

Decision – (a) That the changes to the new Adult Social Care Contributions Policy (as set out in Appendix A to the report) be noted.

(b) That the changes to the Deferred Payment Agreement Policy (as set out in Appendix B to the report) be noted.

(c) That the Adult Social Care Contributions Policy, to replace the existing Charging Policy, and the revised Deferred Payment Agreements Policy (both set out in Appendix C to the report) be approved.

(d) That the ASC Policy & Guidance Approval Board be authorised to deal with appeals and associated policy interpretation plus any debts relating to delayed invoices.

(e) That the management and performance management arrangements for adult social care financial assessments be noted.

(f) That the responsibility to review care fees and charges annually up to the “actual cost” of care be delegated to the Director for Health and Care.

72. Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 3 2018/19

	<p>“Our key priorities are to continue to ensure that we are a more prosperous county with opportunities for our residents and where people can live healthy and independent lives for as long as possible.</p> <p>We received a welcome boost to our highways budget in December with the announcement of £8.9million Government funding for road repairs for the current financial year. And looking ahead we will receive an additional £6.1million from the Government specifically for social care in 2019/20.</p> <p>Both adult and children’s social care place huge demands on our budgets, as with councils nationally. Due to record numbers of young people being placed in foster care we launched a campaign to recruit resilience foster carers. This is aimed at those with experience of looking after teenagers with emotional or behavioural needs.</p> <p>We are continuing to see near full employment – with just over one per cent of residents claiming out-of-work benefits in the county whilst our economic growth programme goes from strength to strength.</p> <p>Completed and current projects within the Economic Growth Programme have created and safeguarded a total of 8,489 jobs and delivered 993 houses up to December 2018.</p> <p>Meanwhile our community libraries programme gathers pace with five more organisations coming on board, bringing the number to 27 countywide.”</p> <p>Philip Atkins, Leader of the Council</p>
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“While we continue to manage considerable financial challenges within adult and children’s social care, our focus remains on ensuring we have a thriving economy with opportunities for better paid jobs and enabling people to live healthy and independent lives.

The latest revenue forecast outturn shows a forecast underspend of £0.997m compared to the forecast underspend of £1.578m at quarter 2 which is broadly similar.

Our longer-term financial strategy includes proposals to save £35million over the next financial year and efforts continue to identify savings this financial year which can then be carried forward to next. We will also continue to lobby Government for a long-term solution to the funding of adult social care, which is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of local government and the support we provide to our people.

We continue to make efficiency savings across council departments and spending controls remain in place across the county council.”

Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance

Reasons for the Decision – To consider an overview of Staffordshire County Council’s progress, performance and financial position in delivering against its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan.

Decision – That the report be received.

73. Report on the First Review of the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan (2010 - 2026)



“We have reviewed our Waste Local Plan for the first time and we are satisfied that there is no need to change it. The Plan is performing well in delivering both new waste management facilities and new capacity to recycle and treat waste.

Planning policies have resulted in sites operating to higher environmental standards, while there is a significant reduction in the amount of waste, particularly household waste, sent to landfill.

Finally, the Plan is also bringing economic benefits to the area as new jobs are created in the waste recovery field.”

Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Reasons for the Decision – Regulations require the Council to complete a review of its waste and minerals local plans every 5 years, starting from the date of adoption of the local plan.

Decision – That the conclusions of the First Review of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan (2010 – 2026), that there is no need to revise our Waste Local Plan at this time, be endorsed so that it can continue to carry weight in the determination of planning applications for waste development.

74. Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund

	<p>“Fuel poverty affects thousands of people across the country. This contributes to a number of health problems, as respiratory, cardiovascular and mobility conditions can be made worse if an individual is living in a cold home.</p> <p>By working together with many different organisations on a Staffordshire-wide scale, we can identify as many people as possible who are at risk of fuel poverty and related health risks, provide support and advice, and get them the help they need.”</p> <p>Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the options for the administration of the Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund.

Decision – (a) That it be noted that a £3.795 million Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund has been secured.

(b) That the options for the administration of the fund be noted.

(c) That Option 3, for administering the fund through a Staffordshire Warm Homes Limited Liability Partnership, be selected.

(d) That the development of the Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund Limited Liability Partnership between SCC and the Ministry of Well-being MOW be approved.

(e) That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services to agree the final version of the Members Agreement.

75. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

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

Subject Matter	Contact
Developing a Workforce for Now and the Future	Name: John Henderson Tel: 0300 111 8000
Countryside Estate Review	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Public Health Commissioned Services	Name: Anthony Bullock Tel: (01785) 276649
Lease of Office Accommodation in Staffordshire Place 2	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Strategic Review of the Home Care Market in Staffordshire	Name: Helen Trousdale Tel: (01785) 277008
Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2019/20	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Enlargement of Manor Hill First School, Stone	Name: Andrew Marsden Tel: (01785) 278787
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 4 2018/19	Name: Robert Flinter, Rob Salmon and Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 277090/ 276354/ 278399
Adult Learning Disability Community Offer 2022	Name: Amy Evans Tel: (01785) 277160
The North Midlands Regional Adoption & Permanency Partnership	Name: Deborah Ramsdale/ Joseph Sullivan Tel: (01785) 278062
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (10785) 276522

76. 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

77. Authority to enter into contract on behalf of Section 75 Better Care Fund partners for the provision of community equipment (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider entering into a contract on behalf of Section 75 Better Care Fund partners for the provision of community equipment.

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

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