

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet meeting - 20 March 2019

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

Cabinet Support Member in attendance - Gill Burnett

Also in attendance - Susan Woodward

PART ONE

80. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16.

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

Member	Minute Nos.	Interest	Reason
Mark Deaville	91	Personal	Director of NEXUS
Mark Winnington	91	Personal	Director of NEXUS

81. Decision notice of the meeting held on 6 March 2019

Decision – That, subject to the addition of “Gill Burnett” in the list of persons submitting apologies for non-attendance, the notes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019 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 Ofsted’s recent inspection of the Council’s children’s services were the service retained its overall rating of Good (one of only three councils in the West Midlands to achieve this rating); the Council’s on-going lobbying for a long-term solution to the funding of both adult and children’s social care; nine out of 10 parents in Staffordshire being allocated their first choice secondary school for their child; and the arrangements for this years’ Staffordshire Day on 1 May which will celebrate the County’s industrial heritage; be noted.

83. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 6 March 2019

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

84. Countryside Estate Review Update

	<p>“Our countryside estate makes a significant contribution to the health and quality of life in the county and should be cherished.</p> <p>As one of the jewels in Staffordshire’s crown, ownership of the estate will remain with the County Council, but our proposals to develop its management aim to ensure that this contribution can be sustained for future generations.</p> <p>We are determined to get this right and in recent years we have spent a great deal of time discussing the options with local stakeholders and interested parties.</p> <p>These next steps will be taken working with those interested partners for the benefit of all.”</p> <p>Gill Heath and Cabinet Member for Communities</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals for a financially sustainable operating model for the countryside estate and public rights of way network.

Decision – (a) That, based on the outcomes of the options appraisal and discussion and comment from the Prosperous Select Committee on the 18 January 2019, an approach based on Management Proposal 2 be adopted. However due to the required time scales for MTFS delivery, it be delivered in two stages as follows:

Stage 1 – Re-organisation of the in-house operating model

This will address the short-term requirement to deliver MTFS commitments and will include:

- i. Reorganisation of the operational model for Rural County
- ii. Rationalisation of vehicles, plant and equipment
- iii. Invest in volunteering to support operational management and develop community involvement and capacity
- iv. Explore income generation opportunities that can be delivered in the short-term and that do not impact on future options for the sites; any income generated will be used to support the operating model, with any surplus income ring-fenced to invest back in the sites.

It is proposed that this first stage will be implemented during 2019/20.

Stage 2 – Develop measures for longer term sustainability

This will explore measures to develop a more sustainable approach to managing the estate in the longer term, including to achieve greater investment in the sites so that they can better achieve their potential for Staffordshire’s communities and visitors. Tasks will include:

- i. Financial modelling to support decision-making and the development of business cases for any potential management transfers;
- ii. A procurement process to explore the potential for transferring management to environmental bodies, likely to be through a competitive dialogue process;
- iii. Should sufficient sites remain following the procurement process, exploration of establishment of a trust or not-for-profit body to manage the larger sites;
- iv. Continued work on the in-house operating model to increase efficiency, including exploration of contracts to deliver key tasks and local partnership working to deliver economies of scale where appropriate.

It is proposed that work on the procurement should begin in 2019 twin-tracking with the reorganisation of the in-house operating model; the re-organisation would take priority due to the need to deliver MTFS commitments.

(b) That the outline time scale for implementing the stages detailed above (as set out in Appendix C to the report) be agreed. Key milestones include delivery of MTFS commitments through reorganisation of the operating model by March 2020 – this will be the immediate priority. The procurement process would run alongside this with the main competitive dialogue element following the reorganisation. Transfers, if appropriate, would be likely to run from 2021.

(c) That the final decisions to implement the proposals be delegated to the appropriate Cabinet Member following the detailed procurement process. However, it is also envisaged that a confidential report is submitted to Property Sub-Committee seeking authority to delegate the final agreed heads of terms for the leases / agreements to an appropriate officer to authorise.

85. Staffordshire County Council People Strategy



“As a council, we are changing. We have big ambitions for Staffordshire and a difficult budget to deliver, so we need to work in new, creative ways to help residents lead happy, healthy and prosperous lives. To do this, we need talented people with the right skills for the future, and leaders who can inspire and motivate their teams.

We want the county council to be a great place to work because a happy, productive workforce will have a positive impact on the lives of the people we serve in Staffordshire. Employees throughout the organisation have been involved in creating this ambitious new strategy, which sets out what we intend to do to support and develop our workforce over the months and years ahead. The same employees and leaders across the county council will now be charged with putting it into practice.”

Philip White, Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the Council’s People Strategy which sets out the strategic approach to investing in the skills and aptitudes needed by its workforce in order for the council to successfully meet its ambitions for the future.

Decision – (a) That the evidenced based approach adopted in the development of the strategy be noted.

(b) That the strategy be approved.

(c) That the Year 1 priorities be endorsed and the implementation of the Plan be supported.

86. Public Health Commissioned Services

	<p>“Public Health services continue to provide vital interventions to help people live healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>Despite reductions in central government funding for Public Health, we will continue to build on our recent successes into 2019/20 and 2020/21 and look at areas where improvements are needed. By continually reviewing the way we work and adapting this to the needs of our population, we can be sure that people in Staffordshire will continue to enjoy good health for as long as possible.”</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 recent developments in Public Health services and to delegate authority for the award of contracts during 2019/20 and 2020/21 to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.

Decision – (a) That the recent developments in Public Health services, particularly an expansion of the active promotion of NHS Health Checks, be noted.

(b) That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing to award Public Health to award contracts for Drug and Alcohol services and Sexual Health services during 2019/20 and 2020/21.

(c) That the reference in the NHS long term plan to the possibility of changes to the arrangements for commissioning of Public Health services, although no firm commitments or timescales were set out, be noted.

87. 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 Highways and Transport	In approving changes to the English National concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) - change times of free travel to align with statutory requirements.
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	In approving an updated version of the County Council's Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP).
Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability	In approving the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2020/21 & Coordinated Admissions Scheme 2020/21.
Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability	In approving Staffordshire County Council's Community Learning Procurement arrangements 2019 to 2023 and funding allocation and distribution for the first contract year.

88. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 17 April to 21 August 2019, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2019/20	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
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
Development of a Regional Permanency Arrangement	Name: Joseph Sullivan/ Deborah Ramsdale Tel: (01785) 278062
Care Home Commissioning - Block Booking Provision for Long Term Placements	Name: Helen Trousdale Tel: (01785) 277008
Supported Living Dynamic Purchasing System	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Staffordshire History Centre Stage 1 NLHF Application	Name: Joanna Terry Tel: (01785) 278370
Future Delivery of Adult Social Care Services	Name: Amanda Stringer Tel: (01785) 895170
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (10785) 276522

89. 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

90. Lease of Office Accommodation in Staffordshire Place 2 (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals for the Council to lease its surplus office accommodation on floors two and three in Staffordshire Place Two.

Decision – That the recommendations in the report be agreed.

91. Strategic Review of the Home Care Market in Staffordshire (Exemption paragraph 3)

Note by Clerk: Mr Deaville and Mr Winnington declared an interest in this matter as Directors on the Board of Nexus and left the room during the consideration of this item and the decision thereon.

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the outcomes from the Strategic Review of the Home Care Market in Staffordshire.

Decision – That the recommendations in the report be agreed.

Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the Council