

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 16 October 2019

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

Cabinet Support Members in attendance - Gill Burnett, Bryan Jones and Conor Wileman.

Apologies for absence: Helen Fisher, Jonathan Price, Mark Sutton and Mark Winnington.

PART ONE

44. Decision notice of the meeting held on 18 September 2019

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 18 September 2019 be approved.

45. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the Council's deepest sympathy being extended to the family of Neville Scattergood who died in a tragic accident on the Isabel Trail in Stafford this month; the County Council's ongoing preparations for Brexit; the Council's lobbying of Government, with and through our MPs, to provide sustainable, long term funding for adults social care; and the continued investment to help towards tackling potholes and maintaining Staffordshire's; highways be noted.

46. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 2 October 2019

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 2 October 2019 be received.

47. Adult Learning Disability 2022 Community Offer - The Future of Services directly provided by Staffordshire County Council



“Redesigning our services for adults with a learning disability to ensure they can continue to meet the needs of local people is a huge task. We are clear in our goals that the services need to help people lead as full and independent lives as possible, for as long as possible, and these recommendations are the latest step to achieving this.

The way we support people in the future needs to be about ability and focussing on what people can do, rather than what they can't. That way, we can build on people's strengths, give them the right support at the right time, and

	<p>help them maintain their independence.”</p> <p>Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – In June 2019, Cabinet requested that proposals for the future of services directly provided by the Council for adults with a learning disability and/or autism be developed and evaluated.

Decision – (a) That the direct provision of residential replacement care in Newcastle-under-Lyme; providing 10 beds for countywide use, be continued.

(b) That the relocation, and subsequent refurbishment, of directly provided residential replacement care in Newcastle-under-Lyme to Wilmott Drive (alongside the Specialist Day Opportunities Service) be approved in principle subject to the assumptions and values specified in paragraph 34 and Table 12 of the report not significantly changing.

(c) That the commissioning of residential replacement care services in Cannock and East Staffordshire from the independent market for countywide use in line with the capacity described in paragraph 29 of the report be approved.

(d) That authority be delegated to the Director of Health and Care, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing, to award a contract for residential replacement care in Cannock and East Staffordshire following an appropriate competitive procurement process, up to a total value of £4.5m.

(e) That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing to approve a residential replacement care policy to ensure that the basis for access is clear and equitable and that block booked capacity is maximised.

(f) That the continued direct provision of residential care in Lichfield; providing 15 beds for countywide use be approved.

(g) That the relocation, and subsequent redevelopment, of directly provided residential care in Lichfield to the Scotch Orchard site be approved in principle subject to the assumptions and values specified in paragraph 61 and Table 13 to the report not significantly changing.

(h) That the recommendation for the required refurbishment and redevelopment works for directly provided residential replacement and residential care services be approved.

(i) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Commercial, to enter into development contracts, subject to final sign-off of the business case by the County Treasurer.

(j) That consultation with staff and recognised Trade Unions on changes for directly provided services, as appropriate, be approved.

48. All Age Carers: Strategy & Future Options



“Every day, thousands of people in Staffordshire support an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner. For most carers the experience of looking after someone close is rewarding, and many carers manage with help from their friends and communities. Our strategy details how we will strengthen our relationship with carers, communities and the organisations that support them. In implementing our strategy, we want to ensure carers can lead healthier, happier and more independent lives, whilst continuing to care for their loved ones.”

Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing



“It is really important that our strategy for carers reflects what is important to all carers, especially young people. Many young people perform a caring role, which is why we specifically sought out the views of younger carers when putting together the strategy.

The task now will be to implement the strategy, and ensure we work with carers every step of the way to support them in their caring role, but also ensure they are able to access all of the opportunities available to them.”

Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Reasons for the Decision – To consider an all age Carers Strategy: ‘All Together for Carers’, developed by the Council and the five Staffordshire CCGs, which sets out the statutory duties of the Council and the NHS for Carers under the Care Act 2014, Children and Families Act 2014 and the NHS Constitution.

Decision – (a) That the Joint Carers Strategy: ‘All Together for Carers’ be endorsed and that authority for final approval be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.

(b) That the implementation of the Strategy be endorsed and that it be used to inform the future planning and commissioning of services.

(c) That the high-level options for the future of carers services be endorsed and that a detailed evidence-based options appraisal and engagement with those who might be affected be undertaken.

(d) That the outcome of this options appraisal and engagement, together with recommendations for the future of carers services, be brought to the Cabinet meeting in February.

49. The Staffordshire Strategic Infrastructure Plan

	<p>“Housing development is an essential part of Staffordshire’s continued economic growth, ensuring we have thriving communities across our county. This development needs to be carefully planned and coordinated, considering neighbouring areas, transport infrastructure, community facilities and leisure provision.</p> <p>The Strategic Infrastructure Plan brings together the evidence needed for planners, investors, health and community providers and energy companies to promote the longer-term thinking necessary for future development. Crucially it also demonstrates to the Government and investors that we have a strategy in place to enable us to secure funding we will need to carry out our plans.</p> <p>This high-level plan for Staffordshire will stimulate better coordination to ensure new communities have excellent schools, healthcare, leisure and community facilities, in addition to protecting established town and village residential areas.”</p> <p>Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the Staffordshire Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) which provides a holistic and cumulative view of the wide range of infrastructure delivery plans for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent geography and picks-up cross-boundary issues of strategic importance.

Decision – (a) That the comments of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on the Strategic Infrastructure Plan be noted.

(b) That the final Staffordshire Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) is issued to statutory providers to form evidence base material to underpin the preparation of their investment and delivery plans.

(c) That the SIP is used to forge Strategic Relationships with key infrastructure providers, funding agencies and policy makers to ensure that their plans are aligned to meet the growth ambitions for Staffordshire.

50. Local Government Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Investigation resulting in a Formal Report

	<p>“Supporting those who need a helping hand to live happily, healthily and independently is a priority for this council and each year we successfully help thousands of people.</p> <p>Often these cases are complex, with individual needs and issues to be considered and although we get the vast majority right in the face of sharply rising demand there are occasions where we could do better.</p> <p>This has been a complex and challenging case for the council from the beginning and we have changed some of our procedures as a result. All the things the Ombudsman has asked for are in hand, but, given the sensitivities of this particular case we have focused on doing the right thing at the right time for the individual involved rather than insisting on certain actions simply to comply with the deadline.”</p> <p>Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has issued a formal report against Staffordshire County Council following its investigation of a complaint in relation to a citizen who has mental and physical health problems.

Decision – That the following recommendations from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman’s Formal Report of 15 August 2019 be agreed:

- (i) Meets with the citizen and her Advocate if she completes another self-assessment form, so she can deliver it and discuss it with her Advanced Social Work Practitioner.
- (ii) Within four weeks apologises to the citizen and pays her a further £500 for the distress it has caused and the trouble she has been put to.
- (iii) Apologises to Ms X and pay her £250 for the distress caused to her, if she returns the personal data about someone else and confirms what she has said.
- (iv) Within eight weeks meet with MPFT to agree an action Plan, including timescales for ensuring agree remedies are completed within the required timescales and assessments and care and support plans meet the requirements of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance, including:
 - i. eliminating unnecessary delay over assessments, care and support planning and decisions on personal budgets;
 - ii. ensuring assessments adequately identify care needs;

- iii. providing estimated personal budgets as the basis for care and support planning;
- iv. providing people with copies of their assessments and care and support plans, and
- v. ensuring care and support plans include the final personal budget.

51. Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 2, 2019/20



“We can reflect on more notable successes over the last quarter as we continue to manage pressures resulting from both children’s and adults’ social care costs.

The cabinet recently approved plans to develop two new nursing homes with up to 100 beds each in Stafford and South Staffordshire. They will provide vital additional capacity in areas where the council is struggling to find affordable placements in the market.

We have also approved the ongoing commissioning of over 3,000 hours of reablement services. They will offer vital short-term support to people to help them recover their independence after a period of ill health.

Our efforts continue in finding children in care family homes. We launched our fostering campaign, ‘No Myths, Ifs or Buts... You Can Foster’, which aims to dispel popular myths around fostering. And we are building more new schools to meet increased demand for places. The county council’s economic growth programme goes from strength to strength. We have now started construction of the Stafford Western Access Route, bringing multi-million-pound investment into the county town. Work is also under way on the i54 South Staffordshire western extension, which will bring 1,700 jobs to the site; while our business parks at Redhill and Four Ashes are now fully occupied.

While we have near full employment in Staffordshire, our efforts remain on securing better skilled, better paid jobs for our residents. This ensures Staffordshire remains a leading location to live, work and invest.”

Philip Atkins OBE, Leader of the Council



“We have a duty to Staffordshire residents to ensure county council finances are managed carefully and effectively. The forecast outturn for quarter two shows an overspend of £4.3million, just under one per cent of the council’s overall budget. This is mainly attributable to children’s care services as demand in the area continues to increase. In

	<p>addition, adult social care costs remain a real pressure for us.</p> <p>We continue with spending controls and service reviews across county council operations whilst ensuring we protect our vulnerable residents. The county council has planned savings which will total over £60million per year which presents us with challenges. We therefore ensure that we get the best value for money on any spending.”</p> <p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the quarterly Integrated Performance Report for Quarter 2 2019/20 which provides an overview of the Council’s progress, performance and financial position in delivering against its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan.

Decision – That the report be received.

52. Staffordshire County Council Property Strategy

	<p>“The county council owns hundreds of buildings and we aim to use those assets wisely, providing employees with good facilities from which to deliver our services effectively and efficiently for all our residents.</p> <p>Service needs and requirements change in time, so we regularly review all our resources, including thousands of acres of land across the county, to ensure we’re making best use of them, as less money spent on maintaining unneeded property means more money is available for providing essential services elsewhere.</p> <p>Some assets have been earmarked to meet future need and are being saved for extra care facilities, health centres, or schools; some are being used towards the demand for housing and generate significant receipts; and some will be ideal for industry and commerce – securing jobs for residents and generating prosperity for Staffordshire.”</p> <p>Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the Property Strategy which sets out the Council’s aims in relation to the management and use of its property assets.

Decision – That the Property Strategy be approved.

53. Schools Capital Programme 2019/20

	<p>“It is essential that children and young people in the county have access to a good, local school.</p> <p>It is widely recognised that the quality of school buildings can help or hinder learning and teaching, so our comprehensive build and maintenance programme will ensure our children can learn in the best environments to help them succeed. We are also building on the success of previous years and continuing to plan ahead. We want to provide well-designed buildings and pleasant surroundings for Staffordshire children and, most importantly, ensure there are enough good school places available to meet current and future demand.”</p> <p>Philip White, Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the Schools Capital Programme for 2019/20.

Decision – (a) That the Schools Capital Programme 2019/20, including the investment proposal set out in the supporting appendices, be approved.

(b) That the Head of Commercial and Assets monitors progress and makes any necessary in-year alterations in agreement with the Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability.

54. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 20 November 2019 to 18 March 2020, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Infrastructure+ Performance Update	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Children's and Families System Transformation Part 2 (Including SEND)	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Treasury Management Report for the Half-Year Ended 30 September 2019	Name: Melanie Stokes Tel: (01785) 276330
Clear Streets Partnership and Car Parking Strategy	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
South Staffordshire Growth Agreement - Project Update	Name: Anthony Hodge Tel: (01785) 277204
Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 - 2025	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785)854455
Decision to Support a County Council Bid to the	Name: Andrew Donaldson

Category 2 (Rural Homes) Warmer Homes Fund	Tel: (017895) 278399
Regional Permanency Arrangement Development (Phase One)	Name: Deborah Ramsdale Tel: (01785) 278062
Arrangement for the Provision of Day Care Services for Adults in Staffordshire	Name: Helen Trousdale Tel: (01785) 277008
Improving the Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People within Staffordshire	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: (01785) 895160
(Non-Treasury) Commercial Investment Strategy 2020/2021	Name: Melanie Stokes Tel: (01785) 276330
Treasury Management Strategy 2020/2021	Name: Melanie Stokes Tel: (01785) 276330
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Integrated Performance Report 2019/20 - Quarter 3	Name: Andrew Donaldson/ Robert Flinter/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 277090 / 276354
North Staffordshire Ministerial Direction for Nitrogen Dioxide - Project Update	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Contract for the Provision of the Maintenance of Traffic Signal and Associated Equipment	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
All Age Carers: Future Delivery Options	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557

Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the County Council