

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 19 August 2020

Present: Mark Deaville, Julia Jessel, Johnny McMahon, Jonathan Price, Mike Sutherland, Mark Sutton, Alan White (Chairman), Philip White, David Williams and Victoria Wilson.

Apologies for absence: Gill Burnett

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins and Ron Clarke (local member)

PART ONE

1. 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
Johnny McMahon	4	Personal	Owner of property near to County Farm Holding No. 6, Old Wood, Blithbury Road, Rugeley
Mark Deaville	6	Personal	Local businessman and Licencee

2. Decision notice of the meeting held on 15 July 2020

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 15 July 2020 be approved.

3. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the news that the Government had listened to concerns and had agreed to revert to predicted grades for both A-levels and GCSEs; how the county council was working with headteachers to bring all pupils back to school safely in September; the Council's appeals to pupils and parents to walk, ride, or park and stride, to encourage exercise and reduce congestion at the school gates; the commencement of a major piece of research to improve the support the Council provides for children with special educational needs and disabilities; and the Council's continuing work with partners to manage and prevent outbreaks of Covid-19; be noted.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 5 August 2020

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 5 August 2020 be received.

5. Treasury Management report for the year ended 31 March 2020

	<p>“The UK economy continued to face an uncertain environment in 2019/20, with Brexit deadline extensions and the Covid-19 pandemic. The County Council retained its Treasury Management Policy of using internal cash balances instead of borrowing money. This has delivered significant savings for taxpayers, as the infrastructure to deliver more skilled, better-paid jobs is being funded at a lower cost.”</p>
	<p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>

Reasons for the Decision – To inform the Cabinet of the Council’s investment and borrowing activity during 2019/20 including both borrowing and investment decisions taken throughout the year in the light of the interest rates and economic conditions prevailing at the time.

Decision – (a) That the treasury management activities for the year ended 31 March 2020, including the Prudential Indicators outturn detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted.

(b) That the use of the Minimum Revenue Provision at 31 March 2020, as set out in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the report, be approved.

(c) That the current Annual Investment Strategy is considered prudent and sufficiently robust to meet any market challenges created by the UK’s decision to leave the European Union and pressures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and that Officers will continue to monitor the position.

6. Delegation of authority to issue Directions under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations 2020

	<p>“Everyone has a part to play in halting the spread of Covid-19. Whilst the vast majority of businesses are complying with the guidance, we have been made aware of a number of premises that aren’t following it, and potentially putting the people who use them at risk.</p>
	<p>We will be stepping up our powers to ensure businesses, premises and events are following the guidance to keep people safe. Any potential closure will be a last resort—we will continue to work with businesses to help them comply with the regulations, but the safety of the public has to come first.”</p> <p>Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the delegation of powers under The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 18th July 2020.

Decision – (a) That the process for the issuing of direction notices under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 by Staffordshire Council be approved.

(b) That authority to issue direction notices, restricted to direction notices that do not constitute key decisions, as well as the review of those direction notices, be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director for Health and Care in his capacity as director of Public Health.

(c) That in the event of the Chief Executive not being available for any reason, authority to issue and review direction notices, may be exercised by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities or the Director for Environment, Infrastructure and Skills, in consultation with the Director for Health and Care in his capacity as director of Public Health.

(d) That in the event of the Director of Public Health not being available, for any reason, the consultation for the issue of the direction shall be deputised to a Consultant in Public Health in accordance with his sub scheme of delegation.

(e) That before issuing notices in accordance with (b) above, the Chief Executive will inform the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing and the Local Member of the intention to issue such notices.

7. 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 response to an outbreak related to the Crown and Anchor pub in Stone, and an ongoing elevated level of infections in parts of Burton.

Decision – That the report be received.

8. 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 Learning and Employability	In approving Staffordshire County Council's Community Learning funding allocation and distribution 2020 to 2021.

Cabinet Member for Commercial	In approving the gifting of supplies of emergency food parcels (approximate value £40,000) to the eight District “anchor” voluntary organisations (or their associated food banks) to support the on-going provision of food to these residents in order to release County Council staff back to their business as usual activities as part of the Council’s recovery plan.
Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing	In approving the repayment of £6,400 of Housing Benefit as recommended by the Local Government Ombudsman.
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	In approving for the special purpose vehicle to provide a step-down service for moving children from residential care to foster care. It is a payment by results model, where outcomes are paid for when stability milestones are met. Part of the outcome payments are funded by the Life Chances Fund, which was awarded by the Big Lottery. The Local Authority is using this special purpose vehicle which will commission, manage and work with foster care provider(s) to source placements.

9. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 16 September 2020 to 20 January 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Consultation on Proposals for Changes to Marshlands School and Greenhall Nursery	Name: Tim Moss Tel: (01785) 27963
Strategic Review of the Older People Care Home Market in Staffordshire 2020	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Midlands Engine - Accountable Body Arrangements	Name: Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 276354
Nexus Trading Services Limited - Annual Report 2019/2020	Name: Dr Richard Harling/ Helen Riley Tel: (01785) 278700/ 278580
Recommissioning of Home Care Services	Name: Helen Trousdale Tel: (01785) 277008
Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 2	Name: Andrew Donaldson/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 276354
SCC COVID-19 Planning and Recovery - Progress Update	Name: Janene Cox/ Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 278368/ 278399
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
North Staffordshire Ministerial Direction for Nitrogen Dioxide - Project Update	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522

10. 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

11. Burton Stronger Towns Fund
(Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider progress made to date towards the submission of the Investment Plan for the Burton Stronger Towns Fund to MHCLG.

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

12. Review of Future Use of Kingston Centre, Stafford
(Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the retention of the Kingston Centre for potential future use as a primary school site.

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

Alan White
Leader of the County Council