

**Date:** 22 March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**County Council - Thursday, 22nd March, 2018**

I have recently forwarded to you a copy of the agenda for the next meeting of the County Council.

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Thursday, 22nd March, 2018 meeting of the County Council, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

8. **Questions**

Questions to be asked by Members of the County Council of the Leader of the Council, a Cabinet Member, or a Chairman of a Committee. The question will be answered by the relevant Member and the Member asking the question may then ask a follow up question which will also be answered

- a) Question 1 from Kyle Robinson (Pages 1 - 2)
- b) Question 2 from Kyle Robinson (Pages 3 - 4)
- c) Question 3 from Alastair Little (Pages 5 - 6)
- d) Question 4 from Syed Hussain (Pages 7 - 10)

John Henderson  
Chief Executive

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**QUESTION 1**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 MARCH 2018**

**Question to Helen Fisher  
Cabinet Support Member for Highways and Transport**

**By Kyle Robinson**

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**Question**

The roads and pavements on the new development of Mitchell Gardens in my division are yet to be adopted. Despite repeated requests for grit bins to be installed on the estate which is hilly and steep, the County Council's response has simply been one of refusal to act. Can some common-sense be brought to bear in order to assist affected residents - will the County Council urgently step in and install a few grit bins to ensure residents can go about their daily lives safely during periods of severe weather?

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**Reply**

Our highways crews do a tremendous job, working in the harsh winter weather, day-and-night, to help keep over 2,400 Kms of Staffordshire's busiest roads free from the dangers of ice and snow.

In addition we also have over 50 local communities that are engaged in the local ice buster's activity and around 4,000 local grit bins/piles that have been located using strict criteria at key positions across the County's remaining 4,000 Kms of adopted roads.

Mitchell Gardens is a private housing development. It is still very much in the building stages, with unsurfaced roads and the builder's construction plant moving around daily. Until the development is complete and the application for public adoption of the new roads is approved consideration of any necessary winter gritting activity remains a matter for the developer and early residents of the site.



**QUESTION 2**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 MARCH 2018**

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE  
Leader of the Council**

**By Kyle Robinson**

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**Question**

Nearly 8 million tonnes of plastic are dumped into our oceans every year. Plastics are an integral part of daily life in the 21st century but the proliferation of single-use-plastics is having a devastating impact on our environment. The Government must act now to stop the excessive use of single-use-plastics, which often end up in our waters and are severely harming marine wildlife. Councils must also play their part in tackling this problem. Therefore will the Leader of the Council commit to working with the Labour Group to make this County Council one of the first plastics clever councils in the country? Will he meet with me to discuss further and agree to establish a cross-party member working group to lead on this initiative?

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**Reply**

The issue of single use plastic and its impact on the environment has been in the news recently, however the problem is one we're already aware of and recognise that it is not the only waste material that is causing problems with the environment. Environmentally speaking it is micro plastics that cause the most significant damage in marine environments and the government has acted on this through restricting the use of micro beads.

Waste collection from households in Staffordshire is carried out by District and Borough Councils and they collect the majority of dry recycling materials, including a range of plastics, to be processed under their own contracts. As you may know we also accept plastics at our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

However I would say that Staffordshire County Council becoming Plastic Clever, while achievable, is a little limited in ambition. The household waste service across all Staffordshire is jointly overseen by the Joint Waste Management Board and is the most appropriate place to raise the issue.

Working in partnership with our Districts and Boroughs, we provide a range of opportunities to capture various plastics (kerbside & HWRCs) and have multiple local and UK based disposal and reprocessing options. In addition, the authority is represented on a number of national policy and lobbying organisations, and will continue to use these channels to challenge the broader environmental and waste management issues.



**QUESTION 3**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 MARCH 2018**

**Question to Helen Fisher  
Cabinet Support Member for Highways and Transport**

**By Alastair Little**

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**Question**

The Tamworth/Amington road in my division is one of the most used but also has been left for many years without adequate maintenance. As a result it has become severely dilapidated with sunken areas, potholes and general use damage. Could the portfolio holder confirm that this road will be in the 2018 summer programme for a resurface and that the 7.5t restriction will remain in place following any works?

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**Reply**

As has been confirmed previously, Tamworth Road / Amington Road is included in the draft 2018/19 highway capital maintenance programme, subject to Cabinet approval early in the new financial year.

Advance structural repairs were carried last summer at the junction with Florendine Street and through the adjacent pedestrian crossing. Later this summer the works will be completed with a new micro asphalt surface course applied along the whole length from Bolebridge Street to Brindley Drive / Mercian Way.

There are currently no proposals to amend the existing 7.5T environmental weight restriction.





## QUESTION 4

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 MARCH 2018

Question to Mike Sutherland  
Cabinet Member for Finance

By Syed Hussain

## Question

2018/19 Planning Forecasts for the Families and Communities budget shows that the Culture and Communities sector will face a cut of £513k and Children's Services will lose out £1.830m. Can the Cabinet Member specify which services will be affected by these changes?

## Reply

Please see the below information which summarises a breakdown of which services will be affected by the changes.

**Culture & Communities Movement in Base Budget 2018/19 & 2019/20**

	2018-19	2019-20	Movement in Budget
MTFS Savings	£.	£.	£.
(1*) Reduction in William Salt Library Running Costs	-	- 75,000	- 75,000
(2*) Implementation of Libraries Framework	- 500,000	- 750,000	- 250,000
(1*) New Staffordshire History Centre Staffing Model	- 130,000	- 260,000	- 130,000
(2*) Mobile & Travelling Libraries Review	-	- 300,000	- 300,000
(3*) Surrender of Shugborough Lease to the National Trust	- 45,000	88,000	233,000
(4*) Redesign of the Arts Service	- 74,000	- 74,000	-
(3*) Further Shugborough Operating Model Savings	-	- 75,000	- 75,000
	<b>- 849,000</b>	<b>- 1,446,000</b>	<b>- 597,000</b>
Inflationary Uplift on the Base Budget	161,000	324,000	163,000
Additional Pay Award	79,000	-	- 79,000
<b>Movement in Base Budget 2018/19 to 2020/21</b>	<b>- 609,000</b>	<b>- 1,122,000</b>	<b>- 513,000</b>

- (1) *Savings related to the redesign of Staffordshire Archives & Heritage Service into the new Staffordshire History Centre (SHC) including a staffing establishment review.*
- (2) *The Final phase of the libraries framework implementation including potential Self Service option; the transfer of more libraries into Community Managed Libraries and a review of mobile/travelling libraries (subject to public consultation)*

(3) *The removal of the remaining Shugborough revenue budget following payment of redundancy costs post lease transfer to The National Trust.*

(4) *Redesign of the County's Arts Offer.*

Children's Services has seen pressure arising from increased Looked After Children's numbers which has been partially funded, with additional savings set against the wider Children's transformation work including formal early help and our work with those children at the "cusp of" statutory intervention. Whilst there are pressures from rising demand on our children's services we continue to focus on Outcomes i.e. corporate responsibility for child safety and protection.

**Children's Services Movement in Base Budget 2018/19 & 2019/20**

	2018-19	2019-20	Movement in Budget
MTFS Savings	£.	£.	£.
<b>Spending Pressures approved February 2017</b>			
LAC number changes	-	- 350,000	- 350,000
Looked After Children increased number and costs	-	-	-
SEN transport relating to number of school days in a financial year.	100,000	50,000	- 50,000
Expected changes in SEN pupil numbers and diversity in destination bases.	90,000	190,000	100,000
SEN Transport - Higher costs due to an increase in operator prices.	-	-	-
<b>New Service Projected Pressures</b>			
SEN Home to School Transport	823,000	823,000	-
Looked After Children - increased number and costs	6,011,000	7,511,000	1,500,000
Children's Direct Payments inc. NLW increase	156,000	184,000	28,000
Part year impact of loss of DSG for LSTs	1,170,000	650,000	- 520,000
SEN Transport - school days adjustment	- 40,000	70,000	110,000
SEN pupil number changes	60,000	60,000	-
<b>Total Service cost reductions approved in February 2017</b>			
Intensive work with LAC using dedicated multi agency team.	- 122,000	- 122,000	-
Joint initiative with Public Health in respect of targeted interventions	- 699,000	- 1,144,000	- 445,000
Engagement with partners to work differently together to build greater resilience in families and communities across Staffordshire	- 413,000	- 1,643,000	- 1,230,000
Termination of the Evolve Young People contract.	- 50,000	- 50,000	-
Non delivery of additional MTFS saving in relation to Children's System	100,000	100,000	-
To reshape support plans for children transitioning into adults	- 280,000	- 280,000	-
Reduction in budget following a review of all age disabilities policies and practices	- 200,000	- 500,000	- 300,000
Children's placements review and prevention	- 50,000	- 100,000	- 50,000

**Projected changes to Original Service Cost Reductions**

Non Delivery of historic MTFS savings for Children's System	3,300,000	-	- 3,300,000
Changes to existing MTFS saving for transformation costs	227,000	227,000	-

**New Service Cost Reduction Options**

Higher income for Education Psychologists and Respite Services	- 200,000	- 200,000	-
Savings from Intensive Prevention Initiatives	- 750,000	- 750,000	-

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<b>9,233,000</b>	<b>4,726,000</b>	<b>- 4,507,000</b>
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Inflationary Uplift on the Base Budget	2,375,000	5,172,000	2,797,000
Additional Pay Award	452,000	332,000	- 120,000

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<b>Movement in Base Budget 2018/19 to 2020/21</b>	<b>12,060,000</b>	<b>10,230,000</b>	<b>- 1,830,000</b>
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