

To: All Members and Officers of the County Council.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

County Council - Thursday, 21st March, 2019

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, 21st March, 2019 meeting of the County Council, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

9. **Questions (Pages 1 - 6)**

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

John Henderson
Chief Executive

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QUESTION 1

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MARCH 2019

**Question to Philip White
Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability**

By Syed Hussain

Question

What percentage of working age people in Anglesey and Staphenhill earn less than the average weekly wage (£551)?

Reply

Average earnings data is not available below district/borough level from data sources including the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). Latest figures for East Staffordshire show that the average weekly wage in 2018 was £501 compared to the Staffordshire average of £551 and UK average (including London) of £569.

Since 2010, the wages of Staffordshire's residents have increased by around £57 per week, with the average £551 earned by a resident of Staffordshire working full-time exceeding the West Midlands Region average of £537.

Although average wages for residents of East Staffordshire are currently less than the national average, the cost of living within the district and county overall is far more favourable than many other parts of the country. A useful indication of this is housing affordability; in East Staffordshire the average price of a house is currently 6.4 times the average annual wage compared to 7.9 times in England as a whole.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MARCH 2019

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

By Kyle Robinson

Question

Barnett's Field, also known as Clough Hall Playing Field, in the Talke and Red Street Division was put forward by Staffordshire County Council to be included in the Joint Local Plan process for the future development of 424 homes. The Joint Local Plan is currently delayed by Newcastle Borough Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council for various reasons. Residents are anxious that the development of this field will be a detriment to the local community as it is currently used for sport and recreational activities. There have also been flooding issues with this site over many years. Taking the above into account, will Staffordshire County Council withdraw its support to dispose of this site?

Reply

This former playing field is one of many examples of the changes in facilities required to provide education in the county. There are many other examples though where new facilities are required and these need funding. Not all of that funding is met through government allocations or S106 contributions from developments. Currently we estimate a further £22m will be needed for the projected school places additional demand over the next 5 years. Where possible therefore we need to consider the whole of the school estate and where surplus land is available we need to consider how that can best be used.

For all council assets that are no longer required for their original purposes and are potentially suitable for development we will include those sites in the local plan process and trust that process to allocate the right sites in the local community for the housing need for that area. Local planning policies and procedures will then ensure that any subsequent development is right for the site and immediate local area.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MARCH 2019

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

By Kyle Robinson

Question

What is Staffordshire County Council doing to tackle rising knife crime in Staffordshire?

Reply

Staffordshire County Council are working with a range of statutory and voluntary sector partners, including Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire Police, district and borough councils and the Staffordshire Commissioner to develop a robust approach to tackle youth violence (including carrying / using knives) across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. This work is co-ordinated through the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Youth Violence & Vulnerability Partnership Group.

