

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

Thursday, 3 October 2019

2.00 pm

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

NB. Members are requested to ensure that their Laptops/Tablets are fully charged before the meeting

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services
25 September 2019

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 26 July 2019** (Pages 1 - 4)
4. **Draft Strategic Infrastructure Plan** (Pages 5 - 10)
Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth
5. **Economic Growth Programme Update** (Pages 11 - 20)
Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth
6. **Work Programme** (Pages 21 - 28)



7. Exclusion of the Public

The Chairman to move:-

“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 Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

Part Two

(All reports in this section are exempt)

nil

Committee Membership

Tina Clements (Vice-Chairman)	Ian Parry (Chairman)
Mike Deakin	Kyle Robinson
Keith Flunder	Jessica Shulman
Syed Hussain	David Smith
Julia Jessel	Simon Tagg
Ian Lawson	Bernard Williams
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf	

Note for Members of the Press and Public

Filming of Meetings

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Recording by Press and Public

Recording (including by the use of social media) by the Press and Public is permitted from the public seating area provided it does not, in the opinion of the chairman, disrupt the meeting.

Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Meeting held on 26 July 2019

Present: Ian Parry (Chairman)

Attendance

Julia Jessel
Kyle Robinson
Jessica Shulman

David Smith
Bernard Williams

Also in attendance: Philip White

Apologies: Tina Clements, Mike Deakin, Keith Flunder, Syed Hussain, Ian Lawson and Simon Tagg

PART ONE

62. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this meeting.

63. Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 20 June 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 20 June 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

64. Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire

Members were informed that OFSTED had judged that 84% of schools in Staffordshire were good or outstanding. However overall outcomes for Staffordshire's young people remained below average, particularly at Key Stage 4 and 5. There were many examples of good practice, but too much variation between schools. Staffordshire was in the bottom quartile for too many performance measures when compared to statistical neighbours. Improving Education and Skills "so that more people gain the training and qualifications they need to succeed" was one of the County Council's strategic priorities. There was now a complex mix of relationships and accountabilities which meant that no single institution or organisation could impose or affect significant, system-wide change on its own. The County Council championed better outcomes for children and young people but did not have the authority, responsibility, control or resources to determine those outcomes.

The partnership framework was co-produced with a reference group reflecting the range of education providers in Staffordshire. It proposed a shared leadership approach that was evidence based, outcomes focused and underpinned by peer support and challenge.

Members noted that there were concerns about fragmented provision and a disconnect between early years, schools and colleges and gaps in transitions, particularly from primary to secondary. The committee considered the 2018 Education Annual Report which provided detailed breakdowns of pupil attainment. They expressed concern over the drift in performance as pupils progressed through the education system. The inaugural meeting of the Education and Skills Strategic Group had taken place on 20 June, with three key themes of performance, inclusion and aspiration. In wide-ranging discussion members questioned whether the Group would have an impact which would be real and measurable and encouraged it to have robust discussion with two or three action points from meetings. They were assured that agenda would be limited to two or three items and that it would be obvious fairly quickly if the Group was effective.

Members were pleased to see that the role of parents was highlighted in the Strategy but suggested that the key role, powers and responsibility of governors in cases where schools were failing should also be recognised in it. They were reassured that there were representatives from Governing Bodies on the Strategic Group.

The Committee queried whether there was good communication with the Regional Schools Commissioner around poorly performing academies and were informed that the authority had a good working relationship with the Commissioner, although there were concerns over the size of the geographic footprint which they operated over.

It was acknowledged that there was a need to improve careers advice and guidance and the way that sixth form provision was configured to make it fit for purpose, open and transparent for pupils. It was agreed that more work needed to be done to ensure impartial advice was given and the right courses made available to provide pupils with an appropriate pathway into further education, apprenticeships and employment. This would be an important workstream for the Strategic Group. The Cabinet Member stated that OFSTED had introduced new inspection standards and it was unclear what impact this would have on educational outcomes. There was a need for more resources and he had made a case to Cabinet for more funding for maintained schools and for SEND. The Cabinet Member also agreed to expand on the role of business in the Strategy.

RESOLVED That:

- a) The content of the final Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire be noted;
- b) The Strategy should include a paragraph on the role of governors and that open, honest and clear language be used;
- c) The 2018 Staffordshire educational attainment data used as part of the baseline of performance measures to evaluate the impact of the partnership framework be noted; and
- d) The size of the geographic footprint be raised with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

65. Capital Funding for New Schools

Members were informed that, whilst the role of local authorities had diminished as the autonomy and accountability of individual schools and trusts and the Regional Schools Commissioner had increased, the County Council still retained the duties to manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary schools places in its area and to secure

a place for every child of statutory age who wants one. By September 2019 the County Council would have successfully opened six new free schools at a cost of around £60 million (in addition to the value of land used for the schools).

Where local population growth was forecast, largely from local plan housing by borough and district councils, more school places would be necessary through school expansion or new schools. The Committee were informed that there was a degree of complexity and uncertainty to the capital funding for school places and it was important that the County Council managed its capital programme well, gained best value from its investment and took advantage of partnership. Members discussed the importance of new school buildings being energy efficient and were reassured that this was the case. They also sought assurances that the authority received all the funding that it was entitled to under Section 106 Agreements with developers. They were informed that these contributions were pursued robustly, both in the case of new developments and school expansions.

A member commented that the opening of new schools could have a destabilising effect on the existing schools in the area. Members were informed that new schools were considered “free schools”, with the same legal status as academies, and could be opened by one of two routes:

- **Free school presumption** – a local authority-managed process, where the local authority seek applications from academy trusts to open a new free school and recommends a preferred sponsor to the DfE. However, the local authority would be responsible for any capital funding shortfall.
- **Free school wave** – a DfE-managed process, where the DfE invites applications to open new free schools and informs the local authority of the successful sponsor. Schools with less than 420 places must follow the presumption route.

Under both routes, the final decision on the successful sponsor is taken by the Secretary of State for Education. The churches representative informed members that the diocese was keen to offer parents the option of Church of England Schools. The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that any free school presumption had to be open and transparent and priority was not given to any sponsors.

The Committee considered forecasts of the funding which would be required to invest in new and expanded schools over the next 10-15 years. Whilst the five-year programme was forecast to be fully funded, it was essential that the County Council continued to negotiate contributions from developers and lobby for continued support from government.

It was suggested that it would be helpful to have a hierarchy of preferences for utilising Section 106 funding. It was agreed that there was a need for greater cooperation over planning in the County between the County Council, Districts and Boroughs to provide stronger, more unified responses. Members suggested that that officers investigate further the arrangements around Section 106 Agreements, particularly focusing on expansion and collaboration. In relation to a query about the quality of new school buildings and their lifecycle and longevity, members were assured that they were well constructed to clear specifications by experienced and knowledgeable contractors.

The Chairman referred to concerns about capacity around Pupil Referral Units, which were not included in the report but were on the Work Programme. The Cabinet Member undertook to bring an item on this to a future meeting, focusing on physical capacity and measures to ensure that the Units were operating in the right way.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) The work to date to open six new schools in Staffordshire, the forecast and funding for new schools over the next five years and beyond and the best value delivered in the building of new free schools be noted; and
- b) The Cabinet Member investigate the utilisation of Section 106 funding further to see if further collaboration between partners was achievable so that a County-wide agreement could be made.

66. Work Programme

Members considered their Work Programme for 2019/20. It was suggested that representatives from the National Grid (who were currently doing a series of national presentations) should be invited to speak to the Committee on their plans for this region, which would be paramount for economic prosperity as well as the environment. A member commented that the erection of new pylons was a controversial issue and required the appropriate infrastructure to be in place.

A member suggested that the Committee should look at potential issues around sewers, including capacity, their impact on flooding and the compatibility of ageing pipework with new builds. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a representative from Severn Trent Water to be in attendance for this item, which would link with the item on housing which was on the Work Programme for the September meeting.

It was requested that the item carried over from 2018/19 on Community Transport and the Supported Bus Network be included on the agenda for the November meeting.

It was also suggested that the Regional Schools Commissioner be invited to a meeting to outline the process which was followed to address failing academies, and that an overview be requested comparing performance between academies and maintained schools and indicating how well academisation was working in Staffordshire.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) A representative from the National Grid be invited to speak to the Committee on their plans for this region;
- b) An item on sewers be included on the agenda for the September meeting and a representative from Severn Trent Water be invited to attend;
- c) The item on Community Transport and the Supported Bus Network be included on the agenda for the November meeting; and
- d) The Regional Schools Commissioner be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee, which will also consider an overview comparing performance between academies and maintained schools.

Chairman

Local Members Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - Thursday 19 September 2019

Draft Strategic Infrastructure Plan

Recommendations

I recommend that:

- a. The Select Committee considers and comments upon the draft Strategic Infrastructure Plan in terms of the broad approach, scope and time horizon (20 year period, up to 2038) in producing a macro-level framework capable of articulating the scale of infrastructure investment required to support the long term sustainable growth of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
- b. The final version of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan is brought to the Select Committee in late Winter 2019/20 along with an overview of the progress made in forging Strategic Relationships with key infrastructure providers and external funding providers.
- c. The Select Committee considers and comments upon how the emerging Strategic Infrastructure Plan could be used to shape and influence policy associated with the recently announced pledge by the new Prime Minister to review planning regulations as part of a wide-ranging drive to tackle the nation's housing crisis.

Report of Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a. Provide the Select Committee with an opportunity to shape this work as an important component in developing a clearly defined strategy for Staffordshire County Council engagement in housing policy and strategy delivery to support the implementation of housing schemes, both directly and indirectly (referred herein as the Housing Strategy);
 - b. Provide the Select Committee with an opportunity to select any specific infrastructure themes for consideration and comment in more detail at a future meeting(s);
 - c. Provide the Select Committee with an opportunity to shape and influence the extent in which the Strategic Infrastructure Plan will form part of the Housing Strategy that will be brought to the Select Committee in late Winter 2019/20.

Report

Background

2. The Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Strategic Plan 2018 to 2022 (the Strategic Plan) (SCC 2018a) includes Housing as one its five priorities; to '*Support the construction of more housing to meet the growing needs of our families and people young and old.*'
3. The sub-headings under this priority are:
 - a. Strategic Infrastructure Plan;
 - b. Housing offer; and
 - c. Housing delivery.
4. An introduction to the concept of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) was considered at the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on the 18th September 2018. An overview of the emerging SIP subsequently formed part of the item 'Delivering Housing in Staffordshire' at the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on the 1st March 2019. It was resolved by the Committee that an advanced draft version of a clearly defined strategy (the Housing Strategy) be brought to the Select Committee in early Autumn 2019.
5. The SIP will form an important component of the Housing Strategy and the Select Committee are provided with an opportunity to shape and influence the SIP at this draft stage with the intention to finalise the document throughout the Autumn months.
6. The SIP articulates the impact of economic growth and provides an insight to the strategic importance of infrastructure led development plans. It demonstrates the emphasis that should be placed on securing financial contributions from the development industry during both the local plan preparation stage and subsequent development management process.
7. The SIP provides an important evidence base to hold more robust discussions with developers, utility providers, and to better support the Local Planning Authorities in plan making. The strategic scale development proposals in near proximity to the administrative border are also identified, and the SIP will enable a more joined up 'One Staffordshire' voice to be heard when considering cross-border activities.
8. The draft SIP is framed around nine key themes that consider 'Transport, Education, Health, Community, Green Infrastructure, Utilities and Flood Defences'. The draft SIP provides a holistic and cumulative view of the wide range of infrastructure delivery plans for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent geography and pick up cross-boundary issues of strategic importance (e.g. the Drakelow former power station site on the Derbyshire border that requires a new bridge and bypass).

9. The draft SIP considers the level of infrastructure investment over a 20 year period up to 2038. It is based on the adopted Local Plan coverage for the area produced by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), including the County Council in its role as the Waste Planning Authority. Many of the adopted local plans are based on a spatial strategy and site allocations up to 2030 +/- a few years (the exact dates are documented within Appendix 1 of the 1 March 2019 Select Committee papers). The draft SIP extrapolates data from these published sources and is based on an agreed approach with the LPAs.
10. In considering an appropriate methodology on which to base the extrapolation of data, it was necessary to take account of a recent change in Government policy. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have made changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). MHCLG have introduced a Standard Methodology with the intention of simplifying the process in which the preparation of a local plan should quantify its housing number requirements (n.b. the standard method identifies a minimum annual housing need figure, it does not produce a housing requirement figure).
11. However, if a local plan is refreshed before the end of the intended adopted local plan period (e.g. 2030), then there is a case for reprofiling the annual housing delivery figures based on the new adopted local plan period (e.g. from 2021 with a five year extension up to 2035). This is an important starting point on which to base predictive models used in producing the SIP. This matter is dealt with in page 13 of the SIP presented as Appendix 1.
12. It is possible that the housing projections will be revised upwards in future years depending on growth scenarios relating to High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) and the wider West Midlands Conurbation housing market area. Therefore, the housing and population forecasts in the draft SIP should be considered as a minimum in terms of long term planning for infrastructure provision.
13. The draft SIP provides a macro level indication of the level of investment in infrastructure that is required to facilitate sustainable development in the area. The SIP is based on adopted local plans and various infrastructure delivery plans. Therefore, the investment levels are based on a continuation of the existing strategies, with the exception being a potential new settlement in the Borough of Stafford (the Meecebrook garden settlement proposition).
14. Furthermore, the Midlands Engine, and Midlands Connect strategy is based on seeking the benefits of agglomeration across the region. The main emphasis is placed on enhancements to the existing strategic and major road network, with particular focus on improving east-west connectivity. There are no new major road or rail schemes identified in the draft SIP (other than HS2), but this may change in future years.
15. In terms of the what the draft SIP is showing in terms of the scale of financial investment required, is to provide an insight to the multiple-stakeholders that contribute to the making of 'place', and what needs to happen if the area is going to be successful in delivering on its plans.

16. The broad discussions at the previous Prosperous Select Committee were around the potential importance of forging strategic relationships with a number of external infrastructure providers (particularly statutory utilities) to ensure the various development, investment and delivery plans were aligned. There was also consideration around the benefits of longer term (10 years+) financial settlements and investment periods with Central Government and its agencies (existing regime is typically based on up to 5 year review cycles).
17. The policy implications associated with the Devolution agenda, and local government finance (e.g. Self-sufficient local government: 100% business rates retention) also continue to be relevant.
18. The draft SIP could form an important evidence base in future policy discussions with Central Government.

Link to Strategic Plan

19. Support the construction of more housing to meet the growing needs of our families and people young and old.

Community Impact

20. This report provides a status update on the Delivery Plan 2019/20 to develop a clearly defined strategy for SCC engagement in housing policy and strategy delivery to support the implementation of housing schemes, both directly and indirectly. At this stage, the report is not proposing a change to any County Council policy or service. As such a full assessment of community impact is not considered relevant in this instance.

List of Background Documents:

MHCLG, 2019. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. *Guidance Housing and economic needs assessment*. 22 July 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments#housing-need>

SCC, 2018a. Staffordshire Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022

<https://www.intra.staffordshire.gov.uk/ppp/planning/stratplan/Strategic-Plan-2018-22.aspx>

SCC, 2018b. Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee. 19th September 2018. Item 22. *Delivering Housing in Staffordshire: Joint Report of Cabinet Member for Commercial and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth*

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=868&MIId=8804&VeI=4>

SCC, 2018c. Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee. 1st March 2019. Item 45. *Delivering Housing in Staffordshire: Joint Report of Cabinet Member for Commercial and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth*

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/%28S%28mcpprs45tonyxo55nsbzyt55%29%29/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=868&MId=8809>

Contact Details

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Local Members Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - Thursday 03 October 2019

Economic Growth Programme Update

Recommendations

I recommend that:

- a. The Select Committee scrutinises the work and progress of the Staffordshire County Council Economic Growth Programme.
- b. The Select Committee comments on and considers aspects for further scrutiny.

Report of Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

1. This paper has been prepared at the request of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee to provide an update on the work and progress of the Staffordshire County Council Economic Growth Programme. Please note that six monthly updates in relation to the Economic Growth Programme were requested at the triangulation meeting on 17th October 2018. The previous report was heard by the Committee at its meeting on 1st March 2019.
2. The paper is accompanied by additional material which gives further detail around the progress of specific projects and is designed as a basis against which the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee may wish to frame its scrutiny as per the recommendations above.

Report

Background

3. More and better jobs mean more money in residents' pockets – the essential basis for better health, prosperity and connected communities that can act on locally important issues themselves.
4. **Creating the right conditions for economic growth is a key priority for Staffordshire County Council**, directly contributing to the priority population outcome for Staffordshire's people to be able to access more good jobs and the benefits of economic growth. Moreover, economic growth underpins all of our priority outcomes, helps to secure long term financial stability and is a key contributing factor in the wider determinants of health.

Macro-Economic situation

5. At the macro-economic level Staffordshire's economy continues to restructure and adapt to the challenges of the wider economic conditions of the UK as a whole and global economic circumstances.
6. While there is some uncertainty in relation to the potential impacts that the UK's impending departure from the European Union may have on the performance of the local economy, the Staffordshire economy continues to perform with relative strength.
7. In relation to EU funding and any successor programmes, recent government briefings on the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) have confirmed that European funding programmes will continue for the full term (up to and including December 2023) and that the EU expects full commitment of allocations at a UK and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) level. Government will be recommencing consultations with LEPs to ensure a smooth transition from EU programmes to the UKSPF set to be launched in 2021. Guidance on the UKSPF is expected later this year 2019 and it is anticipated that the emerging Local Industrial Strategy will shape the response to and influence the level of funding available from the UKSPF.
8. As of June 2019, Claimant Count unemployment stands at 1.8% of the working age population and has persistently remained well below the averages of Great Britain and the West Midlands Region (which stood at 2.8% and 3.5% respectively at June 2019).
9. In encouraging creating the right conditions for economic growth, Staffordshire County Council is directly playing its part in helping to achieve the ambitions of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SSLEP) which is seeking to create 50,000 jobs and increase the Gross Value Added (GVA) of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire by 50% over a 10-year period beginning in 2014.
10. The National Statistics datasets which capture change in employment and Gross Value Added, are only updated on an annual basis, with the next annual updates being due in December 2018. In future reports to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee there will be a further opportunity to update the wider macro-economic context of the local economy.
11. Therefore, the situation remains that in 2017 (the latest available data year) there were a total of 346,000 employee jobs in the Staffordshire County area. The total employment growth in Staffordshire increased by around 35,300 jobs during the period between 2011 and 2017. The total Gross Value Added of Staffordshire County in 2017 stands at £16.9 billion.
12. Members of the Committee are reminded that there are relatively strong proportions of employment in Staffordshire County in Manufacturing (13.0% compared to 11.6% in the West Midlands and 8.2% in Great Britain) and Construction (5.5% compared to 4.3% in the West Midlands and 4.8% in Great

Britain). With wider uncertainty around the macro-economic context at present it will be important to monitor the health of these sectors moving forward.

13. Nevertheless, Staffordshire has an overall well-balanced economy, which does not over rely on any single sector. Notably, the proportions of employment from the private sector are also greater than the West Midlands Region and England respectively.

Creating the right conditions for economic growth

14. In creating the right conditions for businesses to grow and thrive, whilst promoting a mixed and balanced economy our experience has shown that having a pipeline of good portfolio of quality employment sites and premises is very important in being able to meet the demanding requirements of end users who often have very narrow windows of opportunity. Being in a good position to bring forward new land and premises is also very important in being able to access potential Government funding opportunities which often emerge at very short notice.
15. This is well evidenced through our track record of developing similar projects across Staffordshire and the experience of our inward investment service, which identifies that having a good supply of 'shovel ready', serviced development sites and ready to occupy buildings is crucial in securing high quality investment.
16. Beyond the physical infrastructure of development sites, we also recognise the importance of a well skilled and adaptable workforce and other infrastructure such as broadband. We are already considering how we can meet aspirational targets for "Fibre to the Premises" broadband technology and looking towards other technologies which will help maintain and enhance our competitive advantage. These and other issues are captured within our emerging Strategic Infrastructure Plan which seeks to understand the cumulative impact of growth and the infrastructure required to support it.
17. Staffordshire County Council brings these activities together in a coordinated manner through the Economic Growth Programme, which is recognised as a key priority within the organisation's Delivery Plan.
18. Progress, performance and relevant escalations are reported to the County Council's Senior Leadership Team and Informal Cabinet on a monthly basis through the wider reporting on the Delivery Plan. Information is also provided to relevant Select Committees and externally to the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, which is subsequently reported through to Government Departments – in particular – Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Transport.

Economic Growth Programme Key Facts

19. The current total financial value of the Economic Growth Programme (including projects where initial work or interventions have been completed) is around £477.6 million (of which £81.9 million relates to direct capital investment by

Staffordshire County Council). The majority of this investment covers the period up to 2024, with a significant amount of funding planned to be disbursed by April 2021.

20. 'Live' projects within the Economic Growth Programme currently total around £296 million and are funded from a range of sources including via the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Growth Deal and City Deal funding), EU funding, Staffordshire County Council's capital programme and contributions from private sector developers. (Staffordshire County Council's current investment for these 'live' projects amounts to around £32.1 million).
21. This represents funding leverage of around £9.22 worth of funding secured for every £1 of Staffordshire County Council investment in the current 'live' projects of the Economic Growth Programme. This is a reduction from the £13.65 worth of funding secured from for every £1 of Staffordshire County Council investment identified in the previous report to this committee and is as a result of several "live" projects to which Staffordshire County Council are making a funding contribution now entering the programme.
22. Since the Economic Growth Programme commenced in 2014, 16 employment generating projects with a total value of around £194 million have been completed to date, and their outcomes are tracked. Between them, these projects are anticipated to create over 22,500 jobs when they have been fully built out and developed.
23. To date around 7,089 jobs have been delivered or committed on these sites (around 31% of their anticipated total long-term employment potential), reinforcing Staffordshire County Council's contribution towards meeting the SSLEP's employment creation and economic output targets.
24. In addition to job creation, the Economic Growth Programme has a strong focus on enabling the delivery of homes in Staffordshire. Some 2,300 homes have been delivered or committed as a result of interventions included within the 'live' and 'completed' projects of the programme. This is a significant increase on the housing figures recorded from 12 months ago and is largely due to the completion of several developer funded "Section 278" projects which have unlocked housing development (notably including at Hydrant Way / Tixall Road in Stafford).
25. A total of some 12,400 houses are planned to be delivered through current and completed interventions which are included within the programme.
26. Since the Economic Growth Programme was previously considered by the Prosperous Staffordshire Committee in March 2019 there has been positive movement in relation to several projects.
 - a. Speculative development at the Liberty Park site in Lichfield is well underway and due for practical completion in November 2019, with strong interest from end users in the units being constructed.

- b. The IC 5 development at Keele University Science and Business Park is now fully occupied, with end users employing 162 people against an estimated total of 120 when the business case for the project was proposed.
 - c. A speculative unit at the Four Ashes Park site has been occupied by aerial platform specialist Haulotte. The employment outcomes for the site are to be confirmed. A further speculative unit of 450,000 square feet is available for immediate occupation at the site.
 - d. The first unit at Meaford Business Park is now occupied by metal pipe and hose manufacturer Arctrend, with up to 80 jobs delivered and committed.
 - e. The renewed planning application for the Chatterley Valley West site in Newcastle-under-Lyme district was approved in July 2019, with the site developer Harworth Group looking to commence significant earthworks contracts soon.
 - f. At plot C of the existing i54 site, Morris Site Machinery have announced that they will move to a new 60,000 square feet facility, with construction due to begin in Autumn 2019. The company are looking to expand their current operations and currently employ around 30 people, which is expected to increase at the new facility.
 - g. The enabling works for i54 Western Extension commenced on 24th June, with the construction of the site access road following on and now underway.
27. A number of developer led "Section 278" highway access schemes delivered through the Infrastructure + partnership are also contributing to employment generation and housing commitments and completions. Notably the civil engineering works at the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet Village in Cannock are due for completion in Spring 2020.
28. As well as their employment outcomes, these priority sites make an important contribution to the wider economy through increased local spending, and the financial sustainability of the County Council and other organisations through business rates receipts and Council Tax contributions.
29. The completed employment sites referred to above will currently generate total annual estimated business rates of around £10.3m of which 50% is currently returned to central government. Total business rates from the full pipeline of projects within the Economic Growth Programme are estimated to be in the region of some £30m per annum (of which 50% is currently returned to central government).
30. As well as employment creation through physical infrastructure, the Economic Growth Programme has a strong focus on improving skills outcomes and attainment. We have led on the development of the skills strategy through the LEP and delivered much of its commissioning and delivery on skills.

31. This includes developing and commissioning its £58m ESF programme that has already engaged over 18,200 residents improving their skills and job prospects and benefitting thousands of local employers. To date over 7,770 beneficiaries have either progressed into work, education, training, apprenticeships, or been upskilled to improve skill levels and productivity. The improvement and growth in skill levels is growing faster across the SSLEP area compared to nationally. There are now relatively fewer people with no qualifications than nationally and a relatively faster growth rate in people gaining qualifications in the SSLEP area, which is narrowing the skills gap. We have also led the LEP skills capital programme securing millions of pounds of investment through successive City and Growth Deals.
32. This has resulted in a much needed increase in skills in advanced manufacturing, engineering and construction through the development of the Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Hub projects. The £13.2m Hub provides state of the art facilities and equipment over 6 sites and has already supported over 7,300 learners since the project was launched in 2014.
33. In addition, with LEP support we are investing a further £4.8 million in equipment to increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills in the economy through the Skills Equipment Fund. Projects at Perkins Engines, Newcastle & Stafford College Group, Stoke-on-Trent College, South Staffordshire College and Staffordshire University have successfully applied for this funding which will help to secure a further 1,700 apprenticeships and further education learners.
34. During October 2019, the Skills Hub for Growth will go live with an official launch planned during November. A project manager and 3 skills advisers have been recruited to provide support to the Skills Hub for Growth.

Potential Economic Growth Programme Outputs and Outcomes

35. The majority of the outputs and outcomes of projects currently identified in the Economic Growth Programme are expected to be realised by around 2025, however as new projects enter the programme this is likely to be extended further into the future.
36. Taking planned projects within the Economic Growth Programme into account, the following potential outputs could be realised over the lifetime of the programme:
 - a. Approximately 20,000 further jobs
 - b. Infrastructure improvements to help deliver 15,600 homes as an initial target
 - c. 96% of premises connected to Superfast Broadband (and ambitions to develop a much greater share of premises which are accessed by Fibre to the Premises technology)
 - d. 15,000 apprentices, traineeships and FE learners to be supported through the Advanced Manufacturing Hub and Skills Equipment Fund activities
 - e. Around 3,000 employers engaged in training through the LEP ESF programmes

- f. 26,800 people engaged in training programmes through the LEP ESF programmes and the Locality project
37. It should be noted that employment estimates should be treated with some caution and are likely to vary depending on the end users of the sites in question. The figures quoted in this report are based on best estimates using recognised methodology, the details of which have been explained previously to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee.
38. It should also be noted that in a number of recent investments the primary role for Staffordshire County Council has been to unlock longstanding employment land in the ownership of private developers through assisting in the delivery of often costly off-site infrastructure. Taking a proactive role in unlocking such sites is vitally important in locations like Staffordshire as it helps to overcome the viability and delivery issues which can otherwise stagnate development, and allows the Staffordshire economy to remain competitive at the regional, national and international level.
39. This approach has been effective in creating the right conditions for private sector businesses to move on to employment sites and into business premises. Although there is some influence over the nature and type of end use (and the jobs that these can generate) through the planning system, the final employment figures generated will depend on the end users of the sites.

Conclusion

40. Staffordshire County Council's ambitious Economic Growth Programme is continuing to play a crucial role in Staffordshire's ongoing economic improvement. Claimant unemployment rates continue to be persistently below the averages for the West Midlands and Great Britain. This success story is likely to continue as Staffordshire County Council works in partnership to deliver priority projects with the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and other key local stakeholders.
41. We are also identifying further opportunities to increase growth of housing and prosperity in Staffordshire and are progressing well in discussions with Homes England to identify potential areas of mutually beneficial working.
42. A key priority for the future will be to encourage further growth in higher value added sectors, meeting the County Council's ambitions for creating 'better jobs' while ensuring that there is a mixed and balanced economy in Staffordshire. All of this needs to be combined with a competitive and broad skills profile among local communities, able to support this growth, giving everyone the best opportunities to fulfil their economic potential.

Link to Strategic Plan

43. The Economic Growth Programme directly supports the Strategic Plan priority outcome for Staffordshire's people to 'access more good jobs and the benefits of

economic growth'. It also indirectly supports the priority outcomes for people to 'feel healthier and more independent', and 'safer, happier and more supported'.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

44. The Economic Growth Programme pulls together priority economic projects from across Staffordshire County Council.
45. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee's work plan includes topics within the programme including Skills and Employability matters, the EU funding programme, development of Strategic Infrastructure Plan and the County Council's approach to housing.

Community Impact

46. This report provides an update on economic growth in Staffordshire and is not proposing a change to any County Council policy or service. As such a full assessment of community impact is not relevant. However, the overall benefits of the Economic Growth Programme including increased employment and skills among the local population, and their wider contributions to quality of life are deemed to represent overall positive impact to the local community.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix A – Table of Selected Key Projects – **please note that this table does not contain all projects** due to the confidential/commercial nature of certain projects. As such the totals in this table do not always sum exactly to the figures outlined above in this report.

Contact Details

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Appendix 1 - Economic Growth Programme - Table of Selected Key Projects

Live Projects													
	Scheme	Short Description	Total Project Value (£M)	SCC Funding Share (£m)	Potential Jobs	Delivered & Committed Jobs	Planned Houses	Delivered & Committed Houses	Planned businesses assisted	Actual businesses assisted	Planned Skills Outcomes	Delivered & Committed Skills Outcomes (Note 1)	
In Progress/Construction	Keele Smart Innovation Hub	Business School and Innovation Centre	17.47	2.37	240	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	SME Expansion Support	Range of schemes to support business growth	2.09	-	TBC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Stafford Western Access Route	New road to promote growth and improve traffic in Stafford	62.86	11.63	-	-	2200	163	-	-	-	-	
	Lichfield Southern Bypass	Final link (phase 3) of Lichfield Southern By Pas	17.35	0.19	TBC	-	TBC	-	-	-	-	-	
	Tixall Road Stafford N & S (S 278)	Access to housing site	1.41	-	-	-	634	634	-	-	-	-	
	McArthur Glen Outlet Village Cannock (S 278)	Access improvement to designer retail outlet village	11.50	-	1,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Local Sustainable Transport Package	Local Interventions promoting sustainable transpor	11.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Local Sustainable Transport Package	Local Interventions promoting sustainable transpor	0.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Skills Capital Equipment Fund	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	3.52	-	TBC	-	-	-	-	-	1063	-	
	i54 Western Extension	Extension to i54 employment site	38.50	9.25	1,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Feasibility	Chatterley Valley West	Pump priming of strategic development site	0.15	0.08	TBC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	ROF Featherstone	Proposed access to strategic development site	12.50	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pipeline	MOD / Stafford North Housing	Access improvements to strategic housing site	0.01	-	-	-	3,100	215	-	-	-	-	
	Rugeley Power Station	Potential role in regeneration of former power station	TBC	-	TBC	-	TBC	-	-	-	-	-	
	IC7 Keele	Potential innovation centre developmen	TBC	-	TBC	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	
	A50 Project B	Further grade separated junction to A50	1.02	-	Note 2	-	Note 2	-	-	-	-	-	
ESIF Projects	Stafford Gateway	Mixed use scheme capitalising on improved transport links	TBC	-	TBC	-	TBC	-	-	-	-	-	
	Low Carbon Business Evolution	Programme to assist business in reducing carbon footprint	1.15	0.14	-	-	-	-	115	101	-	-	
	SSLEP Growth Hub	Coordinated business advice and information service	2.99	0.20	115	127	-	-	200	115	-	-	
	Staffordsheer Excellence	Bespoke support for SME tourism businesses	0.84	0.19	15	13	-	-	139	171	-	-	
	Rural Enterprise Programme	Rural grant scheme for underused premises and to create workspace	5.28	0.03	14	4	-	-	8	5	-	-	
	Keele SEND	A nationally significant, world-class Smart Energy Network Demonstrator at Keele University for research, development and application.	19.12	-	440	-	-	-	243	24	-	-	
TOTAL - SELECTED LIVE PROJECTS			209.96	24.08	5624	144	5934	1012	705	416	1063	0	

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Completed Projects												
	Scheme	Short Description	Total Project Value (£M)	SCC Funding Share (£m)	Potential Jobs	Delivered & Committed Jobs	Planned Houses	Delivered & Committed Houses	Planned businesses assisted	Actual businesses assisted	Planned Skills Outcomes	Delivered & Committed Skills Outcomes (Note 1)
	i54 South Staffordshire	SCC developed business park and associated infrastructure	57.78	18.70	3963	3043	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Redhill Business Park	SCC developed business park and associated infrastructure	10.71	10.71	2500	1484	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Kingswood Lakeside	SCC developed business park and associated infrastructure	7.68	7.68	1500	1233	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Beacon Business Park	Access improvement to longstanding business park	2.51	-	2140	270	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bericote Four Ashes Phase 1	Access improvement to longstanding business park	2.09	0.18	Note 3	Note 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bericote Four Ashes Phase 2	New junction to A449 to serve employment site	3.81	-	1080	800	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Liberty Park, Lichfield	Access improvement to longstanding business park	6.00	-	1100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Meaford Business Park	Access improvement to longstanding business park	6.05	0.05	2,200	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
	IC5 Keele	High quality innovation centre workspace	6.80	6.80	120	162	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Branston Locks	New access to housing and employment site	6.44	-	3844	-	2500	271	-	-	-	-
	A50 Project A	New grade separated junction to A50	43.18	-	3490	-	1800	-	-	-	-	-
	Contract 1	Contract 1 of Superfast Broadband Programme	27.73	-	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Contract 2 (a)	Contract 2a of Superfast Broadband Programme	2.52	-	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tamworth Golf Course (S 278)	Access to housing site	0.81	-	-	-	1100	472	-	-	-	-
	Streethay (S 278)	Access to housing site	1.49	-	-	-	550	-	-	-	-	-
	Anker Valley (S 278)	Access to housing site	0.67	-	-	-	535	535	-	-	-	-
	Rugeley A51 (S 278)	Access to housing site	1.02	-	-	-	TBC	-	-	-	-	-
	AME Hubs Phase 1	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	2.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1671	1583
	South Staffordshire AME Hub	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	5.45	-	445	-	-	-	-	-	872	493
	JCB Academy AME Hub	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	1.48	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	220	149
	Stafford College AME Hub	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	3.38	-	10	12	-	-	-	-	340	823
	HWRC Uttoxeter	Replacement Household Waste Recycling Centre	1.96	1.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL - COMPLETED PROJECTS			202.5	46.1	22583	7089	6485	1278	0	0	3103	3048

Notes

- Note 1 Skills Outcomes relate to number of people with enhanced skills as a result of interventions - note that the target date for recording AME Hubs related outcomes is September 201
- Note 2 Note that housing and employment outcomes associated with A50 Project B and A50 Project A are for the A50 Growth Corridor as a whole
- Note 3 Please note that employment outcomes associated with Bericote Four Ashes site are attributed to the Phase 2 project



Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Work Programme 2019/20

This document sets out the work programme for the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee for 2019/20.

The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee is responsible for scrutiny of highways infrastructure and connectivity, flood and water management, education, learning and skills. As such the statutory education co-optees will sit on this committee. The Work Programme is linked to the Vision, Outcomes and Priorities detailed in the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

We review our work programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something important comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

County Councillor Ian Parry

Chairman of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme, please get in touch with Tina Gould, Scrutiny and Support Manager, 01785 276148 or by emailing tina.gould@staffordshire.gov.uk

Work Programme Items carried over from 2018/19			
Item	Date of meeting when item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
Update on Impact of the Education and Skills Strategy Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Tim Moss, Andrew Marsden, Anthony Baines	November 2019	At their meeting on 14 December the Committee agreed that they wished to receive an update on the progress on the Strategy.	
Post Brexit Economic Funding Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Anthony Hodge	To be advised	Requested at the Triangulation Meeting on 17 October 2018.	(Government has promised full consultation on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Pre-decision scrutiny).
Update on Elective Home Education Cabinet Members: Mark Sutton/Philip White Lead Officers: Tim Moss/Karl Hobson		At their meeting on 14 December 2018 the Committee agreed that they wished to receive an update on EHE.	Briefing Note
Follow Up on the Reorganisation of Further and Higher Education Arrangements with Entrust Cabinet Member: Philip White	To be advised	Requested at the meeting on 14 December.	Check issue(s)
Additional Items for Discussion			
Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher Lead Officer: James Bailey/David Walters	20 June 2019	To include feedback on the Infrastructure+ Customer Outcomes Group	Item on HIAMP previously scheduled for September to be brought forward and included on June agenda. The comments of the Committee will be reported to the August meeting of Cabinet. Members requested additional information on personal injury claims and updated information on average response time from enquiry to inspection.

<p>Infrastructure+ and Lighting for Staffordshire Performance Review Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher Lead Officer: James Bailey</p>	20 June 2019		Members noted the update on performance on the contract.
<p>New Item: Staffordshire Air Quality Projects Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher Lead Officer: Clive Thomson/Louise Clayton</p>	20 June 2019		It was agreed that a further report on the Air Quality Ministerial Directive served on Newcastle Borough Council and Stoke on Trent City Council should be brought to a future meeting.
<p>Work Programme Planning Lead Officer: Tina Gould</p>	20 June 2019		Members agreed the inclusion of an item on the capacity of Pupil Referral Units to cope with increasing numbers of referrals, and scoping for a Working Group on environmental issues.
<p>Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire (Previously known as School Attainment and Improvement) Cabinet Member: Philip White Officer: Tim Moss</p>	26 July 2019	Annual update on examination results. (<i>urgent, usually considered in January</i>).	Members requested that the Strategy should include a paragraph on the role of governors and that open, honest and clear language should be used. They also asked that the size of the geographic footprint covered by the Regional Schools Commissioner be raised with them.
<p>Capital Funding for New Schools Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officer: Andrew Marsden</p>	26 July 2019		Members requested that the Cabinet Member investigate the utilisation of Section 106 funding further to see if further collaboration between partners was achievable so that a County-wide agreement could be made.
<p>Economic Growth Programme Update Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Officers: Anthony Hodge</p>	3 October 2019	Six monthly updates requested. Last considered on 1.3.19.	

Draft Strategic Infrastructure Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Anthony Hodges/Mark Parkinson	3 October 2019	To include Delivering Housing in Staffordshire.	
Rights of Way Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher Lead Officer: Janene Cox/ Paula Dalton	13 November 2019	Previously considered on 19 July 2018/18 January 2019. Members may wish to continue to monitor progress with dealing with the backlog of Section 53 applications.	To challenge progress made in dealing with applications vs the investment made.
Community Transport and the Supported Bus Network Cabinet Member: Mark Deaville Lead Officer: Clive Thomson	13 November 2019	At their meeting on 14 November the Committee agreed to monitor the impact of the removal of bus subsidies going forward. The Leader of the Opposition also requested that a report come back to the Committee on benchmarking with other local authorities. To include issues in respect of public transport.	
The Capacity of Pupil Referral Units to cope with Increasing Numbers of Referrals Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Tim Moss	13 November 2019	Item referred by the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee at their meeting on 28 May 2019.	
Delivering Housing in Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington/Mark Deaville Lead Officer: Anthony Hodge	17 January 2020	Six monthly updates requested. Last considered on 1.3.19. NB Previous Vice Chairman's concern regarding County Council ability to influence widths of roads on new estates.	
Performance of the Highways Contract to include PFI Street Lighting (new item) Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher Lead Officer: James Bailey	17 January 2020		Six monthly updates to Select Committee.

Superfast Broadband Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Anthony Hodges/Paul Chatwin			Briefing note with reference to map that Members can access that details coverage.
New item: How Well are Small and Medium Sized Businesses Supported by Post 18 Education Cabinet Member: Philip White Officer: Anthony Baines	To be advised	Working Group – scope to be developed. How do we grow entrepreneurships? Have we got the right conditions in Staffordshire? To invite Chamber of Commerce and SME's to give evidence.	
Countryside Estate Review Cabinet Members: Gill Heath/Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Janene Cox		Update on key recommendations requested at the meeting on 18.1.19	If no significant changes request a Briefing Note.
New item: Libraries Strategy Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Officer: Janene Cox/Catherine Mann	To be advised	Pre-decision scrutiny. (Further adjustments to model to meet MTFS savings).	
Community Learning Service – Outcomes from Investment Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Anthony Baines/Preeya Buckley			Suggest Briefing Note
Entrust - Progress Cabinet Member: Mark Deaville Lead Officer: Ian Turner	To be advised	Initial contract runs from 1.8.19 – 31.7.20, with option to extend for a further 3 years. Update on contract; contract performance. Impact of change in local authority expectations.	
Changes to the Your Staffordshire Card Scheme Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher Lead Officer: Clive Thomson	To be advised	Item requested by Chairman at the Call In Meeting of the Corporate Review Committee on 11 July 2019.	

Working Groups

New item: SEND Working
Group

Three representatives of the
Committee will participate in

<p>Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Tim Moss</p>		<p>a Working Group to consider the Joint local area SEND inspection in Staffordshire and draft action plan. The Group has met on 29.3.19. and 21.6.19. Details of dates of meetings of South Staffs Hubs have been sent to Members of the Working Group and they have been advised to attend.</p>	
<p>Possible Working Group on Environmental Issues Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Clive Thomson</p>	<p>To be advised</p>	<p>Following discussion with Philip Atkins, Mark Winnington and Conor Wileman membership of this Working Group is to be extended to all Members at next full Member event.</p>	

<p>Membership</p> <p>Ian Parry (Chairman) Tina Clements (Vice Chairman) Keith Flunder Syed Hussain Julia Jessel Ian Lawson Kyle Robinson David Smith Simon Tagg Bernard Williams Mike Deakin (Co-optee) Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf (Co-optee)</p>	<p>Calendar of Committee Meetings at County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford ST16 2LH</p> <p>20 June 2019 26 July 2019 3 October 2019 13 November 2019 17 January 2020 28 February 2020 16 April 2020</p>
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Jessica Shulman (Co-optee)	
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