

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 16 September 2020

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

Cabinet Support Member in attendance: Gill Burnett.

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins and Carolyn Trowbridge (local member).

PART ONE

13. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16

The following Member declared an interest in accordance with Standing Order 16.5:-

Member	Minute No.	Interest	Reason
Mark Deaville	20 and 21	Personal	Director of NEXUS

14. Decision notice of the meeting held on 19 August 2020

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 19 August 2020 be approved.

15. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the work to ensure that children can return to school and people can return to the workplace safely; how the council is working with the NHS to put testing facilities where they are needed; Keele University and Staffordshire University being shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards University of the Year; and the improving relationship between the Council and trade unions; be noted.

16. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 2 September 2020

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 2 September 2020 be received.

17. #DoingOurBit Community Grants Scheme



“We have a thriving voluntary and community sector here in Staffordshire who play an important role in helping improve the lives of people in the county.

Not only do these groups provide vital services and support within their local communities but they also help to encourage people to support each other to remain safe and well. Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic we saw how people and communities came together to help each other and it's vital that we support these organisations so they are able to continue with the valuable work they do.

Our #DoingOurBit Community Grants Scheme will be available to groups of all sizes who work with and support vulnerable communities and residents, particularly older people and children and families. We'll be trying to make the application process as quick and easy as possible, so I would encourage groups to see if they are eligible and apply.”

Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture

Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals for one-off funding for a #DoingOurBit Community Grants Scheme to support groups and organisations that will help meet the needs of Staffordshire’s vulnerable children and adults.

Decision – (a) That the important role the voluntary and community sector plays in supporting communities to help themselves be noted.

(b) That the proposal for one-off funding for a #DoingOurBit Community Grants Scheme be agreed.

18. 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 Council’s response to an outbreak related to the Silverdale Working Men’s Club and an ongoing elevated level of infections in parts of Burton; and issues about the completeness and timeliness of contact tracing by the NHS test and trace service.

Decision – That the report be received.

19. Strategic Review of the Older People Care Home Market in Staffordshire 2020



“Offering good-quality, affordable care that meets people’s assessed care needs is very important to us. Already, more than 2,000 older people are supported to manage their needs in a care home.

Like everything else, Covid-19 has had a profound impact on the care home market, and we will need time to assess its impact. It’s therefore important we take a fresh look at our plans to ensure they address the ongoing challenges from the pandemic. We have to ensure the care home market remains sustainable, so people can access good quality, affordable care when they need it.”

Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing

Reasons for the Decision – To consider reviewing the Council’s plans in respect of the Care Home Market to take account of the profound impact which Covid-19 has had.


Decision – (a) That the extension of the duration of the current Dynamic Purchasing System and overarching agreement with providers until April 2022 be agreed and that the intention to provide a further report to Cabinet detailing the intended procurement for new contracts from April 2022 be noted.

(b) That it be agreed that the intended refurbishment of the Council owned site to provide 38 additional nursing beds within Staffordshire be paused to allow further evaluation of the impact from Covid-19 and associated infection control requirements.

(c) That the continuation of the project to explore building two Council owned care homes to provide additional nursing capacity be approved and that the intended design and delivery models be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with enhanced infection control requirements from Covid-19;

(d) That it be agreed that the Council proceeds with the review and update of the long-term demand model for care homes placements, taking into account the impact of Covid-19 and the views of local communities to reflect the needs and expectations of current and future residents.

20. Recommissioning of Home Care Services

	<p>“Demand for home care services is increasing, and the marketplace has proved to be remarkably resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>We want to ensure people lead live healthy and happy lives at home for as long as possible and we want to offer people both flexibility and choice in the care they receive.</p> <p>People must be at the heart of every decision. By refocusing our approach and tailoring our procurement to get the best value for money in every part of Staffordshire, we can ensure that every person using health and social care will receive good quality, innovative services that promote their independence and lead to an improved quality of life.”</p> <p>Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing</p>
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Note by Clerk: Mr Deaville declared a personal interest and left the room during the consideration of this item.


Reasons for the Decision – To consider the procurement process for the future provision of Home Care as the current contracts are due to expire in August 2021.

Decision – (a) That the procurement of home care services, as outlined in the report, be approved.

(b) That authority be delegated to the Director of Health and Care, to award contracts and to enter into contracts, with the successful providers, as appropriate to the outcome of the procurement process.

(c) That authority be delegated to the Director of Health and Care in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services to authorise the Council entering into contracts with Nexus Trading Services Limited trading as Nexus Cares (“Nexus”) for home care services as detailed in the report.

21. Nexus Trading Services Limited - Annual Report 2019/2020

	<p>“Our care providers offer good quality services to Staffordshire people who need them. However, independent providers nationally are facing ongoing challenges, such as rising demand, increased costs, and the recruitment and retention of staff. The county council has struggled in some areas of the county to find care providers who offer good quality at an affordable price. Nexus Care has been established to provide care for people when no other care is available in the market, to ensure people can still receive the care they are entitled to.”</p>
<p>Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial Matters</p>	


Note by Clerk: Mr Deaville declared a personal interest and, after introducing the report, left the room during its consideration and the decision thereon.

Reasons for the Decision – To consider Nexus Trading Services Limited’s annual report which provides an update on the activities and performance of the company.

Decision – (a) That the Nexus Care Annual Report be noted.

(b) That the retention of a small surplus of £46k for reinvestment in the business be approved.

22. Street Lighting - LED Invest to Save Initiative


	<p>“Obtaining an interest-free loan to update 47,000 street lights and use less energy and save more money makes sense all round.</p> <p>After the loan is repaid from the initial savings made by using the more energy-efficient street lights, taxpayers will continue to benefit by up to £1.6 million a year.</p> <p>I’m delighted that we can upgrade services and provide good value-for-money at the same time.”</p>
<p>David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	

Reasons for the Decision – To seek approval to proceed to the delivery phase of the street lighting LED invest to save initiative as agreed in the 2019/20 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Decision – (a) That approval be given approval to proceed to the next phase of the Street Lighting – Invest to Save Initiative; the delivery phase, which will be funded by an interest free loan from Salix.

(b) That the Council enters into the Supplemental Agreement to the Street Lighting PFI Project Agreement with Lighting for Staffordshire Limited dated 31st March 2003, to be able to commence the delivery phase.

23. Additional Investment in Community Highways Issues


	<p>“Highways are used by everyone who lives and works in Staffordshire, so it is important we continue to address the issues that matter most to our communities.</p> <p>This extra investment will be used to maximum effect and people should notice a difference. We’ll also be working with landowners, or taking direct action where necessary, to make improvements to problem ditches and overhanging trees that they have responsibility for.</p> <p>The investment will allow us to target some of the worst trouble spots and reduce the overall backlog.”</p> <p>David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposed approach to making a one-off £2m investment in highways and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) services.

Decision – (a) That a one-off targeted investment of £1.9m in current local highway priorities, as detailed in the report, be supported.

(b) That the provision of £0.1m investment in immediate small-scale improvements to the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network be supported.

24. Consultation on Proposals for Changes to Marshlands School and Greenhall Nursery

	<p>“We have been working with the governing bodies of both Marshlands School and Greenhall Nursery on these proposals, which will see more children with SEND get access to the specialist education they need.</p> <p>Both Marshlands and Greenhall have been offering an excellent standard of education to children. By changing the age range at Marshlands School, we can ensure that we are accommodating demand for more capacity at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. With Greenhall Nursery, a change to widen the range of disabilities the Nursery cater for, will increase the numbers of pupils on roll, provide a</p>
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	<p>focused early years curriculum, and maintain their specialism in supporting the needs of children with physical disabilities and complex medical needs.”</p> <p>Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposed changes at Marshlands School and Greenhall Nursery which seek to maximise the use of the learning environments in both settings.

Decision – That the proposed changes to the following schools be approved:

(i) Marshlands Primary School – a change of age range, from the current Early Years to Year 6 to focus on children in Year 1 to Year 6 by removing Early Years and reception provision and specialising in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 provision.

(ii) Greenhall Nursery – a change of designation of types of special education needs and disabilities catered for – to include children with needs in the Early Years Foundation Stage prime areas of learning, physical, communication and language and personal, social and emotional development.

25. 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 Commercial	In approving an extension to the current Council Construction Projects Framework Agreement (PC573) to accommodate delays due to COVID-19.
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change	In approval that the Council proceeds with the Rural Gigabit Broadband Voucher “Top up” proposal and enters into the Letter of Agreement with the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (“DCMS”).

26. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 14 October 2020 to 17 February 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
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
Children's and Families (including SEND) System Transformation – Update	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2020-21 and the Disabled Facilities Grant	Name: Dr Richard Harling Tel: (01785) 278700
Adult Learning Disability 2022 Community Offer: Update on Learning Disability Services Directly Provided by Staffordshire County Council	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
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
Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 3	Name: Andrew Donaldson/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 276354

27. 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

28. Midlands Engine - Accountable Body Arrangements (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposal for Staffordshire County Council to take over the responsibility of Accountable Body for the Midlands Engine.

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

29. In-House Children's Home (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposed purchase of a property to provide local residential placements.

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

Alan White
Leader of the County Council