

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 6 January 2021

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

PART ONE

66. Decision notice of the meeting held on 16 December 2020

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 be approved.

67. Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021 - 2026



“As Staffordshire works to recover from the effects of the pandemic this council is directing all of its resources to help people and business get moving again. In the year ahead we will be listening to Staffordshire people to act on the issues that matter most to them, while continuing to invest time and money in those things in our communities that support people to help themselves and one another.

The county council continues to invest in physical and electronic infrastructure and promoting Staffordshire, so that our economy can prosper and generate more jobs and opportunities. This investment will also ensure growing communities have everything they need including school places, transport links and superfast broadband connections.

At the same time, we are determined to keep improving education and training in Staffordshire so that people can flourish at school or later in life, support families so that they can remain together safely and inspire residents to live healthy, independent lives.”

Alan White, Leader of the Council



“The global pandemic of 2020 affected the running of this authority in many ways, including reassigning staff to delivering food parcels and PPE, delaying planned savings programmes and reducing the amount of council tax and business rates collected. At the same time, we spent more than we have received in emergency support from central

	<p>Government to help residents and businesses through the crisis.</p> <p>Nonetheless, we are a stable, well-run authority and delivering value for money to our taxpayers is at the core of everything we do. Accordingly, we are able to carry on looking after residents now, while investing in Staffordshire’s communities, education and infrastructure for the future.</p> <p>In saying that, our financial challenges remain. In 2021/22 this authority will spend £346 million, approximately two thirds of its budget, on social care and child protection. The growing demand in this sector is a national challenge rather than a local one and we need central Government to take the lead on finding sustainable long-term solutions.”</p> <p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To provide Cabinet with an update on the Strategic Plan which explains the Council’s vision of what it hopes to achieve for Staffordshire for the years ahead; and also the accompanying Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which provides details of how the Council’s operations will be funded over the five year period 2021-2026.

Decision – (a) That, in respect of the Strategic Plan, the progress made regarding the update of the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 be noted.

(b) That, in respect of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-26 and the 2021/22 revenue budget:

- (i) The updates to the financial plans, as set out in the report, be noted;
- (ii) The commitment to continue to deliver the cost reduction programme as set out in Appendices 3a – 3d of the report be endorsed;
- (iii) The risks associated with these planned cost reductions, as set out in the report, be noted and the Senior Leadership be requested to undertake the appropriate engagement arrangements required to deliver the cost reductions;
- (iv) A further report be submitted to Cabinet later this month once further details are known to recommend a Revenue Budget, MTFS and Council Tax to Full Council in February; and
- (v) The Corporate Review Committee be requested to scrutinise the proposed pressures and cost reduction options against the principles of a good and balanced budget.

Alan White
Leader of the County Council