

COUNCIL AGENDA

To:- The Members of the Staffordshire County Council

Notice is given that the meeting of the Staffordshire County Council will be held at Rising Brook Baptist Church, Burton Square, Stafford at 10:00 on Thursday, 20 May 2021 to deal with the matters set out on the agenda.

NB. The meeting will be webcasted live and can be viewed here - <https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Henderson
Chief Executive
12 May 2021

AGENDA

(Note: The meeting will begin with prayers)

PART ONE

General Housekeeping and Declaring an Interest

1. **Election of the Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year**
2. **Apologies for absence (if any)**
3. **Declarations of Interest under Standing Order 16**
4. **Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 March 2021 (Pages 5 - 20)**
5. **Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year**
6. **Chairman's Correspondence**

The Chairman will mention a range of recent items of news which may be of interest to Members
7. **Results of the County Council Elections - 6 May 2021 (Pages 21 - 24)**

To receive an election return showing the names of the candidates elected and the number of seats won by each of the political parties together with the percentage of votes cast.
8. **Members not re-elected (Pages 25 - 26)**

Report of the Chairman of the Council
9. **Appointment of the Leader of the Council**
10. **To set the maximum number of members of the Cabinet**
11. **Statement by the Leader of the Council of the members appointed to the Cabinet (to be circulated at the meeting)**
12. **Committee Membership (to be circulated at the meeting)**

To consider the appointment of the members to Committees on the nomination of Group Leaders.
13. **Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Panels (to be circulated at the meeting)**
14. **Appointment of members to Outside Bodies 2021/22 (to be circulated at the meeting)**

15. **Statement of the Leader of the Council** (Pages 27 - 32)

The Leader will inform the Council about his work and his plans for the Council, and will give an overview of decisions taken by the Cabinet (and Portfolio Holders) since the previous meeting of the Council

16. **Change to the Constitution Requiring Approval from County Council** (Pages 33 - 40)

Report of the County Solicitor

17. **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

18. **Petitions**

An opportunity for Members to present and speak on petitions submitted by their constituents

19. **Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman of the Council will move the following motion so that the County Council can consider confidential business in private:-

“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 the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

PART TWO

(All reports in this section are on pink paper)

Nil

Note for Members of the Press and Public

Filming of Meetings

The Open (public) section of this meeting may be filmed for live or later broadcasting or other use, and, if you are at the meeting, you may be filmed, and are deemed to have agreed to being filmed and to the use of the recording for broadcast and/or other purposes.

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.

NOTICES FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Questions

- 1.1. Questions must be addressed to the Chairman, or to the Leader of the Council or to a Portfolio Holder or to the Chairman of a Committee. Notice in writing of any question must be emailed to the office of the Director of Corporate Services (michael.bradbury@staffordshire.gov.uk) by no later than 1:00 pm on the third working day preceding the Council Meeting i.e. **by not later than 1:00 pm on Monday, 17 May 2021**. All questions and answers will be circulated around the Chamber before the commencement of the meeting.
- 1.2. Questions may be addressed to the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council, any Cabinet Member or a Committee Chairman. The Leader of the Council may refer questions asked of them to the relevant Cabinet Member if they consider it appropriate.
- 1.3. Each Member may submit a maximum of two questions each, however only the first 15 questions received by the Director of Corporate Services before the deadline will be dealt with at the meeting. All other questions will receive a written answer.
- 1.4. Questions and written responses will be circulated to all members at the start of each meeting and will be made available online to accompany the webcast but will not be read out at the meeting.
- 1.5. Each questioner will be entitled to ask up to one supplementary question on each question/answer and the time limit for supplementary questions and answers will be at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

2. Notices of Motion

- 2.1. A Notice of Motion must reach, by email, the Director of Corporate Services (michael.bradbury@staffordshire.gov.uk) nine clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council, i.e. **by not later than midnight on Monday, 10 May 2021**. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Paragraph 11 of Section 12 of the Constitution.
NB. Notices of Motion for the County Council meeting on 22 July 2021 must reach the Chief Executive by not later than midnight on Monday, 12 July 2021.

RULES OF DEBATE

3. Speaking at Council Meetings

- 3.1. Councillors shall conduct debate politely and with due respect for others.
- 3.2. Councillors shall not use foul or offensive language.

3.3. As far as is possible, Members should use notes for reference where necessary but should avoid reading directly from a script. This will assist with engagement in debate and the ability of the microphones to pick up the sound.

4. Content and Length of Speeches

4.1. Subject to Paragraph 4.2 below, no Member may speak for more than five minutes during debates by the Council unless the Chairman gives an extension.

4.2. When the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members nominated by the Leader or Committee Chairmen propose reports to the Council they may speak for up to ten minutes. Members who have been nominated by the Leaders of minority political groups as spokesmen on a report discussed by the Council may also speak for up to ten minutes.

4.3. Members will confine their speeches to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or a point of order. No Member may question another Member's motives or use offensive expressions to any Member of the Council or Officer.

4.4. The Chairman may call the attention of the Council to continued irrelevancy and tedious repetition or any breach of order by a Member and may direct them to discontinue their speech. If the Member continues to disregard the authority of the Chairman, the Chairman may ask them to retire for the remainder of the sitting. Should a Member refuse to retire the Chairman may order their removal from the meeting.

4.5. The Council operates a 'traffic light' system for speeches. During any speech, the amber light will come on notifying the speaker that they have 60 seconds left.

4.6. Where a Local Member is presenting a petition, they may speak for a maximum of two minutes. The amber light will come on for the final 30 seconds.

4.7. If there is serious disorder or persistent disregard of the authority of the Chairman, the Chairman may, without prejudice to any other powers which they have, direct that the Meeting be suspended for such period as they consider desirable.

GUIDANCE ON DECLARING DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AT MEETINGS - WHAT SHOULD YOU SAY

DEFINITION OF WHAT IS A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

A 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interest' is an interest of yourself or interest known to the Member of relatives and close associates within the following descriptions:

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Staffordshire County Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you or your partner in connection with you carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you or your partner (or a body in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest) and Staffordshire County Council- (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Staffordshire County Council
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Staffordshire County Council for a month or longer
Corporate Tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) (a) the landlord is Staffordshire County Council and (b) the tenant is a body in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Staffordshire County Council; and (b) either- (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class

You are also required to declare a pecuniary interest if an issue being considered at a meeting where you're present affects your or your partner's personal well being or financial position to a greater extent than it affects that of a member of the general public.

WHAT SHOULD YOU SAY?

If you also have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you must notify the Chairman of that interest and withdraw from the room when the matter is being discussed.

An example of what you should say

"I have a disclosable pecuniary interest in item number..... on the agenda. The interest is I shall leave the room when that matter is being discussed"

DECLARING INTERESTS AT FULL COUNCIL

The Code of Conduct only requires that disclosable pecuniary interests are declared where the matter to which the interest relates is being considered. Some items will be mentioned in the papers for Full Council but are not actually being considered by Full Council. In particular, some items are mentioned in the Leader's Statement as having been dealt with in Cabinet but are not actually mentioned or discussed at full Council. In such circumstances the Monitoring Officer's advice to members is that there is no need to declare an interest unless the particular matter is mentioned or discussed. As a general rule, members only need to declare an interest at full Council in the following circumstances:

- Where a matter is before the Council for a decision and/or
- Where the matter in which the member has an interest is specifically mentioned or discussed at the Council meeting.

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 18 March 2021

Present:

Attendance		
Ben Adams	Phil Hewitt	David Smith
Charlotte Atkins	Jill Hood	Paul Snape
Philip Atkins, OBE	Syed Hussain	Bob Spencer
Ann Beech	Keith James	Mike Sutherland
David Brookes	Julia Jessel	Mark Sutton
Gill Burnett	Trevor Johnson	Stephen Sweeney
Ron Clarke	Bryan Jones	Simon Tagg
Tina Clements	Dave Jones	Martyn Tittley
John Cooper	Jason Jones	Carolyn Trowbridge
Mike Davies	Ian Lawson	Ross Ward
Derek Davis, OBE	Alastair Little	Alan White
Mark Deaville	Johnny McMahon	Philip White
Janet Eagland	Paul Northcott	Bernard Williams
Ann Edgeller	Jeremy Oates	David Williams
Helen Fisher	Kath Perry, MBE	Victoria Wilson
Keith Flunder	Jeremy Pert	Mark Winnington
Richard Ford	Bernard Peters	Susan Woodward
John Francis	Jonathan Price	Mike Worthington
Colin Greatorex	Natasha Pullen	
Gill Heath	Kyle Robinson	

Apologies for absence: Alan Dudson, Ian Parry and Conor Wileman

PART ONE

39. Declarations of Interest under Standing Order 16

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

Member	Minute Nos.	Interest	Reason
Mark Deaville	43	Personal	Director of Nexus
Keith Flunder	43	Personal	In receipt of a small grant from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Dave Jones	43	Personal	Daughter is a SEND pupil in a Staffordshire School
Dave Jones	43	Personal	Employee of Keele University
Mark Winnington	43	Personal	Non-Executive Director of Nexus
Mark Winnington	43	Personal	Grower of Energy Crops

40. Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 February 2021

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 11 February 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

41. Chairman's Correspondence

Former County Councillor Veronica Downes

The Council were informed of the death, on 21 February 2021, of former County Councillor Veronica Downes. Mrs Downes represented the Penkridge (South Staffordshire) County Electoral Division on the County Council between 2005 and 2013. She served on a number of the Council's Committees including the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel; Pensions Committee; as Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel; Healthier Communities and Older people Scrutiny and Performance Panel; as Vice-Chairman of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee; Audit Committee; Standards Committee; Enterprise, Environment and Transport Scrutiny Committee; Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee; Safeguarding and Public Protection Committee; and the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Mrs Downes also served as the Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Wellbeing, and as the Cabinet Member for Schools.

Cllr Philip Atkins, Cllr Edgeller, Cllr Sutton, Cllr David Williams and Cllr Winnington paid tribute to Cllr Downes following which Members stood and observed a one minute silence to her memory.

Covid-19

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman extended her thanks to Staffordshire residents and businesses for the sacrifices they had made during the pandemic. She also thanked Council staff and partners for their extraordinary efforts over the last year, the NHS staff and volunteers for the vital role they were playing in vaccinating Staffordshire residents; and to teachers and school staff who had worked tirelessly to enable pupils to return to face to face learning.

The Chairman added that it was still as important as ever that people continued to follow government guidance to control the spread of the virus: with the prospect of restrictions being eased, no-one wanted to see a return to another lockdown.

42. Retiring Members

The Chairman reported that the following Members had indicated their intention not to seek re-election at the County Council elections in May 2021 and would thus be retiring from the Authority:

- Ben Adams – Elected 2009 – Perrycrofts (Tamworth)

- Ron Clarke – Elected 2011 – Burton Town (East Staffordshire)
- Maureen Compton – Elected 2005 – 2009 and re-elected 2013 – Stafford Central (Stafford)
- John Cooper – Elected 2017 – Bradwell, Porthill and Wolstanton (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
- Derek Davis – Elected 1985 – Chadsmoor (Cannock Chase)
- Helen Fisher – Elected 2017 – Burntwood South (Lichfield)
- Keith James – Elected 2013 – Perton (South Staffordshire)
- Trevor Johnson – Elected 2017 – May Bank and Cross Heath (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
- Bryan Jones – Elected 2017 – Hednesford and Rawnsley (Cannock Chase)
- Alastair Little – Elected 2017 – Amington (Tamworth)
- Natasha Pullen – Elected 2017 – Lichfield City North (Lichfield)
- Kyle Robinson – Elected 2017 – Talk and Red Street (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
- Martyn Tittley – Elected 2013 – Lichfield Rural West (Lichfield)

The Chairman, together with the political group leaders and several other Members, thanked their fellow Members, and in particular Cllr Derek Davis, for the contribution they had made to the work of the Authority during their time in office.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

43. Statement of the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council presented a Statement outlining his recent work since the previous meeting of the Council.

Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board (Paragraph 1 of the Statement)

Cllr Peters and Cllr Snape paid tribute to the hard work of the County Council and the NHS in tackling the Covid pandemic in their respective areas and for the roll-out of the vaccination programme. Cllr Snape did however express concern about the impact of the pandemic on access to GP services with many residents being unable to get face-to-face consultations with their GP. In response, Cllr McMahon indicated that this was a complex issue and that, due to the pandemic, GP surgery waiting rooms were not the place for vulnerable people to be. He added that the “productivity” of surgeries had fallen as a consequence of them needing to be Covid secure.

Cllr Charlotte Atkins and Cllr Woodward expressed their concerns about the poor performance of the national Test and Trace system and indicated that it provided poor value for money and that contact tracing could be more effectively carried out by local public health teams.

Cllr Winnington praised the work of Nexus Cares in supporting lateral flow testing across the County. He also paid tribute to the NHS in respect of the roll-out of the vaccination programme in Staffordshire.

Cllr Flunder enquired as to what more could be done to support care homes and, in particular, to work towards relatives of residents being given increased access to visit their loved ones.

In response to issues raised by Members, Cllr McMahon indicated that infection rates across Staffordshire were falling and that vaccination rates in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with over 500,000 people being vaccinated to date, were higher than in any other parts of the Country. He also added that he was heartened by the fall in hospital admissions due to Covid. With regard to Test and Trace, Cllr McMahon stated that he agreed with Cllrs Charlotte Atkins and Woodward that this could be undertaken more effectively locally and that the Leader of the Council had written to the Government to ask for more local autonomy in responding to the pandemic.

Staffordshire Means Back to Business: Investing in our Economy

(Paragraph 2 of the Statement)

Cllr Winnington spoke about the work of the Council's Destination Management Partnership and the opportunities to relaunch the tourism and hospitality sectors in the County as many people would be taking "staycations".

Cllr Deaville and Cllr Pert added that they supported the investment in the Destination Management Partnership and the many initiatives that the Council had introduced to support the Staffordshire economy.

Cllr Philip White thanked Members for their comments and added that unemployment rates in the County remained low. He also referred to the creation of new jobs including at JCB and on the i54 site in South Staffordshire. He added that the proposed creation of a freeport at East Midlands airport would also have a beneficial impact on A38/A50 corridor in Staffordshire.

Climate Change Strategic Development Framework

(Paragraph 3 of the Statement)

Cllr Brookes, Cllr Philip Atkins and Cllr Winnington referred to the valuable contribution the agricultural sector made to the UK economy, what farmers were doing to tackle climate change, and the plans for the sector to become carbon neutral. Cllr Philip Atkins also spoke about the need for reforms to the planning system to enable farmers to diversify more easily.

Cllr Charlotte Atkins enquired as to which key stakeholders the Council had been working with in respect of its climate agenda and whether this included Keele University. In response, Cllr Jessel confirmed that she had recently met with representatives from Keele University to discuss how the University, the County Council and other partners could continue to work together to drive forward the climate change agenda.

Cllr Flunder expressed his thanks to Cllr Jessel for attending the recent Parish Council Assembly in the Staffordshire Moorlands at which she spoke about what the County Council was doing, in partnership with others, to tackle climate change.

Cllr Woodward spoke about the role of Members in being local champions to promote “act local – think global”. She also referred to the pledges Members had been asked to make as to how they, individually, would help to address the issue of climate change. In response, Cllr Jessel indicated that it was proposed as part of the annual report on what had been achieved in respect of the climate change agenda, Members would be invited to indicate what action they had taken in respect of the pledges they had made.

Cllr Woodward also enquired as to the take up of the grant funding made available to local communities by the County Council for climate change related initiatives. In response, Cllr Jessel indicated that the initiative had been well received, that take-up of the grant funding had been high, and that it had helped raise awareness of the need for change.

Implementation of the Updated Staffordshire County Council Education Infrastructure Contributions Policy (SEICP)

(Paragraph 4 of the Statement)

In response to a question from Cllr Robinson in relation to developers paying their fair share towards the provision of new schools or additional school places, Cllr Price indicated that the new SEICP follows government guidance issued in 2019 and permits the County Council to obtain larger S106 contributions from developers than previously. Cllr Price also referred to the Schools Capital programme for 2021/22 which had recently been agreed by the Cabinet and provided for the construction of a number of new schools.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2021-26

(Paragraph 5 of the Statement)

Several Members expressed their support for the strategy and praised the SEND provision across the County. Cllr Price thanked Members for their comments and outlined how the strategy had been developed and the consultation which had taken place with stakeholders.

Staffordshire History Centre: National Lottery Heritage Fund – Round Two Submission

(Paragraph 6 of the Statement)

Cllr Price, Cllr Trowbridge, and Cllr Francis expressed their support for the project and commented on the benefits the investment would bring to Stafford and to the County as a whole.

Digital First - Update and Plan for the Digital Principle

(Paragraph 7 of the Statement)

Cllr Robinson and Cllr Charlotte Atkins spoke about the potential impact of “Digital First” on those who did not have access to a computer or smart device or struggled with IT or to get on-line. Cllr Atkins also indicated that it was important that the proposals did not disenfranchise those residents who did not have access to IT. In response, Cllr Bryan Jones referred to the training and support which was available to residents via the Library Service.

Cllr Robinson also expressed the view that improvements needed to be made to the MyStaffs App to make it easier to use. Cllr Brookes added that although the App was useful for reporting highways defects such as potholes, it did not inform the person who submitted the report of the outcome.

Cllr Bryan Jones and Cllr Sutherland referred to the vital role that “digital” had played during the Covid pandemic; how it was improving access to services; how it was saving the County Council money and how it aimed to improve the customer experience. They acknowledge however that use of the technology did have its pitfalls and that these needed to be addressed.

Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 – Quarter 3 (Paragraph 8 of the Statement)

Cllr Robinson enquired as to whether the Council would receive all of the funding promised by Central Government to respond to the Covid pandemic. In response, Cllr Alan White referred to the tremendous amount of funding already provided to local councils by Central Government. He also outlined some of the initiatives introduced by the Government to help individuals and businesses such as the furlough scheme.

Cllr Sutton spoke about a number of the Council’s initiatives aimed at helping children and families such as the Building Resilient Families and Communities Programme and the Covid Winter Warmth project.

Supportive Communities – Update and Delivery Plan 2021/22 (Paragraph 9 of the Statement)

Cllr Charlotte Atkins referred to a recent Freedom of Information request which had highlighted that Staffordshire had turned down the highest number of social care requests of the 19 local authorities surveyed. She enquired as to what impact this would have on community groups in the County and also whether the County Council was carrying out an audit of these groups to capture the range of services they provided. In response, Cllr McMahon indicated that, in Staffordshire, Care Act Assessments were carried out very early on – at the first point of contact – and the data in the FOI request was like comparing apples and oranges.

Cllr Woodward enquired as to how the Community Help Points were working, who they referred individuals on to and whether the requests made to Help Points were captured. In response, Cllr McMahon indicated that the 18 Community Help Points signposted individuals to local community groups where they were able to do so. He added that training for community groups was available through Support Staffordshire. With regard to Cllr Charlotte Atkins’ question as to whether the County Council was carrying out an audit of community groups to capture the range of services they provided; and Cllr Woodward’s question concerning whether the requests made to Help Points were captured, Cllr McMahon undertook to raise these matters with the Director for Health and Care to see what could be done.

Covid-19 Lockdown Anniversary (Paragraph 10 of the Statement)

Several Members praised the contribution made by the Council and its officers in responding to the Covid pandemic. Cllr Jessel also paid tribute to key workers, including those employed in supermarkets and local shops for the vital roles they had played. She, together with Cllr Dave Jones also praised UK scientists for their speed in developing and producing the Covid vaccine. Cllr Jones also asked that the Leader of the Council call on the Government to provide a monument at the National Memorial Arboretum to recognise the losses as a result of Covid. In response, Cllr Alan White indicated that he would be happy to do so when the time was right.

Cllr Philip White referred to the hidden impact of the pandemic such as its effect on people's mental health.

Cllr Clarke expressed his concern at a recent press article which highlighted the number of staff employed in hospitals who had refused to be vaccinated. In response, Cllr McMahon explained that NHS staff took a lateral flow test twice per week and that efforts were being made to persuade the hard to reach groups to be vaccinated.

Schools

(Paragraph 11 of the Statement)

Cllr Pullen, Cllr Woodward, Cllr Sutton and Cllr Oates paid tribute to teachers for their hard work during the pandemic including opening schools for vulnerable children and the children of key workers and providing on-line lessons for those pupils studying at home. Cllr Woodward also stressed the importance of Members of the Council being school governors in order to aid better communication with schools. In response, Cllr Philip White stated that he agreed that there were benefits in Members being school governors and would raise this issue to see if it could be included in the induction programme for Members following the County Council elections in May. Cllr Sutton also paid tribute to the contribution made by the nursery sector and early years providers; and Cllr Edgeller added her thanks to those working in Special Schools.

Cllr Hussain expressed the view that the Covid pandemic had exposed issues around inequalities in education such as being unable to access remote learning which, in turn, had resulted in some pupils being up to seven months behind their peers. He called for extensive help to support those who were most disadvantaged.

Cllr Price also outlined the action taken by schools to ensure that pupils could return to the classroom in a Covid safe environment including the lateral flow testing of children. He added that he supported Cllr Woodward's comments in relation to Members being encouraged to become school governors. Cllr Price also referred to the funding and other support being made available to support pupils to catch-up on their missed education.

Hospitality Sector

(Paragraph 12 of the Statement)

Several Members referred to the impact of the Covid pandemic on the hospitality and tourism sectors within Staffordshire and the need to promote the County as a visitor attraction. Cllr Smith added that he would welcome any support the Council could give

in respect of the bid for the re-opening of a passenger rail service between Lichfield and Derby, providing a link to the National Memorial Arboretum and other visitor attractions in and around Lichfield. In response, Cllr Philip White indicated that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 17 March 2021, approved proposals to enhance assistance to the Destination Management Partnership (DMP), both immediately and for the longer term to lead a transformation of our visitor economy and its businesses. Cllr White added that the Council also supported the bid for the re-opening of the passenger rail service between Lichfield and Derby.

Cllr Flunder also spoke about the impact of the pandemic on the events industry and several other members referred to ongoing work to promote tourism in their respective areas once the social distancing restrictions were relaxed.

Cllr Woodward and Cllr Philip Atkins paid tribute to those businesses who had taken the initiative to diversify during the pandemic such as by providing take-away services, and also those who had helped their local communities.

Staffordshire Day

(Paragraph 13 of the Statement)

Cllr Adams, Cllr Winnington, Cllr Philip White and Cllr Wilson referred to the opportunities Staffordshire Day provided to celebrate the county, from its rich heritage and culture to its stunning locations and places to visit. Cllr Winnington also suggested that, in the future, Staffordshire Day could be used as a celebration to the people the County had lost. Cllr Philip White added that this year, being mindful of the pandemic, the Council has had to be creative about how it can mark the day and, as a result, this year will see the first ever Staffordshire Day Film Competition which will give film makers of all levels the chance to get involved and tell their Staffordshire story.

RESOLVED – That the Statement of the Leader of the Council be received.

44. Recommendations to the Council

(a) Proposed adoption of new Code of Conduct for Members

The Council were informed that the Audit and Standards Committee had recently considered a new Model Code of Conduct for Members as produced by the Local Government Association (LGA), with a view to its adoption by this Council.

Overall, the new Code was seen as an improvement on Staffordshire's current Code primarily because:

- It applies to the behaviour of members when acting/claiming to act/giving the impression of acting in their capacity as a Councillor and/or representative of their council, or when publicly referring to their role of Councillor or using knowledge that could only be obtained by being a councillor
- It gives clear and concise explanations of each undertaking and the expectations on members

- It clearly states that the whole Code applies to member's actions and behaviour on Social Media

Cllr Woodward and Cllr Charlotte Atkins expressed their support for the adoption of the new Code.

RESOLVED - That:

(a) approval be given to the adoption of the LGA Model Code of Conduct for members with an amendment to the requirement to declare general (pecuniary) interest of relatives and close associates to refer to those *interests known to the member*; the Code to be effective immediately after the next Staffordshire County Council elections (6 May 2021 or any re-arranged date)

(b) the threshold for the declaration of Gifts and Hospitality be confirmed as £50.

(c) the existing Internal Resolution Procedure and Sanctions be applied to the new Code.

(d) the Director for Corporate Services (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

(b) Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 - Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011

The Council were informed that it was a legal requirement of the Localism Act 2011 for the County Council to have a Pay Policy statement which must be published annually before 31 March. Amongst other matters the Statement must set out the authority's policies for the financial year relating to:

(a) The remuneration of its chief officers,

(b) The remuneration of its lowest-paid employees, and

(c) The relationship between -

(i) the remuneration of its chief officers, and

(ii) the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.

RESOLVED – That the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 (as set out in Annex A to the report) be approved.

45. Report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Cllr Woodward indicated that the Panel had requested the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to provide them with the numbers of PCSO's, Police Officers and Support Officers employed over the last three years. She asked if this information could also be shared with all Members of the Council. In response, Cllr Sweeney confirm that he was content to share the information with Members as soon as he received it.

Cllr Charlotte Atkins referred to COVID-19 inspection letter from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The

Inspection, which was carried out between 19 and 30 October 2020, noted that staff absence had increased by 63% from April to June 2020. The Panel had asked the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for more information on staff absences during 2020 for both Fire and Police services and if the absence had been due to Covid-19. Cllr Atkins asked if this information could also be shared with all Members of the Council. In response, Cllr Sweeney confirm that he was content to share the information with Members as soon as he received it.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

46. Questions

Cllr Woodward asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

In a press statement from the County Council last week, Burntwood residents were told, “Work to improve routes for cyclists and pedestrians in Burntwood is being proposed as part of a plan to spend £69million on highways projects in Staffordshire” and that “the authority said the money would mean improving signs, junctions and provision for pedestrians and cyclists in Burntwood.” I am aware of the minor improvements to 0.3km of Milestone Way, between High St and Sycamore Rd, that have been agreed; are any additional cycling and walking schemes being proposed, as this press release would imply?

Reply

The 2021/22 Capital Programme contains £128k for provision of the length of cycle route along Milestone Way referred to by Cllr Woodward (0.3km). This is being delivered in 21/22 through an award of Getting Building Funding (£651K) secured via a bid to the S&SLEP for Sustainable Transport Projects. Improvements will be undertaken between the ‘Morrisons Island’ to ‘Aldi Island’ including an upgrade of the existing pedestrian facility and realignment of splitter island. Detailed design is underway, including a review of scheme details to ensure compliance with latest guidance (LTN 1/20).

Unfortunately, national criteria for cycling improvements does not fit more ‘rural’ areas, and we are actively lobbying for consideration on this front.

A Burntwood Town Centre - Public Realm, Connectivity and Highway Improvements Options Report is being prepared with input from Burntwood Town Council (completion mid-April) to identify further improvements for Burntwood. A phased approach to delivery is anticipated beginning next financial year (22/23) as resources permit, to support regeneration of the town centre. The options report considers a variety of interventions and improvements as well as reviewing existing infrastructure including, enhanced public realm, junction modifications, pedestrian facilities, traffic Orders, wayfinding, directional signing, public transport infrastructure and cycle facilities. The report will inform future programmes which may be funded via the Integrated Transport block grant, dependent on the availability of resources and other

spending commitments throughout the County. However, other funding opportunities will be actively sought to aid delivery.

Supplementary Question

When will these minor improvements to 0.3km of Milestone Way be carried out and how is the Cabinet Member going to square the circle regarding the criteria around investment in urban areas verses rural areas?

Reply

The improvements to Milestone Way are contained in the Highways Capital programme for 2021/22. With regard to the criteria around investment in urban areas verses rural areas, I confirm that I have lobbied the Secretary of State on this issue

Cllr Woodward asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Health, care and Wellbeing whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

I am grateful to Cllr McMahon and the Director for Health and Care for following up my question on self-isolation payments at the last Council meeting (page 16 of today's agenda). It appears that the applicant success rate in Staffordshire reflects the national rate of around 30% nationally with 70% of applicants therefore being refused. What impact does the Cabinet Member think this may have had on the willingness of those who are Covid positive to self-isolate and therefore on the transmission rates in our communities?

Reply

There is no data about whether having a self-isolation payment application declined influences people's willingness to isolate. The data we do have about isolation demonstrates that compliance with isolation is on the whole good. We call confirmed cases and their close contacts to verify isolation and the vast majority of these are isolating in line with legal requirements.

A small number of people (around 50 weekly) are referred to the Police because there are reasons to doubt that they are isolating. The Police visit these individuals at home and generally find that they are in fact isolating. A small number of fixed penalty notices have been issued where the legal requirements have been breached.

Supplementary Question

It would appear to me that the 70% failure rate is far too high and seems to indicate that the criteria for applications are perhaps too draconian. The Local Government Association is pushing for changes to the framework for self-isolation payments. Will the Cabinet Member continue to lobby along the same lines as the Local Government Association has made?

Reply

I have written to the Secretary of State to ask that this issue be investigated so that we can be assured that the low success rates of applicants is not having an impact on testing and compliance.

Cllr Charlotte Atkins asked the following question of the Leader of the Council whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

Does the Leader of the Council agree that a one percent pay rise for nurses and other NHS staff is a totally inadequate reward for their sacrifices over the last year, having faced the immense challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Reply

I want to start by acknowledging that the NHS has done an amazing job over the past year.

For many people, the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic are like none they have seen before. People have sacrificed aspects of their lives they took for granted: seeing family and friends, going to school or work, and going to weddings or funerals,

The variety of people who have provided essential services and made sacrifices alongside nurses and other NHS staff during the pandemic are too numerous to list here. Some examples might include: the lorry drivers, without whom food wouldn't get on to the shelves of the supermarkets; the care workers in old people's homes; the teachers striving to ensure our children are educated; our social workers looking after our children and families; and people collecting our bins and cleaning our streets. They all deserve reward for their sacrifices over the last year.

In addition to those listed above are the army of volunteers who seek no reward at all, other than that of knowing they have helped a person in need.

There are others who have also made sacrifices over the past year that also need to be considered. They are the people whose businesses will never recover, and the people who have lost their jobs. There is no pay rise available to them.

I do understand the desire to reward nurses and other NHS staff, I also note that there are others who have sacrificed too; their sacrifice might go unnoticed or unrewarded, because it isn't as high profile, or can't be afforded. Ultimately, the decision about the reward for nurses and other NHS staff will be made by an independent body later this year and we will await their verdict

Supplementary Question

Does the Leader of the Council understand why nurses in particular feel betrayed by the Government and will he urge the Government to accept the recommendations of the independent nurses pay review body?

Reply

As I indicated in my written answer, the matter is to be considered by an independent body later this year and I hope that the Government will take notice of that independent body.

Cllr Charlotte Atkins asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

Now schools are fully open, what practical steps is the County Council taking to promote its Air Aware Project to ensure that the pollution from idling vehicles is eliminated? Will the County Council assist schools to measure air quality now and in future months to demonstrate to students and parents the polluting impact of drivers leaving their engines on when parked up outside schools?

Reply

The Air Aware programme played a significant role in improving air quality outside schools prior to the pandemic and the team have continued to work with schools in readiness for the return of all pupils to school on 8th March.

Based on the success of the programme, a bid was submitted to the DEFRA Air Quality Fund last year to expand the programme to other areas in the county. I am pleased to confirm that last week DEFRA awarded Staffordshire County Council £296,828 to engage with schools, businesses, and communities to tackle air pollution. This funding will ensure that the Air Aware programme, including measuring air quality outside schools and anti-idling campaigns, will continue.

In addition to Air Aware, we have a Traffic Demand Management (TDM) programme in place, which also includes tackling issues outside school gates such as parking. Throughout the summer we will be delivering sustainable travel campaigns to encourage more pupils and parents to walk to school.

Supplementary Question

Are you aware that highways operatives working for the County Council are adding to the pollution problem by sitting in idling vehicles whilst they are waiting for their job to start? Can the Cabinet Member issue an instruction to staff not to continue with this polluting practise?

Reply

I would hope that any Councillor who observes such practises by any of the County Council's employees would report it to the relevant senior officer. I, together with Cllr David Williams, will ensure that all employees of the Council are aware that this is not an acceptable practise. We are also looking at the Council's fleet of vehicles with a view to introducing low emission vehicles.

Cllr Robinson asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

Does the Cabinet Member for Highways agree with me that 20 mph is plenty for speed limits around all our schools, play parks, leisure centres and community centres? Will he commit to immediately allocating funding to implement 20 mph zones outside the aforementioned community facilities across the county of Staffordshire?

Reply

Staffordshire maintains one of the safest highway networks in the country by targeting available resources at road safety interventions that have the greatest impact.

Most importantly, we liaise with our local communities to understand their individual aspirations and work collaboratively to tackle any road safety concerns.

20 mph speed limits/zones are just one of a range of measures used by the Council to improve road safety and to create an environment that supports sustainable travel modes, such as walking and cycling. Over fifty of our schools on the busiest roads already benefit from prominent advisory 20 mph speed limits and a further twenty 20 mph speed limit/zones have been implemented in local communities across the county in the last six years.

The full suite of road safety measures includes: a robust programme of targeted engineering schemes, including speed limit reductions; support for communities to install Speed Indication Devices; and engagement with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership to deliver wide-ranging road safety training/education and Community Speed Watch initiatives.

The introduction of additional 20 mph limits/zones within our local neighbourhoods will continue as appropriate within our county-wide road safety programmes and as local community priorities established through a Members' Divisional Highways Programme.

Supplementary Question

Will the Cabinet Member commit to working with the "20 is Plenty" campaign so that we can build on the work already carried out by the County Council?

Reply

I have already spoken with the "20 is Plenty" group and I can confirm that the Council will continue to work with any group which wants to make any betterment for Staffordshire.

Cllr Robinson asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

Will the Cabinet Member for Highways support my efforts on behalf of residents who live on Hardingswood Road and Second Avenue to see the County Council take urgent, immediate and substantive action to reduce the speed of traffic on these roads and restrict the improper use of these roads by Heavy Goods Vehicles? Local residents and I would also like assistance to see a reduction of vehicles using these roads as a cut through, causing mayhem at peak times due to the tight width of the road, specifically on Hardingswood Road bridges.

Reply

At the request of Councillor Robinson, following local prioritisation through his Divisional Highway Programme, in December 2019 the highways design team commenced a feasibility study, looking into the known issues on Hardingswood Road. An initial request for traffic data was made and the report was commenced in early 2020.

The feasibility study relies on having accurate, up to date traffic data, which over the course of 2020 varied dramatically due to the country going into lockdown. It therefore became necessary to halt the study temporarily until the highways data team could obtain the additional accurate traffic figures. The data is needed in order to assess junction capacity and to inform the designer on such things as traffic volume and vehicle classifications (numbers of cars, buses, HGVs, cyclists) and their typical speed.

In January 2021 work recommenced on the study and the requested traffic data is currently being collected. Once the full set of data has been obtained the design team will conclude their study and report the findings to the local member in the usual way. It is anticipated this will be completed by the end of April 2021.

Supplementary Question

Will the Cabinet Member undertake to work with my successor to ensure that these roads receive the attention they deserve?

Reply

Yes, I will continue to work with local members.

47. Petitions

There were no petitions on this occasion.

Chairman

COUNTY COUNCIL – 20 MAY 2021

Results of the Staffordshire County Council Elections – Thursday, 6 May 2021

Report of the Chairman of the Council

1. Recommendation

1.1. That the report be received.











2. Why is it coming here – what decisions are required?

2.1. To inform the Council of the results of the Staffordshire County Council Elections held on 6 May 2021.

























3. Background
























Links to full results:


















[Staffordshire County Council Elections - detailed results for Divisions](#)

Election results by party		
Party name	Seats won	% of votes
 Conservative	55	54%
 Labour	2	16%
 Labour and Co-operative Party	2	10%
 Conservative and Unionist Party	2	2%
 Independent	1	3%
 The Green Party	0	5%
Chase Community Independents People Before Politics	0	3%
 Liberal Democrats	0	3%
 UK Independence Party (UKIP)	0	< 1%
Green Party - Save Our Green Space	0	< 1%
Other	0	< 1%
Green Party First Choice	0	< 1%
 Reform UK	0	< 1%
Green Party Second Choice	0	< 1%
 Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition	0	< 1%
Heritage Party - Free Speech and Liberty	0	< 1%
Turnout:		n/a

Election summary for Divisions

Divisions	Elected candidates	Elected party or parties
Cannock Chase - Brereton and Ravenhill	Peter Kruskonjic	 Conservative
Cannock Chase - Cannock Town Centre	Paul Snape	 Conservative
Cannock Chase - Cannock Villages	Samantha Louise Thompson	 Conservative
Cannock Chase - Chadsmoor	Philippa Kate Haden	 Conservative
Cannock Chase - Etchinghill and Heath	Mike Sutherland	 Conservative
Cannock Chase - Hednesford and Rawsley	Phil Hewitt	 Conservative
Cannock Chase - Hednesford and Rawsley	Johnny McMahon	 Conservative
East Staffordshire - Burton Tower	Conor Wileman	 Conservative
East Staffordshire - Burton Town	Arshad Ahsan Afsar	 Labour
East Staffordshire - Burton Trent	Syed Anwar Hussain	 Labour
East Staffordshire - Dove	Philip John White	 Conservative
East Staffordshire - Horninglow and Stretton	Bernard Geoffrey Peters	 Conservative
East Staffordshire - Needwood Forest	Julia Frances Jessel	 Conservative and  Unionist Party
East Staffordshire - Uttoxeter Rural	Philip Edward Bailey Atkins, OBE	 Conservative and  Unionist Party
East Staffordshire - Uttoxeter Town	Philip Anthony Hudson	 Conservative
Lichfield - Burntwood North	Tom Loughbrough Rudd	 Conservative
Lichfield - Burntwood South	Mike Wilcox	 Conservative
Lichfield - Lichfield City North	Janice Silvester-Hall	 Conservative
Lichfield - Lichfield City South	Colin Greatorex	 Conservative
Lichfield - Lichfield Rural East	Alan George White	 Conservative
Lichfield - Lichfield Rural North	Jan Eagland	 Conservative
Lichfield - Lichfield Rural South	David Stratford Smith	 Conservative

Lichfield - Lichfield Rural West	Richard Ernest Cox	 Conservative
Newcastle - Audley and Chesterton	Ian Frank Wilkes	 Conservative
Newcastle - Bradwell, Porthill and Wolstanton	Graham Hutton	 Conservative
Newcastle - Keele, Knutton and Silverdale	Derrick Huckfield	 Conservative
Newcastle - Kidsgrove	Gill Burnett	 Conservative
Newcastle - May Bank and Cross Heath	James Michael Salisbury	 Conservative
Newcastle - Newcastle Rural	Paul Richard Northcott	 Conservative
Newcastle - Newcastle South	Stephen John Mclean Sweeney	 Conservative
Newcastle - Talke and Red Street	Jill Waring	 Conservative
Newcastle - Westlands and Thistleberry	Simon John Tagg	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Brewood	Mark Sutton	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Cheslyn Hay, Essington and Great Wyrley	Kath Perry, MBE	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Cheslyn Hay, Essington and Great Wyrley	Bernard Williams	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Codsall	Bob Spencer	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Kinver	Victoria Helena Wilson	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Penkridge	David John Williams	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Perton	Jak Robson Abrahams	 Conservative
South Staffordshire - Wombourne	Mike Davies	 Conservative
Stafford - Eccleshall	Jeremy Michael Pert	 Conservative
Stafford - Gnosall and Doxey	Mark James Winnington	 Conservative
Stafford - Stafford Central	Gillian Parminder Kaur Pardesi	 Labour and Co-operative Party
Stafford - Stafford North	Jonathan Keith Price	 Conservative
Stafford - Stafford South East	Ann Edgeller	 Conservative

Stafford - Stafford Trent Valley	John Stuart Francis	 Conservative
Stafford - Stafford West	Carolyn Trowbridge	 Conservative
Stafford - Stone Rural	Ian Michael Parry	 Conservative
Stafford - Stone Urban	Jill Hood	 Independent
Staffordshire Moorlands - Biddulph North	Ian Sinnett Lawson	 Conservative
Staffordshire Moorlands - Biddulph South and Endon	Keith George Edward William Flunder	 Conservative
Staffordshire Moorlands - Caverswall	Ross David Ward	 Conservative
Staffordshire Moorlands - Cheadle and Checkley	Mark Anthony Deaville	 Conservative
Staffordshire Moorlands - Churnet Valley	Mike Worthington	 Conservative
Staffordshire Moorlands - Leek Rural	Gill Heath	 Conservative
Staffordshire Moorlands - Leek South	Charlotte Jean Scott Atkins	 Labour and Co-operative Party
Tamworth - Amington	Thomas Christopher Jay	 Conservative
Tamworth - Bolebridge	Jeremy Oates	 Conservative
Tamworth - Perrycrofts	Robert Steven Pritchard	 Conservative
Tamworth - Stonydelph	Jason Shane Jones	 Conservative
Tamworth - Watling North	Tina Clements	 Conservative
Tamworth - Watling South	Richard James Alexander Ford	 Conservative

COUNTY COUNCIL – 20 MAY 2021

Report of the Chairman of the Council

Members Not Re-elected

1. Recommendation

1.1. That the Members named below be thanked for the valuable contribution they have made to the work of the Authority during their term(s) of office.

2. Why is it coming here – what decisions are required?

2.1. To inform the Council of the names of the Members who were not re-elected to the Authority at the elections on 6 May 2021.

3. Background

3.1 The following members were not re-elected at the County Council elections on 6 May 2021:

- Ann Beech (2013 - 2021) Audley and Chesterton (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
- David Brookes (2016 - 2021) Uttoxeter Town (East Staffordshire)
- Alan Dudson (2013 - 2021) Brereton and Ravenhill (Cannock Chase)
- Dave Jones (2017 - 2021) Keele, Knutton and Silverdale (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
- Susan Woodward (2005 - 2009 and 2013 - 2021) Burntwood North (Lichfield)

4. **Resource Implications** - There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

5. **Equal Opportunity Implications** – There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

Statement of the Leader of the Council

1. Staffordshire Means Back to Business

(i) Supporting Our Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure Employment Sectors

The Cabinet have approved proposals to enhance assistance to the Destination Management Partnership (DMP), both immediately and for the longer term, including the County Council's own tourism team, to lead a transformation of our visitor economy and its businesses. The proposed measures include:

- Support for targeted marketing and campaigns to maximise Staffordshire's profile and to attract more visitors, most notably through bringing in house the County's Digital Marketing Officer post to be integrated with the work of the DMP.
- To oversee and commission research and intelligence to inform the activities of the visitor economy sector and to shape our offer and future priorities.
- Through the Place Board, and with the assistance of all key stakeholders, to develop our lobbying and advocacy work to influence key policy makers, to shape the direction of the sector and maximise Staffordshire's role and profile.
- To work towards greater integration with district and borough councils across Staffordshire and with Stoke-on-Trent City Council to deliver local and countywide priorities.
- To develop targeted business support activities and signposting to help the visitor economy renew and transform following on from the Covid 19 pandemic.

(Cabinet – 17 March 2021)

(ii) Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Business Loan Fund

The Cabinet have approved proposals to build on the success and strengths of previous phases of the Staffordshire Business Loan Fund managed through Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS). The proposed fund will also provide a focus for rural businesses across Staffordshire as part of the Council's priorities for rural businesses outlined by the All Party Working Group on the economy and in the forthcoming rural economic strategy. This covers a range of small sized business sectors and forms part of Staffordshire County Councils response to COVID-19 economic recovery and the county's future economic prosperity. It is intended for the fund to be launched in April 2021 and act as a viable alternative lending option as a revolving loan fund.

(Cabinet – 17 March 2021)

2. Capital Programme for Schools 2021/2022

The Cabinet have approved the Schools Capital Programme for 2021/22. The Programme is made up of:

- Maintenance/Improvement projects
- Basic Need/pupil place provision projects

The funding available to deliver the 2021/22 capital programme includes:

- Government Capital Grant School Condition Allocation (SCA)
- Government Basic Need Capital Grant
- Section 106 contributions from developers
- Contributions from schools (DFC)
- Third Party contributions
- Contributions from other Government grants and bids including:
 - i. Free Schools Wave 13
 - ii. Special Provision Capital Fund

The DfE are yet to confirm the 2021/22 SCA allocations so the School's Capital Programme 2021/22 is based on an estimated SCA of £3.9m. The programme will need to be reviewed once the funding allocation is announced to ensure affordability and that investment is targeted in SCC maintained schools (excluding Basic Need).

The Assistant Director for Commercial and Assets will monitor progress of the programme and, subject to the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND), will make any necessary in-year alterations.

(Cabinet – 17 March 2021)

3. Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2021/22

The Cabinet have approved the Highways and Transport Capital Programme for 2021/22. The Programme is made up of two parts, Highway Maintenance (including Bridges) and Integrated Transport improvements. They are not ring-fenced, and precise allocation can be determined locally. In recent years this has also been enhanced through government funding via the Pothole Fund.

Most of the capital funding for replacing life expired highway assets is generally provided through government grant which in 2021/22 will be £25.067m (including the pothole fund) which is £8.735m less than the amount received in 2020/21. The grant for Integrated Transport improvements is £3.449m a slight increase (£26k) on the previous year.

The County Council's additional investment of £5m per year provided in recent years was due to end on 31 March 2021. However, Cabinet have agreed that this additional investment be extended initially for one more year and be reviewed as part of the

review of the Strategic Plan and MTFs in the summer of 2021. (The majority of this is used to support Minor Capital Maintenance £4.6m, with any balance being used on structural maintenance schemes).

Delivery against the Programme will be monitored and authority has been delegated to the Assistant Director for Highways and the Built County in agreement with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to approve any significant in-year alterations.

(Cabinet – 17 March 2021)

4. Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme (Department of Education)

In November 2020, the Department for Education (DfE) announced that the National Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is to be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. Since 2018, this Programme has provided enriching activities and healthy food to disadvantaged children and young people (and in some circumstances their families).

The Department for Education is making up to £220 million available to Local Authorities across England to coordinate Holiday Activities and Food Programmes which are administered to promote and develop community resources, spaces and activities locally. It is anticipated that Staffordshire will receive £2,231,290 under the Programme.

The Cabinet have agreed that delivery decisions relating to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities.

(Cabinet – 17 March 2021)

5. Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

The Cabinet have received an update from the COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board. They were informed that the number of cases of Covid in Staffordshire and across England was continuing fall, leading to the pressure on the NHS being largely abated; the first two steps on HM Government's Roadmap from lockdown had been completed, enabling schools to re-open, people allowed to meet outdoors in groups of up to six, shops opening, and outdoor hospitality resuming; the roll-out of the Covid vaccination programme had seen over 500,000 people in Staffordshire receiving a first dose, and 100,000 with a second dose; there were concerns about very rare side effects associated with the first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and, as a result, people under 30 were now being given the choice of one of the other vaccines available.

(Cabinet – 21 April 2021)

6. Integration and Innovation: Working Together to Improve Health and Social Care for All

The Cabinet have considered the key aspects of the proposals contained in the HM Government White Paper published on 11 February 2021 together with the opportunities and risks they present to the Council. The proposals seek to build on the collaboration between health and social care during the Covid pandemic and aim to:

- (i) Increase integration within the NHS and between the NHS and local authorities.
- (ii) Remove much of the transactional bureaucracy within the NHS that has arisen from the 'commissioner-provider' approach over the last eight years.
- (iii) Ensure that the NHS is accountable to Ministers and develop enhanced assurance for adult social care.

As and when the proposals set out in the White Paper become law, they would have the following legal implications relevant to the Council:

- (i) A duty to collaborate with the NHS.
- (ii) Involvement on the Board of the statutory Integrated Care System (ICS) NHS body.
- (iii) Involvement in an ICS Health and Care Partnership.
- (iv) That the Council would have to give regard to the plan to address the health, social care and public health needs of the population produced by the ICS Health and Care Partnership.
- (v) That the Council would be subject to the new enhanced assurance framework for adults social care.

(Cabinet – 21 April 2021)

7. Framework Agreement for the Repair and Treatment of Flat Roofs and Associated Works

The Cabinet have approved proposals for the award and subsequent award of any call-off contracts under the Agreement for the Repair and Treatment of Flat Roofs and Associated Works.

Based on building condition information held by the Council's Property team, there is approximately £7,200,000 worth of roofs with a life expectancy of 4 years or less (so may need replacing during the term of the new framework) split across both schools and corporate property.

Following the procurement process, the successful suppliers will be appointed to the framework agreement for the period 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2024 and that dependent on the quality of their delivery, a 12-month service extension can be implemented to a final contract end date of 30th November 2025.

(Cabinet – 21 April 2021)

8. Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 4

The Cabinet have received an overview of the County Council's progress, performance and financial position in delivering against its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan. They noted that, at the end of Quarter 4, the overall assessment on the council's performance and financial position was amber. There continued to be areas of risk in Adult Social Care and Families and Communities.

The latest revenue forecast outturn showed a saving of £1.8m (0.3%), compared to the overspend of £0.6m (0.1%) at quarter 3.

The latest capital outturn projection was £144m, compared to the quarter 3 position of £146m, a decrease of 1.7%. This projection was a fully funded position. This decrease was due to property purchasing moving to 2021/22, reprofiling of Highways schemes Major projects and delays in starting works on Household Waste Recycling Centres.

(Cabinet – 21 April 2021)

9. Elections

Following the local government elections, I am delighted to see both some "old" and some new faces back at this annual meeting of the Full Council. It is fantastic too to actually see each other face to face and I would like to thank Rising Brook Church for help making this happen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank too all those who took part in the elections; from the staff at the polling station on the day and at the counts on Saturday, to all who stood as a candidate and to residents themselves who took the time to vote. I would also add my personal appreciation for hard work of previous county councillors over the last four years.

I am of course delighted to return as Leader and look forward with working with you all.

10. Covid-19

It is great to see rates continue to remain low in the county and so much of the county now reopen. It has been a challenging 12 months and we know that the challenge to keep making the easing of lockdown steps work remains.

Throughout this pandemic I have been hugely impressed how together with our partners in the NHS and across the district and borough councils in particular, we have not only rapidly responded to each challenge, but also moved swiftly to adapt our approach where necessary.

The successful vaccination roll out in Staffordshire, together with regular testing in our communities and the efforts by our fantastic in-house test and trace team will hopefully prove to be a long-term game changer.

But in the short-term, the identification of more cases of Covid-19 variants is likely to be a key focus for us over the coming weeks and months and we are well prepared to deal with this.

11. Looking Forward

As we emerge from the pandemic, it is important that we focus even more on making this great county the best it can be and helping people live the best lives they can.

As a county council, we will continue to create the conditions for economic growth in Staffordshire, attracting new employers and supporting existing ones as well as investing in schools, business parks, roads and broadband.

At the same time, we will strengthen the bonds we have made during this pandemic to work with our communities to support them to live happier, healthier, independent lives.

As a newly elected county councillor it is our job to work with our communities, our businesses, with partners and with Government to deliver on these aspirations.

I am confident that each and everyone of you will do everything you can to do just that.

Local Members Interest
N/A

Council Meeting – Thursday 20 May 2021

Change to the Constitution Requiring Approval from County Council

Purpose

For members of the County Council to adopt the changes in the Constitution as referenced below.

Report of the County Solicitor

Background

1. The Staffordshire County Council Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose. The Constitution is divided into Sections which explain how the Council makes its decisions by outlining how the different parts of the Council work and the basic rules governing the Council's business.
2. It is essential for good governance that local authorities regularly review their Constitution. Over the past several months, work has been ongoing in reviewing the Constitution, particularly Section 11 – Officers.
3. The Director for Corporate Services will have the authority to make minor and consequential amendments to the constitution to keep it up to date with legislative requirements and/or to keep the whole constitution in line with Council decisions made from time to time.
4. Material and significant changes to the Constitution are required to be approved by Full Council.
5. The changes that require approval are identified in the table below.

Ref.	Change
Section 6 - Cabinet Portfolios	'Cyber Security' has been included in the Cabinet portfolio for Finance and Resources.
Section 7 – Select Committees	Committees previously referred to as Select Committees are now titled Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This may be shortened to Scrutiny Committees.
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 1 - Delegations to all Senior Leadership Team Members	Revised to state: Following consultation with the County Solicitor, to instruct the County Solicitor to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issue or instigate, prosecute, defend, withdraw, appeal or compromise any claims or legal proceedings (civil or criminal) connected with any function or service for which the Senior Leadership Team member is responsible • commence criminal proceedings for any breach of any law/by-law within the services and functions for which the Senior Leadership Team member is responsible • pursue the recovery of costs incurred by the County Council as part of any legal proceedings
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 3B - Delegations to the County Solicitor	Delegations to County Solicitor extracted from Director for Corporate Services Scheme of Delegation.
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 4 - Former Director of Finance and Resources	Table 4 (delegations to former director of finance and resources) has been removed as it is no longer required.
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 8A	NEW Following consultation with the Cabinet Member, to develop, implement and monitor a programme of on-street charges for parking schemes.

Ref.	Change
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 14A	NEW To enter into Engineering and Construction Contracts with various contractors to facilitate the delivery of proposed highway infrastructure works. This includes works that are funded by developers and are subject to a formal agreement under s278 of the Highways Act 1980; and separate Call-Off contracts with Amey LG for highway infrastructure works in accordance with the provisions of the Infrastructure+ Contract.
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 14B	NEW To designate a footpath as a cycle track under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984.
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 14C	NEW To take and implement any decisions necessary to fulfil the Council's responsibilities under the Mines and Quarries Act 1969 in respect of safe stability monitoring and enforcement of used and unused tips.
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 15A	NEW In accordance with the relevant parts of Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017 and Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Act 2021 (HS2) to determine the arrangements relating to the routes by which anything is to be transported to the site on a highway by a large goods vehicle (ref. Schedule 17, Part 1, Paragraph 6 (2) and Schedule 17, Paragraph 6 (1); [Note: see Planning section 26A below for matters related to Schedule 17 - paragraphs 4 and 7].

Ref.	Change
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 15B	NEW To apply for the drawdown of Road Safety Funds from HS2 Ltd. as part of a Cabinet approved HS2 Road Safety Fund programme.
Section 11 – Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 22A	NEW To authorise the serving of Minerals Planning Orders including Modification, Revocation, Discontinuance, Prohibition, Suspension and Supplementary Suspension Orders and refer to the Secretary of State as appropriate. Sub delegated only to the Assistant Director for Business and Enterprise.
Section 11 - Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 5 - Delegations to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills 25A	In accordance with the relevant parts of Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017 and Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Act 2021 (HS2) to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conditions related to the disposal of waste or spoil or the excavation of bulk material from borrow pits – specifically the arrangements relating to the ‘ancillary matters’ (ref, Schedule 17, Part 1, Paragraph 4 (4) and Schedule 17, Paragraph 4 (4)); • the plans or specifications submitted by the nominated undertaker related to waste and spoil disposal and excavation of bulk material from borrow pits (ref. Schedule 17, Part 1, Paragraph 7 (2) and Schedule 17, Part 1, Paragraph 7 (2)); subject to the Director’s discretion to consult with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee. [Note: see Highways section 16A above for matters related to Schedule 17 – paragraph 6]

Ref.	Change
Section 11 – Officers – Scheme of Delegation Table 6 - Delegations to The Director for Families and Communities	There are several changes made to the Delegations to Director for Families and Communities which have been approved by the Director for Corporate Services. These are minor and consequential amendments to the constitution to keep it up to date with legislative requirements.
Section 11 - Appendix 3 – Officer Employment Procedure rules 3.7 Remuneration for Chief Officers	<p>The County Council will convene a Special Committee¹ to review and change the remuneration, as defined in the Localism Act 2011, of Chief Officers, to include the Head of Paid Service.</p> <p>The Special Committee will be convened as and when the County Council requires it.</p> <p>The Special Committee will be known as the Remuneration Committee for the duration that it is convened. The Remuneration Committee will not be a Standing Committee.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, these arrangements do not apply to officers of the Wider Leadership Team.</p>
Section 11 - Officer – Scheme of Delegation	‘Cyber Security’ has been included in the Scheme of Delegation for Corporate Services and Sub Schemes of Delegation for Policy / Strategy and Infrastructure.

¹ **[*NOTE – Custom and practice has been for decisions on Chief Officer Remuneration to be taken by a politically proportionate committee of members [Special Committee] often, but not always, at the point of officer recruitment. The Officer Employment Rules, as they are currently drafted, do not operate to reflect this practice. This proposal will correct this omission by including this procedure by giving the Special Committee (to be called the Remuneration Committee for this purpose) the power to review and adjust the remuneration of Chief Officers, including the Head of Paid Service, as and when required.]**

Ref.	Change
Section 13 - Appendix 1 Flexibility of Meetings	<p>The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 do not apply to meetings on or after 7 May 2021. Appendix 1 Coronavirus Temporary amendments to Section 13 (Access to Information) has been removed from the Constitution. Committee meetings with voting members of the Council will revert to taking place in a “physical” format. Any reference to temporary changes to meetings have been removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1A Access to Information 2A Remote Access to Meetings 3A Members in Remote Attendance 4A Remote Attendance by Members of the Public 5A Remote Voting 6A Members excluded from the meeting

Legal/Risk Implications

1. The changes proposed in this report shall ensure that Staffordshire County Council operates a system of good governance, accountability, and transparency as required by the Localism Act 2011, other legislation and more generally as required.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

1. The proposals in the report do not generate any additional resource implications for the Authority

Climate Change Implications

1. There are no climate change implications arising as a result of this report.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

1. Section 11 of Constitution – Officers – Scheme of Delegation

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