

Cabinet

Wednesday 18 May 2022

10:00

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

The meeting will be webcast live which can be viewed at any time here:
<https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services
10 May 2022

A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16**
- 3. Decision notice of the meeting held on 20 April 2022** (Pages 1 - 10)
- 4. Leader's Update**
Oral report of the Leader of the Council
- 5. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 4 May 2022** (Pages 11 - 12)
- 6. Staffordshire Means Back to Business**
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills
- 7. Household Support Fund** (Pages 13 - 36)
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- 8. Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2021-23** (Pages 37 - 44)
Cabinet Member for Health and Care
- 9. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers** (Pages 45 - 46)
- 10. Forward Plan of Key Decisions** (Pages 47 - 52)

11. Exclusion of the Public

The Chairman to move:-

"That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of Local Government Act 1972 indicated below".

PART TWO

(All reports in this section are exempt)

12. Exempt Decision notice of the meeting held on 20 April 2022 (Pages 53 - 54)

(Exemption paragraph 3)

13. Transport Contract Inflation (Pages 55 - 82)

(Exemption paragraph 3)

Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)

Membership

Alan White (Chairman)	Victoria Wilson
Mark Deaville	Julia Jessel
Mark Sutton	David Williams
Philip White	Ian Parry
Jonathan Price	Simon Tagg
Johnny McMahon	

Notes for Members of the Press and Public

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Recording by Press and Public

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

Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 20 April 2022

Present: Alan White (Chairman)

Attendance	
Mark Deaville	Simon Tagg
Ian Parry	Philip White
Jonathan Price	David Williams
Mark Sutton	Victoria Wilson

Cabinet Support Member in attendance: Johnny McMahon

Apologies: Julia Jessel

PART ONE

140. Decision notice of the meeting held on 6 April 2022

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 6 April 2022 be approved.

141. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including Earth Day, a worldwide event to highlight the actions we can all take to protect the planet; the Council's success in cutting its carbon emissions by 25%, by switching to renewable energy and LED streetlights; tree planting and other nature recovery schemes which are underway; an exhibition in Stafford Market Square to inspire more people to do their bit, from waste reduction and recycling to greener travel options like walking and cycling; work nearing completion on the £2million transformation of Shire Hall into a new business centre and enterprise hub for small and start-up businesses; the investment in a new junction at Stafford North Business Park, where the new Pets at Home facility will create 800 jobs; the hundreds of new and small companies, and jobhunters, who have received support and funding from the £5million Staffordshire Means Back to Business programme; the opening of nominations for the Dignity in Care Awards; and the Council doing its bit under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, carrying out all relevant checks on the sponsors and the accommodation they are offering, and making sure support is in place for the arrivals; be noted.

142. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 6 April 2022

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 6 April 2022 be received.

143. Staffordshire Means Back to Business

Decision – That the oral report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills giving an update on "Staffordshire Means Back to Business" activity including the following matters be noted:

- The challenges our businesses and citizens are currently facing due to Global pressures on commodity prices and, the County Council's responsibility to focus on the things we can do either alone or with partners that will make a positive difference for jobs, incomes and the vitality of our businesses.
- The recent launch of the Staffordshire Investment Prospectus, as part of our We Are Staffordshire brand activity, which, for the first time, brings all the priority investment opportunities across the county, into a single document. This document clearly articulates many opportunities and reinforces what a great place our County is. Highlights include:
 - i. Through the Future High Streets and Town Deal Programmes, we have over £130Million of planned investment for our towns
 - ii. We have 96.4% coverage of superfast broadband and have an ambition to be a county with access to 100% Gigabit connectivity by 2030
 - iii. We have unrivalled connectivity being at the heart of the country which will only get better with the arrival of HS2
 - iv. We are home to the UKs biggest theme park, the brewing capital of the world and the national football team.
 - v. Since 2011 we have seen a 50% rise in adults with Level 4+ qualifications
- The major employment sites at Chatterley Valley and the West Midlands Interchange in South Staffordshire
- The proportion of young people in Staffordshire aged 18-24 that are claiming work-related Universal Credit has increased slightly and now stands at 4.3%, or 35 people.
- Staffordshire saw vacancies increase by 28% between February and March equivalent to over 4,200 more job vacancies.
- Despite this slight rise in young people claimants, our overall claimant rate remains static at 3.1% of the working age population in January compared to 5.4% regionally and 4.4% nationally

- The enormous scale and quality of our tourism and visitor economy in Staffordshire, which contributes over £1.8bn to our economy and includes some of the UK's biggest attractions such as Alton Towers, Drayton Manor, The National Memorial Arboretum and a large part of the Peak District to name but a few.

144. Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 4 2021/22



"Dealing with Covid-19 and learning how to live safely with the virus remains a priority and we continue to do what is required to keep people safe. The vaccine programme has been a game changer and vaccination uptake in Staffordshire remains comparatively good with booster uptake now above the national average.

We continue to do what is necessary to support those who need us most, including vulnerable residents, the care sector, local communities and businesses. Growing our economy, creating better quality jobs and supporting local businesses with their recovery through the Staffordshire Means Back to Business Programme remains a priority. Putting more money in people's pockets and improving their financial security, especially at a time when living and energy costs are on the increase, is vital.

The cost of adult social care continues to rise, and we face challenges in the sector although we have seen a reduction in waiting times for assessments since last quarter. We continue to address workforce issues through the Future Social Care Workforce Programme, which is in its early days, but will help us to understand current local issues and needs.

The new model for the delivery of our Children and families' services introduced last year continues to embed well and our work through the Building Resilient Families and Communities programme continues to support vulnerable families. An Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspection of SEN provision in January found improvements in

six out of eight areas under review, with two areas requiring further development. Work continues to make improvements within the service.

The Warmer Home schemes have provided significant benefits to Staffordshire residents, especially given the rising price of energy. To date 3,500 people have accessed the schemes and received help and advice. This includes 507 families benefitting from over 562 home installations, such as gas central heating, replacement boilers or insulation measures.

Despite the pressures facing councils like ours, we will invest to keep growing the county in a sustainable way to make a positive difference in the lives of our residents. We want Staffordshire people to enjoy a better quality of life, in thriving communities, and live longer in good health.

In much more sobering news, we continue to be horrified by the events unfolding in Ukraine and as a county we stand with all those affected by the conflict. Staffordshire has a proud history of helping those who have had no choice but to flee war or persecution. We have set up an Incident Management Team and we are supporting the delivery of the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme. We stand ready to offer Ukrainian refugees a warm welcome to our county should our help be needed".

Alan White, Leader of the Council



"All council departments continue to deliver against their recovery priorities, whilst progressing with activities in the organisation's Delivery Plan.

The latest revenue forecast outturn shows a forecast saving of £4.417m (0.8%). This is compared to the previous forecast of a saving of £3.963m (0.7%) at Quarter 3.

Like many local authorities, we still face financial challenges including in adult social care and in children's social services, but we continue to keep

	<p>our finances in as strong a position as possible. Well managed finances ensures that we provide good value for money for local tax-payers and means we can continue to invest in our future and growing our economy”.</p> <p>Ian Parry, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the quarterly Integrated Performance Report which provides an overview of the Council’s progress, performance, and financial position in delivering against its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan

Decision – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That the use of £2.702m from the Contingency budget to fund the national pay award relating to 2021/22, be approved. (This is not currently included in service budgets as a pay freeze was assumed during the MTFS).

145. Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan

	<p>“A well-managed highway network that is safe, serviceable, and sustainable is one of the best ways to foster job creation, encourage economic growth and support local communities. It makes an important contribution to social inclusion, community safety, and education and health.</p> <p>Effective management of our highways assets has never been more important. This plan tells us how the county council will manage our highways infrastructure in the best way possible, ensuring we continue to meet our statutory duties, that we optimise the allocation of our resources and, wherever possible, can secure the maximum available funding from central government”.</p> <p>Cllr David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the new Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) for Staffordshire which details the principles for managing the highway network and recognises the importance of the highway infrastructure in supporting a number of the Council’s key objectives.

Decision – (a) That the new Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) for Staffordshire and annexed documents, be approved.

(b) That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Infrastructure and Skills to approve the HIAMP supporting documents.

146. Staffordshire Rural Economic Strategy



"There is already an economic strategy for the whole county, which includes a focus on urban areas, so this part is specifically about how we deliver benefits to rural communities.

The continuing economic growth of Staffordshire rests in part on making sure that there is a collective plan for these towns and villages and that the diverse range of businesses within them are able to make the most of funding and investment opportunities as they come along.

Having consulted with businesses, groups and organisations, as well as local councils, we think this plan is in good shape, but it's not set in stone and we still want people to contribute to the final version."

Staffordshire's rural economy has a good balance of traditional land industries such as farming and forestry, as well as sectors such as manufacturing, construction, services, food production and tourism.

This strength is underpinned by excellent mainstream and specialist universities and colleges and there is a skilled, well-educated workforce ready to go.

The challenge is to agree a clear way forward so that we can follow a common plan in the coming years to remove the obstacles preventing further progress".

Cllr Philip White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the Consultation Draft of the Council's Rural Economic Strategy.

Decision – (a) That the Consultation Draft of the Rural Economic Strategy be approved.

(b) That it be agreed that a 4-week public consultation be conducted, seeking views from stakeholders, businesses, and residents on the draft Rural Economic Strategy.

(c) That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Skills take the draft Rural Economic Strategy to the next available Prosperous Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration and input.

(d) That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Skills and Director for Economy, Infrastructure & Skills be authorised to agree changes and finalise the Rural Economic Strategy based on feedback received from the public consultation, Prosperous Overview & Scrutiny Committee and in response to Government policy announcements including the Levelling Up White Paper.

(e) That, working with those Cabinet Members with associated responsibilities, the Director for Economy, Infrastructure & Skills be authorised to progress the development of supporting delivery plans, working with our partners as appropriate.

147. Formal Report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman



"Protecting children and young people is a priority for this council, so we take the investigation of any complaint by members of the public very seriously."

To be noted, this report by the ombudsman is in relation to process in handling a complaint due to the time it dated back to, rather than any specific allegations."

Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Reasons for the Decision – To consider a Formal Report from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) in relation to the failure to fully consider a complaint about Children's social care.

Decision – (a) That the Formal Report from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO), in relation to the decision making of accepting a complaint for investigation, be noted.

(b) That the recommendations made as part of the investigation report, and the finding of "upheld, maladministration and injustice", be accepted.

148. Framework Agreement for Demolition Services

 A portrait photograph of Mark Deaville, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and has a small yellow star-shaped pin on his lapel.	<p>"Managing our property portfolio to maximise their use or to breathe new life into sites is a key priority for the county council. Ensuring we have the rights contracts in place to demolish redundant buildings means we can turn around schemes as quickly as possible and get the best value for taxpayers' money at the same time".</p> <p>Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To seek authority to undertake a procurement exercise to procure a framework agreement for demolition services and to delegate authority to the Director for Corporate Services to enter into the necessary arrangements once the procurement exercise is completed.

Decision – (a) That it be agreed that officers undertake a procurement exercise in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the "Regulations") for the Framework Agreement for the Provision of Demolition and Associated Services (the "Framework Agreement").

(b) That, following the procurement process, the successful suppliers be appointed to the Framework Agreement for the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2024 and that, dependent on the quality of their delivery, the 24-month service extension be implemented to an end date of 30th June 2026.

(c) That the Director for Corporate Services be given delegated authority to:

- i. Approve the initial awards of the tendered providers to the Framework Agreement.
- ii. Approve all subsequent award of call-off contracts under this Framework Agreement; and
- iii. (If applicable) approve the 2-year extension to the Framework Agreement in its 2nd year.

149. 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 Matters	In approving the termination of Joint Venture Agreements with Kier Ltd and Winding up of Penda Ltd.

150. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 18 May to 21 September 2022, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2021-22	Name: Dr Richard Harling MBE Tel: (01785) 278700
Corporate Delivery Plan 2022/23	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112
Bus Service Improvement Plan - Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Digital Connectivity in Staffordshire	Name: Anthony Baines Tel: (01785) 895984
Staffordshire Sustainability Board - Vision and council commitments	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Final Financial Outturn 2021-22	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Mobilisation of Staffordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
North Staffordshire Local Air Quality Plan (NSLAQP)	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service - from April 2024	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Family Hub Model	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079

151. 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.

The Cabinet then proceeded to consider the following matter:

152. Indemnity Clauses and Decision Making for Looked After Children/Use of Regulated Placements
(Exclusion paragraph 3)

**Alan White
Leader of the Council**

Minutes of the Property Sub-Committee Meeting held on 4 May 2022

Present: Alan White (Chairman)

Attendance	
Mark Deaville	Philip White (Vice-Chairman)
Jonathan Price	

Also in attendance: David Smith

Apologies: Ian Parry

PART ONE

84. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest on this occasion.

85. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 April 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

86. Stonnall Community Building - Proposed transfer

Details were submitted for the proposed transfer of Stonnall Community Building to the Stonnall Community Centre charity for the continuation of community activities and potential investment in new buildings and facilities.

RESOLVED – That (a) approval be given for the freehold transfer of the property known as Stonnall Community Building to the registered charity Stonnall Community Centre for £1.

(b) the council provides a capital payment of £18,324 to the charity which is the money received from the parish council in lieu of the demolition obligation.

(c) the transfer includes restriction on use to community activities and that the county council retains a right of pre-emption or call option for £1 should community activities not continue.

(d) Any and all actions to implement the decision to be delegated to the Assistant Director for Commercial and Assets.

87. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – 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 paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Chairman

Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 18 May 2022

Household Support Fund (HSF)



Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said,

This summer we will be distributing £5.5m to help families with young children, and older people, with the cost of living.

Having successfully distributed millions of pounds worth of support in the last two years, we know from the stories people tell us that this support helps makes a real difference to their lives.

Thousands of people will benefit in the next few months from help with their food, fuel or water bills, including the families of 27,000 children as part of the Holiday Activity and Food programme.

Report Summary:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has announced an extension to the Household Support Fund (HSF) Grant which will be made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need this Summer. At least one third of the total funding must be spent on families with children and at least one third must be spent on pensioners. Whilst the County Council is able to determine eligibility and the delivery of the HSF, it should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy, and water bills.

The Report outlines the proposed expenditure and delivery arrangements for the HSF in Staffordshire which is required to be fully spent by 30th September 2022.

Recommendation(s)

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Acknowledges the anticipated receipt of £5,506,547.99 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), in relation to the HSF.
- b. Approves the high-level proposals for the usage of the HSF in Staffordshire.
- c. Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities, to decide the delivery and eligibility criteria for distribution of the HSF in Staffordshire, and to take all other subsequent decisions to ensure that this support gets to those who need it as quickly as possible. This includes any decisions in respect of extensions to the Scheme or additional funding, ensuring Cabinet are fully briefed on any such extensions or spending.
- d. Acknowledges that the delegation to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People includes authorising the County Council to enter required contractual arrangements with Partners and Providers where required to deliver the HSF in Staffordshire.
- e. Approves the extension of current commissioning arrangements with Beat the Cold and Community Foundation of Staffordshire for a further 6 months on existing terms and conditions to administer the Warmth Project.

Local Members Interest
ALL

Cabinet – Wednesday 18 May 2022

Household Support Fund (HSF)

Recommendation(s) of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Acknowledges the anticipated receipt of £5,506,547.99 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), in relation to the HSF.
- b. Approves the high-level proposals for the usage of the HSF in Staffordshire.
- c. Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities, to decide the delivery and eligibility criteria for distribution of the HSF in Staffordshire, and to take all other subsequent decisions to ensure that this support gets to those who need it as quickly as possible. This includes any decisions in respect of extensions to the Scheme or additional funding, ensuring Cabinet are fully briefed on any such extensions or spending.
- d. Acknowledges that the delegation to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People includes authorising the County Council to enter required contractual arrangements with Partners and Providers where required to deliver the HSF in Staffordshire.

- e. Approves the extension of current commissioning arrangements with Beat the Cold and Community Foundation of Staffordshire for a further 6 months on existing terms and conditions to administer the Warmth Project.

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

Reasons for Recommendations:

Background:

1. On Thursday 23rd March 2022, the DWP announced an extension to the HSF Grant which will be made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need. The extension to the HSF will run from the 1st April to 30th September 2022 and totals £500m nationally.
2. The County Council has the discretion on exactly how this funding is used, targeting support within the scope of the conditions set out by the DWP. At least one third of the total funding must be spent on families with children and at least one third must be spent on pensioners. In terms of type of support, the expectation is that the HSF should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.
3. The new HSF will be distributed by County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England. Shire Councils are encouraged to work closely with District & Borough Councils and other local partners to identify a broad range of vulnerable households across their local area. Support is available from the 1st April and Local Authorities should aim to have arrangements in place as quickly as possible to support vulnerable households throughout the Grant period.
4. The County Council has received detailed guidance which has been reviewed, and the outline provided within this report meets the terms of the Grant. The Grant Determination Letter is provided in Appendix A and the Grant Guidance is provided in Appendix B.
5. Staffordshire is anticipated to receive £5,506,547.99 through the HSF.

6. The County Council is proposing a number of schemes to deliver the HSF as detailed within this report.

Education Support Fund (ESF):

7. It is proposed to continue to provide families of children who are in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) a £15.00 eVoucher per child for the May Half-Term Holiday. It is also proposed to provide a £30 eVoucher for two weeks of the Summer Holidays when there is no provision facilitated under the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. Children currently receiving universal free school meals, who would be entitled to benefits-related FSM and Early Years Children who receive funding for Think 2 and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) will be included in the proposed ESF.

8. It is proposed to provide the above to Staffordshire Children (Residents) and Non-Staffordshire Children (Non-Residents) who attend a Staffordshire Education Setting. Including Non-Staffordshire Children in the Fund ensures fairness and equality across pupils attending a setting within the Local Authority boundary whilst supporting settings to support, safeguard and care for families in the settings community. Removing Non-Staffordshire Children (Non-Residents) from the ESF provides complexities in administrating the scheme and may lead to negative public perception. The County Council, subject to Cabinet approval, is seeking to secure a similar arrangement with Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Cheshire East, Derbyshire County Council, Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council.

9. It is proposed to continue to procure a voucher digital service to facilitate the HSF directly with Staffordshire Education Settings. This is an established process following the previous COVID Winter and Locality Grants. The vouchers will be available for a variety of supermarkets, Aldi, ASDA, Morrisons, Tesco, Sainsburys, Marks & Spencer's and Waitrose.

10. The anticipated volume and expenditure on eVoucher are outlined below:

Holiday:	Anticipated Volume:	Anticipated Expenditure:
May 2022	26,900 Children	£403,500
Summer 2022	26,900 Children	£807,000
	Total:	£1,210,500

Proposed Care Leavers Fund:

11. It is proposed to issue all care leavers with one £50 eVoucher.

12. Care Leavers will receive a collection link via their Personal Advisor. On receipt of the collection links, Care Leavers can directly select a supermarket of their choice. The available supermarkets are Aldi, ASDA, Morrisons, Tesco, Sainsburys, Marks & Spencer's and Waitrose.

13. The anticipated volume and expenditure on vouchers are outlined below:

Anticipated Volume:	Anticipated Expenditure:
650	£32,500
Total:	£32,500

Proposed Financial Assistance Grant Scheme:

14. The County Council is seeking to facilitate conversations with District & Borough Councils and other Partners to explore the delivery model for a Financial Assistance Grant Scheme. This Scheme will seek to ensure that support gets to those who need it as quickly as possible and will include families with and without children. This Scheme will directly target those most in need.

15. The Scheme will ensure at least one third of the Grant benefits pensioners as per the Guidance, through a targeted approach to delivery.

16. It is proposed that the Fund will be used by families to be used on food, essential supplies, and fuel. The anticipated expenditure is outlined below:

Borough / District Council	Population	Population %	Base Funding	Deprivation %	Deprivation Allocation	Total Allocation
Cannock Chase	98,490	12%	£147,683.48	17%	£214,976.58	£362,660
East Staffs	115,284	13%	£172,865.69	28%	£361,330.45	£534,197
Lichfield	102,004	12%	£152,952.64	5%	£64,110.25	£217,060
Newcastle	126,863	15%	£190,228.14	17%	£224,887.26	£415,115
South Staffs	108,423	13%	£162,577.78	0%	£0.00	£162,580
Stafford	131,253	15%	£196,810.84	9%	£115,685.91	£312,495
Staffs Moorlands	97,928	11%	£146,840.77	4%	£52,143.89	£198,985
Tamworth	77,108	9%	£115,621.66	20%	£252,446.65	£368,070
Total	857,353	100%	£1,285,581.00	100%	£1,285,580.99	£2,571,162

Proposed Warmth Project:

17. Building upon the 2021/22 Winter Warmth Project, the County Council is engaging with Beat the Cold and the Staffordshire Community Foundation to develop a Warmth Project for 2022.

18. Residents of Staffordshire who are struggling financially to either pay their bills or are dealing with a breakdown of their heating system will be eligible for the Warmth Project.
19. Through the Warmth Project, eligible Staffordshire residents will be provided with financial support for energy. This will be provided via either a top up card credit for those on pre-payment meters or credit paid directly to the energy supplier for those on metered accounts. The payments will be made via the Staffordshire Community Foundation and their "Surviving Winter" Campaign Team. In addition, eligible residents will have access to an exceptional circumstance "top up" grant to contribute to new boiler systems.
20. Eligibility will be based upon the existing eligibility criteria for the subsidised heating installations which is the Business-as-Usual activity of the Staffordshire Warmer Homes Partnership. The County Council will use the DWP Searchlight software to verify applicants' eligibility criteria around benefit entitlement.
21. In addition, conversations have commenced with the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to scope out the potential for providing direct assistance to eligible residents in replacing inefficient light fittings with new LCD bulbs which will complement the financial support, reduce future energy bills and create a positive carbon reduction in Staffordshire. The final format is still subject to negotiation and is likely to require DWP approval to ensure SCC is not exposed to the risk of non-reimbursement.
22. The anticipated volume and expenditure is outlined below:

	Anticipated Volume:	Anticipated Expenditure:
Financial Support	2,857	£1,000,000
Energy efficient products	1,000	£350,000
ECO "20% Top Up" Fund	100	£50,000
	Total:	£1,400,000

Legal Implications:

23. As with any welfare payment to vulnerable recipients there is a risk of fraud, as recipients might appear to be eligible when they are not. One of the biggest risks for this scheme is impersonation fraud, where fraudsters work through a residential area and falsely claim under the names of eligible recipients.

24. The County Council is encouraged to mitigate this risk, by ensuring checks are in place to verify the applicant's identity. The County Council and its Partners have access to a range of data sources and checks which can be carried out against this data to verify the identity of the recipient.
25. It is for the County Council to decide how payments are made to recipients. However, when making this decision the County Council is encouraged to consider the risks involved. Although vouchers still carry fraud risks, the DWP is suggesting vouchers should be used instead of cash where possible as this helps to mitigate the risk of the money being spent by the recipient on things outside the policy intent, therefore undermining the purpose of the scheme.
26. Officers are engaging with Legal Services and Commercial Services to explore how best to implement the proposals in this report. The County Council will enter into contracts with providers and also agreements with District and Borough Councils as detailed above. Although the value of the HSF is significant, the value of the services to be provided by the providers in administering the schemes or providing relevant systems will be relatively low value.
27. There is a risk that if the HSF conditions are not met then the County Council may need to repay some or all of the grant back to the DWP. The County Council will need to consider this when entering into arrangements with providers and the District and Borough councils.

Resource and Value for Money Implications:

28. A summary of anticipated expenditure is as follows:

Fund/Scheme:	Anticipated Expenditure
Education Support Fund	£1,210,500
Care Leavers Support Fund	£32,500
Financial Assistant Grant Scheme	£2,571,161.99
Warmth Project	£1,400,000
Administration Fees	£292,386
Total	£5,506,547.99

29. The HSF is ring-fenced to be spent as detailed in the guidance and the accompanying grant determination as follows:

- a. at least 33.33% of the grant is allocated to support households that include:

- i. a person who will be under the age of 19 as of 30th September 2022, or a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit is paid or free school meals are provided during the Grant Period.
- ii. at least 33.33% of the grant is allocated to support households that include a person who has reached state pension age by 30th September 2022.
- iii. up to 33.33% of the grant is used to assist other households.

30. To ensure that the objectives of the HSF are being met during the grant and reduce administration costs for all concerned, including the need for DWP to recover underspend, Grant payments will be made in arrears upon DWP being satisfied with the Management Information (MI) returns. This will enable DWP to adjust the amount of the payment based on the MI returns.
31. Payment of the grant from DWP to Authorities will be made in arrears after the interim MI return in July 2022 and the final MI return at the end of grant period in October 2022 after DWP have verified the MI.
32. MI returns must be endorsed by the Section 151 officer in accordance with their statutory assurance responsibility in order for the Grant payment to be made.
33. The timetable for provision of funding and MI returns is as follows:

Payment	Amount (%)	Date	Notes
Interim	Actual grant spend up to 100% of grant allocation*	August/September 2022	Payment made in arrears
Final	Actual grant spend up to 100% of grant allocation*	December 2022/January 2023	Payment made in arrears

34. The HSF allocation includes reasonable administration costs to enable Authorities to deliver the scheme. Authorities should deduct their administration costs from the total allocation to determine the amount remaining.

35. In all cases, Authorities should keep administrative costs to a reasonable level. Administration costs for each Authority will be published on www.gov.uk alongside detail of all spend related to this scheme. The County Council's Administrative Costs will include the payments to the relevant providers.

Climate Change Implications:

36. There are no climate change implications arising as a result of this report. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities, will continue to review and reflect upon the Climate Change implications as the HSF develops in Staffordshire.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix A: DWP Household Support Fund Determination Letter

Appendix B: DWP Household Support Fund Grant Guidance

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4. [Household Support Fund: guidance for local councils
\(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils)
 - [Department for Work & Pensions \(https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions)

Guidance

Household Support Fund Grant Determination 2022 No 31/3096

Updated 29 April 2022

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The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (“the Secretary of State”), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, makes the following Determination:

Citation

1. This Determination may be cited as the Household Support Fund Grant Determination 2022 No 31/3096.

Purpose of the grant

2. The purpose of the grant is to provide support to certain local authorities in England for expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in accordance with the Grant Conditions to provide support to households, particularly those including children and pensioners, who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs (in exceptional cases of genuine emergency) to help them with significantly rising living costs.

Determination

3. The Secretary of State determines as set out in Annex A, the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid.

Grant conditions

4. Pursuant to section 31(3) and 31(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Secretary of State determines that the grant will be paid in respect of the period 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022 and subject to the conditions in Annex B.

Treasury consent

5. Before making this Determination in relation to the upper tier local authorities in England, the Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Donna Ward
A senior civil servant within the Department for Work and Pensions
20 April 2022

Annex A: Household Support Fund Grant final funding allocations per county councils and unitary authorities for the period 1 April to 30 September 2022

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Barking and Dagenham	£2,162,051.52
Barnet	£2,455,182.90
Barnsley	£2,351,263.96

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Bath and North East Somerset	£966,860.28
Bedford	£1,201,485.00
Bexley	£1,542,309.65
Birmingham	£12,791,135.04
Blackburn with Darwen	£1,618,526.59
Blackpool	£1,745,857.53
Bolton	£2,780,316.57
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£2,653,367.04
Bracknell Forest	£555,468.03
Bradford	£5,694,487.83
Brent	£2,781,222.28
Brighton and Hove	£2,140,360.89
Bristol, City of	£4,039,965.11
Bromley	£1,867,882.58
Buckinghamshire	£2,399,190.54
Bury	£1,534,200.05
Calderdale	£1,833,003.46
Cambridgeshire	£3,581,424.56
Camden	£2,006,931.89
Central Bedfordshire	£1,483,073.82
Cheshire East	£2,203,892.10
Cheshire West and Chester	£2,290,047.45
City of London	£63,080.28
Cornwall	£4,528,569.87
Coventry	£3,224,222.30

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Croydon	£3,013,689.49
Cumbria	£3,690,234.69
Darlington	£913,853.75
Derby	£2,224,711.41
Derbyshire	£5,404,080.90
Devon	£5,064,876.12
Doncaster	£2,989,273.08
Dorset	£2,294,941.45
Dudley	£2,625,519.07
Durham	£4,676,099.65
Ealing	£2,658,804.97
East Riding of Yorkshire	£2,061,832.61
East Sussex	£3,896,783.88
Enfield	£2,847,994.64
Essex	£9,436,542.83
Gateshead	£1,836,629.95
Gloucestershire	£3,692,483.14
Greenwich	£2,378,692.91
Hackney	£2,822,258.58
Halton	£1,297,880.42
Hammersmith and Fulham	£1,414,374.97
Hampshire	£7,124,127.25
Haringey	£2,406,671.72
Harrow	£1,476,707.18
Hartlepool	£993,021.25

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Havering	£1,648,150.98
Herefordshire	£1,329,601.78
Hertfordshire	£6,172,064.84
Hillingdon	£2,069,342.07
Hounslow	£2,042,396.17
Isle of Wight	£1,131,576.08
Isles of Scilly	£11,130.10
Islington	£2,218,159.62
Kensington and Chelsea	£1,180,369.12
Kent	£11,065,380.80
Kingston upon Hull, City of	£3,038,293.68
Kingston upon Thames	£862,867.15
Kirklees	£3,702,823.27
Knowsley	£1,862,188.67
Lambeth	£2,720,637.01
Lancashire	£9,678,235.22
Leeds	£7,098,648.16
Leicester	£3,429,353.16
Leicestershire	£3,620,038.89
Lewisham	£2,668,537.62
Lincolnshire	£5,464,685.20
Liverpool	£6,054,020.20
Luton	£1,829,274.04
Manchester	£6,453,163.20
Medway	£2,262,463.11

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Merton	£1,186,607.26
Middlesbrough	£1,653,614.95
Milton Keynes	£1,792,516.52
Newcastle upon Tyne	£2,898,403.85
Newham	£3,339,194.75
Norfolk	£6,696,806.23
North East Lincolnshire	£1,559,664.65
North Lincolnshire	£1,323,892.77
North Northamptonshire	£2,465,491.77
North Somerset	£1,307,847.79
North Tyneside	£1,609,998.05
North Yorkshire	£3,537,549.92
Northumberland	£2,480,330.00
Nottingham	£3,556,933.83
Nottinghamshire	£5,646,450.03
Oldham	£2,419,369.23
Oxfordshire	£3,361,256.14
Peterborough	£1,824,636.27
Plymouth	£2,294,796.82
Portsmouth	£1,888,214.70
Reading	£1,130,648.94
Redbridge	£1,965,979.20
Redcar and Cleveland	£1,296,381.17
Richmond upon Thames	£836,356.66
Rochdale	£2,337,383.85

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Rotherham	£2,489,029.87
Rutland	£157,371.07
Salford	£2,733,899.11
Sandwell	£3,471,442.28
Sefton	£2,435,111.24
Sheffield	£5,203,825.56
Shropshire	£2,088,795.13
Slough	£1,177,691.53
Solihull	£1,408,359.07
Somerset	£3,820,415.56
South Gloucestershire	£1,410,016.31
South Tyneside	£1,484,854.01
Southampton	£2,222,676.23
Southend-on-Sea	£1,413,078.83
Southwark	£2,734,366.02
St. Helens	£1,779,580.89
Staffordshire	£5,506,547.99
Stockport	£2,163,129.71
Stockton-on-Tees	£1,685,873.97
Stoke-on-Trent	£2,686,721.90
Suffolk	£5,106,030.02
Sunderland	£2,673,561.91
Surrey	£5,290,829.72
Sutton	£1,155,788.99
Swindon	£1,515,345.60

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Tameside	£2,224,686.33
Telford and Wrekin	£1,514,547.04
Thurrock	£1,295,040.81
Torbay	£1,235,356.81
Tower Hamlets	£2,996,279.40
Trafford	£1,458,074.48
Wakefield	£3,124,926.90
Walsall	£2,819,810.19
Waltham Forest	£2,327,527.60
Wandsworth	£2,069,485.13
Warrington	£1,440,750.42
Warwickshire	£3,472,997.02
West Berkshire	£694,849.63
West Northamptonshire	£2,599,628.73
West Sussex	£4,870,362.11
Westminster	£1,951,507.12
Wigan	£2,818,234.30
Wiltshire	£2,728,656.41
Windsor and Maidenhead	£587,905.21
Wirral	£3,049,345.09
Wokingham	£525,573.35
Wolverhampton	£2,631,877.25
Worcestershire	£3,949,139.19
York	£1,037,906.47
Total	£421,000,000

Annex B: Grant conditions

1. In this Annex:

“the Scheme” means the use by the Authority of as much of the grant money identified in Annex A as it deems necessary to provide support to households who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs (in exceptional circumstances of genuine emergency);

“the Department” means the Department for Work and Pensions;

“the Authority” means any local authority listed in Annex A;

“the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions;

“the Grant Period” means the period of time set out in paragraph 4 of this Grant Determination.

2. The grant is paid to the Authority to support eligible expenditure only (see paragraphs 4 to 7 below); and on the basis overall that the provision of grant funding remains subject to the Secretary of State’s ongoing satisfaction that all grant usage by the Authority complies fully with the relevant conditions.

3. The Authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Department or sources of information and data available to it that may assist in the decision-making regarding the Scheme.

Eligible expenditure

4. Eligible expenditure means payments made, or committed to, by the Authority or any person acting lawfully on behalf of the Authority, during the Grant Period, under the Scheme.

5. Unless the Secretary of State decides otherwise (for all Authorities or any one Authority), the Authority must determine individual eligibility in its area for assistance under the Scheme and the means by which assistance will be provided (whether directly by the Authority or through a third party) and target its support as follows:

a) the Authority must ensure that:

i) at least 33.33% of the grant is allocated to support households that include:

- a person who will be under the age of 19 as at 30th September 2022, or
- a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit is paid or free school meals are provided during the Grant Period;

ii) at least 33.33% of the grant is allocated to support households that include a person who has reached state pension age by 30th September 2022;

iii) up to 33.33% of the grant is used to assist other households;

b) the Authority is to ensure that the grant is primarily allocated to support with the costs of food, energy (for heating, lighting and cooking), water (for household purposes, including sewerage) and other essential living needs in accordance with the Scheme guidance;

c) in exceptional circumstances of genuine emergency, the Authority may allocate grant funds to support with housing costs as set out in the Scheme guidance.

6. If the Authority or any third party incurs any of the following costs, they must be excluded from eligible expenditure:

- a) contributions in kind,
- b) payments for activities of a political or exclusively religious nature,
- c) depreciation, amortisation or impairment of fixed assets,
- d) input VAT reclaimable from HM Revenue & Customs,
- e) interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases,
- f) gifts, other than promotional items with a value of no more than £10 in a year to any one person,
- g) entertaining (entertaining for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations), or
- h) statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties,

and, for the avoidance of doubt, the exclusions at a) and f) above do not apply to the provision of direct assistance, including food, to the intended eligible beneficiaries of the Scheme.

7. The Authority must not deliberately incur liabilities for eligible expenditure before there is an operational need for it to do so.

Payment arrangements

8. The grant will be paid in arrears following receipt by the Department of the Statement of Grant Usage described in paragraph 10.

9. If at any time the Authority becomes aware that the payment in arrears will affect the delivery of the Scheme, the Authority must inform the Department as soon as possible. The Secretary of State reserves the right to alter the timing or amount of grant payments accordingly.

Statement of Grant Usage

10. The Authority must prepare a Statement of Grant Usage to be submitted to the Department at a time and in a form directed by the Secretary of State. The Statement of Grant Usage must provide details of eligible expenditure in the Grant Period. The Statement of Grant Usage must be certified by the Authority's Section 151 officer that, to the best of the officer's knowledge, the amounts shown on the Statement are all eligible expenditure and that the grant has been used for the purposes intended.

11. If the Statement of Grant Usage identifies any overpayment of grant, the Authority must, unless offset by the Department in accordance with paragraph 20, repay this amount within 30 days of being asked by the Secretary of State.

12. The Secretary of State may at any time require a validation or audit to be carried out by officers of the Department or an appropriately qualified independent accountant or auditor, on the use of the grant.

Progress Report and Management Information Return

13. The Authority must provide a Progress Report and Management Information Return with the Statement of Grant Usage in a form directed, and subject to any guidance issued by, the Secretary of State.

Financial management

14. The Authority must maintain a sound system of internal governance and financial controls in relation to the grant.

15. If the Authority has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under this Determination, it must notify the Department immediately, explain what steps are being taken to investigate the suspicion and keep the Department informed about the progress of the investigation. For these purposes “financial irregularity” includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.

Records to be kept

16. The Authority must maintain reliable, accessible and up to date accounting records with an adequate audit trail for all expenditure funded by grant monies under this Determination.

17. The Authority and any person acting on behalf of the Authority must allow:

- a) the Comptroller and Auditor General or appointed representatives, or
- b) the Secretary of State or appointed representatives,

free access at all reasonable times to all documents (including computerised documents and data) and other information as are connected to the grant, or to the purposes for which grant was used, subject to the provisions in paragraph 18.

18. The documents, data and information referred to in paragraph 17 include such which the Secretary of State or the Comptroller and Auditor General may reasonably require for the purposes of ‘spot checking’ administrative costs or significant amounts paid under the Scheme or a financial audit of any department or other public body or for carrying out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any department or other public body has used its resources. The Authority must provide such further explanations as are reasonably required for these purposes.

19. Paragraphs 17 and 18 do not constitute a requirement for the examination, certification or inspection of the accounts of the Authority by the Comptroller and Auditor General under section 6(3) of the National Audit Act 1983. The Secretary of State and Comptroller and Auditor General will seek access in a measured manner to minimise any burden on the Authority and will avoid duplication of effort by seeking and sharing information with local auditors.

Breach of Conditions and Recovery of Grant

20. If the Authority fails to comply with any of these conditions, or if any overpayment or underpayment is made in relation to this grant or any amount is paid in error, or if any of the events set out in paragraph 21 occurs, the Secretary of State may reduce, suspend or withhold grant payments or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Secretary of State and notified in writing to the Authority. Such sum as has been notified will immediately become repayable to the Secretary of State who may set off the sum against any future amount due to the Authority from central government.

21. The events referred to in paragraph 20 are:

- a) the Authority purports to transfer or assign any rights, interests or obligations arising under this Determination without the prior agreement of the Secretary of State,
- b) any information provided in any application for grant monies payable under this Determination, or in any subsequent supporting correspondence is found to be significantly incorrect or incomplete in the opinion of the Secretary of State,
- c) it appears to the Secretary of State that other circumstances have arisen or events have occurred that are likely to significantly affect the Authority's ability to deliver the Scheme,
- d) the Authority's Section 151 officer is unable to provide reasonable assurance that the Statement of Grant Usage, in all material respects, fairly presents the eligible expenditure in the Grant Period in accordance with the definitions and conditions in this Determination, or
- e) the Authority fails to provide the Statement of Grant Usage and a Progress Report and Management Information Return in accordance with the Grant Conditions.

Communications

22. The Authority must, as appropriate and practical, reference that the grant is funded by the Department or UK Government in any publicity material, including online channels and media releases.



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Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 18 May 2022

Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2021 – 2023



Cllr Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care said,

"Providing integrated health and social care that allows people to stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible remains a key priority for the Council and the NHS. The Better Care Fund enables us to fund services across Staffordshire to achieve this goal.

We have made great progress in the last few years, for example strengthening our Home-First reablement services to support people to return home from hospital. We will continue to use the Better Care Fund to improve and integrate services for our residents and to support some of the most vulnerable people in our county."

Report Summary:

This report includes an update on the 2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, a summary of arrangements for development and approval of the 2022/23 BCF Plan, and delegation of authority to enter into the legal agreements required to implement the BCF Plans.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Note the progress of the 2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, and the associated funding.
- b. Note the transfer of the 2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant to the District and Borough Councils, as required by the Government.
- c. Note that the Health and Well-being Board is required to approve the 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF Plan.
- d. Delegate authority to the Director of Health and Care to enter into legal agreements under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 in order to implement the respective BCF Plans.

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet – Wednesday 18 May 2022

Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2021 - 2023

Recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Note the progress of the 2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, and the associated funding.
- b. Note the transfer of the 2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant to the District and Borough Councils, as required by the Government.
- c. Note that the Health and Well-being Board is required to approve the 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF Plan.
- d. Delegate authority to the Director of Health and Care to enter into legal agreements under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 in order to implement the respective BCF Plans.

Report of the Director for Health and Care

Reasons for Recommendations:

Introduction

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced by Government in 2013, to support integration of health and adult social care. It requires Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities to agree a joint Plan for achieving shared outcomes using pooled and aligned budgets to fund services. Plans are required to be approved by Health and Well-being Boards and then by NHS England (NHSE).

2021/22 Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework

2. The 2021/22 BCF Policy Framework and accompanying guidance required the submission of BCF Plans in December 2021, to include a narrative plan and an expenditure plan. Organisations were told to assume that expenditure of BCF budgets should continue on existing services as agreed in the BCF Plan 2020/21, with appropriate adjustments for inflation, in order to maintain health and social care services during the Covid pandemic.

3. The BCF Policy Framework set out the following national conditions for all BCF plans:
 - a. a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care; commissioners, signed off by the Health and Well-being Board
 - b. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution;
 - c. invest in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services; and
 - d. a plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital
4. BCF Plans were required to focus on improvements in the key metrics below:
 - a. Reducing length of stay in hospital, measured through the percentage of hospital inpatients who have been in hospital for longer than 14 and 21 days; and
 - b. Improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence.
5. BCF Plans were also required to show ambitions for improving performance against the following metrics:
 - a. Avoidable admissions to hospital;
 - b. Admissions to residential and care homes; and
 - c. Effectiveness of reablement.
6. BCF Plans were required to include expenditure of the Improved Better Care Fund transferred from Government to local authorities. This funding could only be used for:
 - a. Meeting adult social care needs;
 - b. Reducing pressures on the NHS, including seasonal winter pressures;
 - c. Supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; and
 - d. Ensuring that the social care provider market is supported.
7. BCF Plans were required to include expenditure of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), which was paid to upper-tier authorities. However upper tier local authorities were also required to transfer the DFG to housing authorities in order to allow them to meet their statutory duty to fund adaptations to the homes of eligible individuals.

2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan

8. The 2021/22 Staffordshire BCF Plan was developed in line with the Policy Framework, and approved by the Health and Well-being Board and NHSE.

9. Expenditure is summarised in Table 1, and the Plan is appended for information. Key priorities included the following:

- a. **Supporting hospital discharge:** The Council and CCGs commissioned a Home-First service to support people to return home and maintain their independence. We also established an integrated hub across responsible for supporting all people to be discharged from hospital to the most appropriate setting following an acute episode of physical or mental ill health.
- b. **Home care:** The Council and CCGs commissioned additional capacity and supported the market with recruitment and retention.
- c. **Care homes.** The Council and CCGs commissioned a Provider Improvement Response Team to support quality assurance and quality improvement in care homes, and provide support for the most challenged care homes.

10. Following approval an amendment was made to the 2021/22 BCF Plan to include an additional £19.25 million of non-recurrent funding to improve and sustain health and social care services, as summarised in Table 2. This amendment was in line with permissions in the BCF guidance and was agreed by the Health and Well-being Board, CCGs, Staffordshire County Council, and West Midlands BCF manager.

11. Cabinet are recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Health and Care to enter into a legal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 in order to implement the amended 2021/22 BCF Plan.

Table 1: 2021/22 BCF funding - original Plan

Source of funding	£
Minimum CCG Contribution	£62,101,200
iBCF	£31,747,365
DFG	£10,005,365
Additional CCG Contribution	£19,343,018
Total	£123,196,948

Expenditure by scheme	£
Bed based intermediate care	£7,955,011
Hospital discharge	£12,930,837
Home care	£33,652,177
Care home placements	£17,056,950
Community Based Schemes	£11,237,398
Housing Related Schemes	£10,005,365

Other	£8,102,245
Assistive Technologies and Equipment	£5,808,342
Prevention / Early Intervention	£5,376,177
Integrated Care Planning and Navigation	£5,265,823
Care Act Implementation Related Duties	£2,195,654
Personalised Care at Home	£1,499,309
Reablement in a persons own home	£1,443,779
Carers Services	£667,881
Total	£123,196,948

Table 2: BCF Funding 2021/22 - additional £19.25 million

Expenditure by service	£
Crisis response and intervention	£1,500,000
Home First	£6,006,000
Discharge to Assess Beds	£710,000
Home care	£4,500,000
Support to care homes	£259,000
Section 117 placements	£1,400,000
Learning Disability - step up	£1,875,000
Children's Services	£1,500,000
Healthcare tasks	£750,000
Integrated community equipment	£750,000
Total	£19,250,000
REVISED 2021/22 TOTAL	£142,446,948

2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

12. The DFG is paid to upper-tier authorities, while the statutory duty to provide adaptations to the homes of those eligible people who qualify, lies with local housing authorities. The DFG was transferred to the District and Borough Councils, as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Staffordshire DFG funding 2021/22

District / borough	Amount
Cannock Chase	£1,051,224
East Staffordshire	£1,160,392
Lichfield	£1,109,194
Newcastle-under-Lyme	£1,715,114
South Staffordshire	£1,126,662

Stafford	£1,522,033
Staffordshire Moorlands	£1,773,856
Tamworth	£546,890
Total	£10,005,365

2022/23 Better Care Fund (BCF)

13. The 2022/23 BCF Policy Framework has not yet been published. The working assumption is that expenditure of BCF budgets will continue as agreed in the BCF Plan 2020/21, with appropriate adjustments for inflation, in order to maintain essential health and social care services.
14. The 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF Plan will be developed on this basis and taking into account any conditions specified in the BCF Policy Framework when available. The Plan will be approved by the Health and Well-being Board and submitted to NHSE.
15. Cabinet are recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Health and Care to enter into a legal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 in order to implement the 2022/23 BCF Plan once approved.

Legal Implications

16. The Council's Legal Services assisted with the production of agreements to transfer the DFG to the District and Borough Councils in accordance with conditions from Government.
17. The Council's Legal Services have assisted with drafting of a legal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 to include all of the funding in the 2021/22 BCF Plan. Once Cabinet approval is given, the Director of Health & Care can authorise entering into this agreement. Legal Services will assist in the drafting of the Section 75 agreement for 2022-23.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

18. BCF funding for 2021/22 is set out in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Staffordshire BCF Plan 2021-22

Contact Details

Assistant Director: Andrew Jepps, Assistant Director for Care
Commissioning

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Cabinet – 18 May 2022

Decisions Taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers

Recommendation of the Leader of the Council

1. That the decisions taken by Cabinet Members under delegated powers, as detailed in paragraph 3 below, be noted.

Report of the Director for Corporate Services

Reasons for Recommendations

2. To inform Cabinet of recent decisions taken by Cabinet Members under delegated powers.

Background

3. Cabinet are requested to note the following decisions taken by Cabinet Members under delegated powers:

Cabinet Member	Decision
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)	In approving the award of the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding (HNPCA) to the 5 schools selected, to deliver new places and improve existing provision in education settings for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Staffordshire and to complete any grant funding or other agreements required to provide this funding and deliver the HNPCA projects.
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)	In approving the Accessibility Strategy for implementation by the County Council and across Staffordshire schools.
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	In approving the allocation of £2.5m to delivery of the Chetwynd Bridge Refurbishment Scheme and to progress the site investigation and preliminary design of the Moss Pit Footbridge, School Lane Footbridge, Chetwynd Bridge, Burndhurst Bridge and Stafford Railway Bridge schemes.

Report author:

Author's Name: Mike Bradbury
Telephone No: (01785) 276133

List of Background Papers - Cabinet Members Delegated Decision Nos. 539 - 541.

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Period: 15 June 2022 - 19 October 2022

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions is prepared on a monthly basis and published at least 28 days before the start of the period covered. Key Decisions are defined as those Executive decisions which are likely:

- (a) to result in the County Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions in the County's area.

The Forward Plan will contain **ALL** matters which the Leader of the Council has reason to believe will be the subject of a Key Decision to be taken by the Cabinet. It may also include decisions that are not key decisions but are intended to be determined by the Cabinet. Part of the Cabinet meetings listed in this Forward Plan may be held in private where a report for the meeting contains exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. If you would like to make representations about any particular decision to be conducted in private then please email: michael.bradbury@staffordshire.gov.uk. Such representations must be received in advance 6 clear working days before the date on which the decision is scheduled to be taken.

The Membership of the Cabinet consists of:

Leader of the County Council – Alan White
 Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills – Philip White
 Cabinet Member for Health and Care – Julia Jessel
 Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change – Simon Tagg
 Cabinet Member for Commercial Matters – Mark Deaville
 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – David Williams
 Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources – Ian Parry
 Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture – Victoria Wilson
 Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Mark Sutton
 Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) – Jonathan Price

A copy of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions may be inspected, free of charge, at the Member and Democratic Services office, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford, during normal office hours Monday to Friday. A copy of the notice will also be available on Staffordshire County Council's Website at www.staffordshire.gov.uk.

Documents submitted for decision will be a formal report which will be available on the County Council's website at least 5 clear working days before the date the decision is to be made, unless that report is subject to any prohibition or restriction on its disclosure. Other relevant background documents used in compiling the report will also be made available in the same way unless they are subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure. Minutes of Cabinet meetings will be published within three working days and will be subject to call-in. The call-in period lasts for three working days. If the decision is not called-in it will be implemented on the fourth working day. Special urgency items are exempt from call-in.

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services

Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Period: 15 June 2022 - 19 October 2022

NOTE:

- (1) The Forward Plan of Key Decisions sets out all Key Decisions intended to be made by Cabinet during the above period.
- (2) The Cabinet date can be provisional and items may move/roll forward to another meeting date but this will be monitored.
- (3) Items should remain on the Notice until a decision is made by Cabinet or is formally removed.
- (4) Where there is an intention to make a decision in private the exemption paragraph relied upon will be included within this notice

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Predicted Date of Decision	Public or Private Decision	Title and Description	Background Documents	Consultation	Contact Officer
June 2022	Public	Corporate Delivery Plan 2022/23 (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources (Ian Parry)) Review and approval of The Corporate Delivery Plan for 2022/23, a plan of key priorities across the organisation that identifies the key activities underway across each directorate		N/A	Kerry Dove (Tel: 07855 679112) Service Area: Strategy and Transformation
June 2022	Public	Digital Connectivity in Staffordshire (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change (Simon Tagg)) To provide an update on Digital Connectivity in Staffordshire and future priorities for investment.		Borough	Anthony Baines (Tel: 01785 895984) Service Area: Economy, Infrastructure & Skills

Predicted Date of Decision	Public or Private Decision	Title and Description	Background Documents	Consultation	Contact Officer
June 2022	Public	<p>Staffordshire Sustainability Board - Vision and council commitments (Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change (Simon Tagg))</p> <p>Staffordshire Sustainability Board - Vision and council commitments for consideration, after being passed and approved by members of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board.</p>		None	Clive Thomson (Tel: 01785 276522) Service Area: Staffordshire County Council/Sustainability
June 2022	Public	<p>Final Financial Outturn 2021-22 (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources (Ian Parry))</p> <p>To update Cabinet with the final financial position against the 2021/22 budget.</p>		Directorate Management Teams, SLT.	Rachel Spain (Tel: 01785 854455) Service Area: Finance
June 2022	Public	<p>Mobilisation of Staffordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (Cabinet Member for Commercial Matters (Mark Deaville), Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change (Simon Tagg))</p> <p>To provide Cabinet with an update on the mobilisation of the HWRC's from a contractual to an in-house service</p>		None, update to Cabinet on mobilisation only	Clive Thomson (Tel: 01785 276522) Service Area: EI&S

Predicted Date of Decision	Public or Private Decision	Title and Description	Background Documents	Consultation	Contact Officer
June 2022	Public	Extension to Newcastle Enterprise Centre project (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills (Philip White)) The provision of an additional 4,500ft ² of workshop space at Newcastle Enterprise Centre, Knutton		None at present but the project will be included in the community consultation for the Knutton masterplan within the Newcastle Town Deal	Anthony Hodge (Tel: 01785 277204) Service Area: Economy, Infrastructure & Skills
July 2022	Public	North Staffordshire Local Air Quality Plan (NSLAQP) (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport (David Williams)) Consideration of the Full Business Case for Phase 2 - A53 bus gate of the North Staffordshire Local Air Quality Plan and associated bid to the Clean Air Fund.		none	Clive Thomson (Tel: 01785 276522) Service Area: Connectivity and Sustainability
July 2022	Public	Enhanced Delivery Model for Home Care (Cabinet Member for Health and Care (Julia Jessel)) To consider a business case for developing an enhanced delivery model for Home Care and exploring potential for the delivery of a range of home based support.		Finance, Legal, HR	Andrew Jepps (Tel: 01785 278557) Service Area: Care Commissioning

Predicted Date of Decision	Public or Private Decision	Title and Description	Background Documents	Consultation	Contact Officer
September 2022	Public	Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service - from April 2024 (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Mark Sutton)) Options and recommendations for Cabinet regarding the Families Health		None at this stage.	Natasha Moody (Tel: 07976191079) Service Area: Children's Wellbeing & Partnership Team
September 2022	Private	Family Hub Model (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Mark Sutton)) To scrutinise and review the proposed Family Hub model and offer constructive feedback on the proposed model.		N/A	Natasha Moody (Tel: 07976191079) Service Area: Wellbeing and Partnerships
September 2022	Public	Section 75 Agreement for Adult Social Care Assessment and Case Management and Occupational Therapy in Staffordshire (Cabinet Member for Health and Care (Julia Jessel)) Review of Section 75 Agreement for Adult Social Care Assessment and Case Management and Occupational Therapy in Staffordshire.		Legal, Finance, Director of Health	Jo Cowcher (Tel: 07772 011078) Service Area: Adult Social Care
September 2022	Public	Adult Social Care Reform Implementation (Cabinet Member for Health and Care (Julia Jessel)) Update on the implementation of Adult Social Care Reform		To be confirmed, but will include Finance, Legal, Communications, HR	Jo Cowcher (Tel: 07772 011078) Service Area: Health & Care

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