

## **COUNCIL AGENDA**

### **To:- The Members of the Staffordshire County Council**

Notice is given that the meeting of the Staffordshire County Council will be held in the Council Chamber - County Buildings at 10:00 on Thursday 8 December 2022 to deal with the matters set out on the agenda.

John Henderson  
Chief Executive  
30 November 2022



## **AGENDA**

(**Note:** The meeting will begin with prayers)

### **PART ONE**

#### **General Housekeeping and Declaring an Interest**

1. **Apologies for absence (if any)**
2. **Declarations of Interest under Standing Order 16**
3. **Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 October 2022** (Pages 5 - 18)

4. **Chairman's Correspondence**

The Chairman will mention a range of recent items of news which may be of interest to Members

5. **Statement of the Leader of the Council** (Pages 19 - 28)

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

6. **Report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel** (Pages 29 - 32)

7. **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

8. **Petitions**

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

9. **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”.

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### **PART TWO**

(All reports in this section are on pink paper)

## **Note for Members of the Press and Public**

### **Filming of Meetings**

Staffordshire County Council is defined as a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. The County Council has agreed that Public meetings should be the subject of live web transmission 'webcasting'. Fixed cameras are located within meeting room for this purpose.

The webcast will be live on the County Council's website and recorded for subsequent play-back for 12 months. The recording will also be uploaded to YouTube. By entering the meeting room and using the seats around the meeting tables you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of webcasting.

If you have privacy concerns about the webcast or do not wish to have your image captured then please contact the Member and Democratic Services officer named at the top right of the agenda.

### **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](mailto: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, 5 December 2022**. 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 one question 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 one supplementary question on their 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 for Corporate Services ([michael.bradbury@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:michael.bradbury@staffordshire.gov.uk)) nine clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council, i.e. **by not later than midnight on Monday, 28 November 2022**. 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 9 February 2023 must reach the Chief Executive by not later than midnight on Monday, 30 January 2023.**

## 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 13 October 2022**

**Attendance**

Jak Abrahams	Graham Hutton	Mike Sutherland
Arshad Afsar	Thomas Jay	Mark Sutton
Charlotte Atkins	Julia Jessel	Stephen Sweeney
Philip Atkins, OBE	Jason Jones	Simon Tagg
Gill Burnett	Peter Kruskonjic	Samantha Thompson
Richard Cox	Johnny McMahon	Carolyn Trowbridge
Mike Davies	Paul Northcott	Ross Ward
Janet Eagland	Jeremy Oates	Jill Waring
Ann Edgeller	Gillian Pardesi	Alan White
Keith Flunder	Ian Parry	Philip White
Richard Ford	Kath Perry, MBE	Mike Wilcox
John Francis	Jeremy Pert	Conor Wileman
Colin Greatorex	Bernard Peters	Ian Wilkes
Philippa Haden	Jonathan Price	Bernard Williams
Gill Heath	Robert Pritchard	David Williams
Phil Hewitt	Janice Silvester-Hall	Victoria Wilson
Derrick Huckfield	David Smith	Mark Winnington
Philip Hudson	Paul Snape (Chairman)	Mike Worthington
Syed Hussain	Bob Spencer	

Apologies for absence: Mark Deaville, Jill Hood and Tom Loughbrough-Rudd

**PART ONE**

**27. Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 July 2022**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 21 July 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**28. Chairman's Correspondence**

**Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

The Chairman informed the Council that, although this was the news that we had been fearing for a little while, the announcement of the passing of Her Majesty was a huge shock to us all. It was undoubtedly a sadness which was felt across the county and the country. Her Majesty had been a constant, reassuring presence in our lives for so long. Her life of service to the country and its people had been a beacon for us.

The Chairman added that he looked forward with confidence to the reign of our new King and particularly to be able to welcome him on future visits to the County.

### **County Councillor Ian Lawson**

The Chairman informed Members of the death, on 9 October 2022, of County Councillor Ian Lawson.

Mr Lawson had represented the Biddulph North (Staffordshire Moorlands) Electoral Division on the County Council since 2009.

He served on a number of the Council's Committees including the Social Care Scrutiny Committee; Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee; Regeneration and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee; Property, Skills and Education Select Committee; Planning Committee; Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee; Audit and Standards Committee; Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee; Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education; the Charities and Trusts Committee and also the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority.

Mr Lawson also served as Chairman of the County Council between May 2012 and May 2015.

Councillors Sutton, Eagland, Francis, Sutherland, Heath, Flunder, Smith, Hussain, Perry, Winnington, Ward and Alan White paid tribute to the contribution made by Mr Lawson to the work of the Council following which Members stood and observed a one-minute silence in his memory.

### **29. 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.

#### **Staffordshire Means Back to Business – Oral Update**

(Paragraph 1 of the Statement)

Councillor Smith expressed his thanks for the £20m investment which had been made in his electoral division.

Councillor Afsar referred to the impact of increasing energy prices on businesses across the County and enquired as to whether the County Council, working with the District and Borough Councils, would intervene to offer these businesses support in order to save jobs and livelihoods. In response, Councillor Greatorex indicated that the Government had recently introduced a national scheme to provide subsidies to businesses to help them through the rise in energy prices and that this scheme would run for six months.

Councillor Pert expressed his thanks to local residents for their forbearance whilst roadworks continued along the A34 to the north of Stafford. He also referred to the jobs which would be created by the new Pets at Home European Headquarters at Redhill.

In response to a comment from Councillor Pardesi that she was still awaiting a response to a question she raised at the Council meeting in July, Councillors Philip White and Alan White apologised for the omission and undertook to furnish her with a reply.

In response to a question from Councillor Hussain concerning pre-planning application advice, Councillor Alan White indicated that the County Council, through the Leaders Board, was working closely with the Borough and District Councils, to make services more effective and seamless.

Councillor Sweeney spoke about "Town Deals" and how this acted as seed funding to bring forward new job creation projects such as the development of the Chatterley Valley Business Park in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Councillor Sutherland paid tribute to the Council for the support it made available to businesses across the County. Councillor Philip White added that the Council was committed to working with partners to help people into work and he made particular reference to the Job Brokerage Scheme.

### **Approval of Staffordshire County Council's Community Learning Procurement Arrangements 2023 to 2027**

(Paragraph 2 of the Statement)

Councillor Philip White paid tribute to the excellent work of the Council's Community Learning Team.

### **Integrated Performance Report – Quarter 1, 2022/23**

(Paragraph 3 of the Statement)

In response to a question from Councillor Charlotte Atkins concerning filling the additional posts required as a consequence of the Government's Social Care Reform, Councillor Jessel indicated that the Council was working on the assumption that the current timetable for implementation still stood, however, recruitment and retention was still an issue, both nationally and locally, but the Council was working hard to find local solutions to the problem including increases in the rate of pay in the sector.

Councillor Parry updated Members on the financial position of the Council at the end of Quarter 2 which was to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 October 2022. He explained that the latest revenue forecast outturn showed a forecast overspend of £10.908m (1.9%), prior to

additional funding for inflationary pressures being taken into account. Once this one-off funding was included and an allocation from the Inflation Reserve was assumed, the overspend reduced to £6.408m (1.1%). This was compared to an overspend of £3.643m reported at Quarter 1. He added workforce capacity, recruitment and demand challenges remained, particularly within Health and Care and Families and Communities.

### **Contract for the Supply of Electricity and Associated Services (Call off from YPO Framework 791)**

(Paragraph 6 of the Statement)

Councillor Smith spoke about the current volatility in energy prices and the need for the Council to explore how it could help Staffordshire's communities. In response, Councillor Alan White referred Councillor Smith to paragraph 12 of the Leader's Statement and, in particular, the Council's Here to Help Campaign.

Councillor Greatorex added that the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy Working Group had been looking at the impact of the increases in energy prices and he also suggested that sharing the contracting arrangements for the supply of the Council's electricity with the Borough and District Councils could be explored.

Councillor Hussain referred to reference in the news about the risk of power cuts over the winter period and enquired as to whether the Council had in place any contingency plans should these power cuts materialise. In response, Councillor Alan White confirmed that he had been assured that contingency plans were in place.

Councillor Francis spoke about major failings in the UK's Energy Policy and Councillor Pardesi referred to the need to put an end to corporate greed.

### **Multiply - National Numeracy programme**

(Paragraph 7 of the Statement)

Councillor Afsar indicated his support for the programme and enquired as to which age groups were to be targeted. Councillor Hutton also welcomed the initiative and enquired as to whether "budgeting" was included as part of the Programme. In response, Councillor Philip White confirmed that the programme was aimed at those aged 19 and above and that it did include "household finance".

### **Staying Well**

(Paragraph 8 of the Statement)

Councillor Northcott spoke about the need for the Council to encourage residents to look after their own health such as by stopping smoking and

taking up the offer of Covid Booster vaccinations and the flu jab if they are eligible.

Councillor Charlotte Atkins referred to the need for the Midlands Partnership NHS Trust to improve the coordination of Covid Vaccination walk-in sessions in Leek. In response, Cllr Edgeller and Councillor Jessel indicated that they would raise Councillor Atkins' concerns with the relevant NHS body.

Councillor Huckfield referred to the excellent arrangements in place at vaccination centres in Newcastle-under-Lyme and both he and Councillor McMahon encouraged everyone who was eligible to get vaccinated.

### **Enhanced Homecare Service**

(Paragraph 9 of the Statement)

Councillor Jessel indicated that the Enhanced Homecare Service was just one example of how the Council was looking at new ways to encourage and foster independence. She added that the service would commence in North Staffordshire and would hopefully be implemented across the whole County in time.

### **Hearing Aid Rule Changes**

(Paragraph 10 of the Statement)

Councillor McMahon welcomed the Integrated Care Board's decision to widen the offer of hearing aids to all people with mild hearing loss, rather than just some as this would help to tackle issues such as social isolation. He, together with Councillors Pert and Alan White, also paid tribute to Councillor Perry and to her fellow members of the Health Scrutiny Committee for their campaigning on this issue.

Councillors Charlotte Atkins, Tagg and Smith also welcomed the decision which had taken seven years to come to fruition. Councillor Pert added that 343 Staffordshire residents would benefit from the decision per year.

Councillor Alan White also spoke about the need for more democratic participation in NHS decision making.

### **War in Ukraine**

(Paragraph 11 of the Statement)

Councillors Philip Atkins and Cox extended their thanks to those households in the County who had taken in refugees from the war in Ukraine. Councillors Cox and Francis also referred to the need to extend the scheme beyond the initial six month period. In response, Councillor Wilson indicated that there were currently 660 Ukrainians living with sponsors in Staffordshire.

Councillor Philip Atkins also spoke about the impact of the war on the farming community in Ukraine and also how the conflict had adversely affected food and energy prices in the UK.

Councillor Alan White indicated that the war in Ukraine was likely to grind on and on and, at its conclusion, the country would need rebuilding.

### **Cost of Living**

(Paragraph 12 of the Statement)

Councillor Sutton spoke about how Government funding under the Household Support Fund and the Holiday Activity and Food programme was being utilised across the County. He added that the next tranche of the fund, which totalled £1.6m, would be used to support people over the October half-term and Christmas holidays and also to provide support for care leavers. Cllr Sutton also referred to the ongoing work across the County under the Warmer Homes Project.

Councillor Wilson referred to the various initiatives taking place across the County to support Staffordshire residents over the winter period.

**Resolved** – That the Statement of the Leader of the Council be received.

### **30. Staffordshire Electoral Review - Council Size Submission**

The Council were informed that, in March 2022, the Local Government Boundary Commission initiated an Electoral Review of Staffordshire. The rationale for undertaking an Electoral Review was both due to the County's changing population which had led to electoral inequality, and the length of time since the last review. There were two key stages to an Electoral Review: Stage 1 – which considered the Council Size; and Stage 2 – which considered division arrangements. Stage 1 commenced in June 2022 and the County Council was required to submit its Council Size submission to the Boundary Commission by 11 November 2022.

Members noted that the Council's Submission proposed that the County Council:

- a) Retains the current council size of 62 Elected Members
- b) Requests a single Member per division review

The evidence outlined in the Submission demonstrated that the current council size of 62 Elected Members supported the Council to efficiently and effectively undertake the three key aspects the Boundary Commission considered when considering Council Size:

(i) Strategic Leadership – how many Elected Members were required to give strategic leadership and direction to the authority?

(ii) Accountability – how many Elected Members were required to provide scrutiny to the authority? How many Elected Members were required to meet the regulatory requirements of the authority?

(iii) Community Leadership – how the representation role of Elected members in the local community was discharged and how they engaged with people and conduct casework.

It was noted that the County Council's current electoral arrangements included two Divisions with two Elected Members. The Submission outlined that these arrangements did not provide the most efficient conditions for community representation. Representing a larger electorate presented difficulties, and it was acknowledged that it could be difficult to split casework, and for electors to easily identify who 'their Councillor' was. As such, it was proposed that that County Council requests a single member per division review.

Members were also informed that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Council Submission on 13 September 2022. The Committee agreed with the proposals within the Submission and feedback from the Committee had been incorporated into the Submission document. Cabinet also considered the draft Council Size Submission on 21<sup>st</sup> September and approved the Council Size proposals.

Councillor Winnington referred to the growth in the population of the County, with some electoral divisions having one and a half times the number of electors than the average. He added that, although the proposal to retain the current Council size of 62 was sensible, it may be that some areas warranted an additional seat. In response, Councillor Philip White indicated that the proposal to retain the current council size of 62 Elected Members was the minimum number the Council considered necessary and it may be that under stage 2 of the Review, which considered division arrangements, the case may be made for more electoral divisions. Councillor Alan White encouraged all Members to participate in Stage 2 of the Review and he expressed his thanks to those members of staff who were supporting the review process.

Councillor Hussain expressed his support for the proposals contained in the report.

**Resolved** – (a) That it be agreed that, within the Council Size Submission proposals, the County Council:

- i) Retains the current council size of 62 Elected Members

ii) Requests a single member per division review

(b) That the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services be authorised to finalise the details of the Council Size Submission prior to submitting it to the Boundary Commission.

### **31. Report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel**

In response to a question from Councillor Pardesi concerning the possibility of Firefighters, who were taking strike action over a dispute over pay, not attending emergencies, Councillor David Williams indicated that not all Firefighters were members of the Fire Brigades Union and that he could not foresee a situation where incidents requiring their attendance were not covered.

Councillors Hudson and Cox referred to the recent the Inspection report which had had raised a number of areas which needed improvement and they indicated that, although they could not defend the Force's failings, they had every faith in the new Chief Constable that these matters would be addressed. Councillor Edgeller also commended the Chief Constable.

Councillor Afsar raised concerns in relation to an increase in anti-social behaviour in Burton.

Councillor Philip Atkins spoke about the lack of visible policing and that there was a very small proportion of the population committing the vast majority of crimes.

Councillors Edgeller and Peters also encouraged Members to inform their constituents about the Performance meetings held with the Chief Constable which were open to the public and could be viewed via a webcast.

**Resolved** – That the report be received.

### **32. Questions**

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

#### **Question**



In August residents of my division, and the wider town, suffered as a result of the closure of the Ashby Road for utility works. Some residents were completely cut off from Tamworth by the closure, due to the 24 minute diversion.

Can the council look at how the rules on road closures could be updated to include residents in these decisions? This would both benefit residents effected by such roadworks and the Authority's reputation.

### **Reply**

Ashby Road rail bridge is a specific pinch point in the County where any roadworks will most often require a closure due to the width.

New developments are progressing along the Ashby Road, No Mans Heath corridor and require various utility connections. The council's Traffic and Network management team coordinate these works and deliberately held-up the recent works so that they would be carried out in the quieter August summer holiday period.

For the residents to the East of the bridge this obviously caused some disruption. However, as with any road closure, advance notice was provided and a signed diversion route put in place, with alternative unsigned local routes also available and regularly used by local traffic.

Responsibility for the communication of a road closure rests with the individual utility provider, developer, or contractor. In addition to the legal notices all the remaining requirements, including letter drop, advance signage and discussion with affected bus companies, were all followed for this closure.

As part of the wider highways transformation programme, we will be reviewing best practice and considering what additional measures can be made to help raise awareness and reduce the impact of works that are likely to cause significant disruption to local communities or adversely impact on the council's reputation.

Councillor Hussain asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture whose reply is set out below the question:-

### **Question**

Small charities, community enterprises and local groups are doing heroic work in this cost-of-living crisis by supporting families through the food bank and soup kitchens and so on. How can the council help them to carry on their fantastic effort, especially in areas like Eaton, Shobnall, Anglesey, Stapenhill, and so on?

## **Reply**

First of all, I would like to join Cllr Hussain in expressing my appreciation and thanks for the tireless efforts of community groups across Staffordshire in supporting residents with a range of issues, including the cost of living. The Council has recently launched a campaign, to highlight the help and support that is available throughout the county to tackle the current cost of living pressures. The 'Here to help' campaign is directing people to support on things like managing debt, paying bills, food and essentials, staying warm and helping others.

The voluntary sector plays a vital role in making Staffordshire a great place to live, where everyone can prosper, be healthy and happy. Across the Council we work in partnership with the voluntary sector and our communities on a wide range of different initiatives and priorities, including the Community Champions Programme in parts of Burton. The Council has recently recommissioned its VCSE Capacity Building Framework to provide vital support to community groups and the voluntary sector to access training and development support, secure additional funding and recruit volunteers. This three-year contract, invests £1.5m into supporting our local voluntary sector.

Through our Community Fund, local community groups have the opportunity to access small grants to help support a huge range of community activities. In 2021 we supported 156 different community groups, with a total of £114,000 awarded. The 2022 Fund is currently open to applications until the end of October.

## **Supplementary Question**

The rules for the payment of grants available under the Fund state that they can not be used for on-going costs such as rent. Will the Cabinet Member meet with me and some of the community centres/groups to see how we can best support them.

## **Reply**

Yes, I would be delighted to.

Councillor Afsar asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) whose reply is set out below the question:-

## **Question**

According to the Sutton Trust, only 30% of year 13 students nationwide completed work experience. Is there a figure for the percentage of year 13

students in Staffordshire who are excluded from gaining valuable work experience, and what can be done to improve the situation? (Reference: Page 8 Local Government first, no 670 April 2022)

## **Reply**

Staffordshire County Council does not collect this information on behalf of schools and colleges. Every school and college should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by students, parents, teachers, governors, employers and other agencies.

The Department for Education expects all schools and colleges to use the internationally recognised Gatsby Benchmarks to develop a careers programme that increases opportunities for students to access everything from experiences of the workplace and personal guidance with a careers adviser, to engagement with employers, colleges, training providers and universities. The benchmarks are non-statutory but support schools and colleges by providing a framework around which they can develop their careers programme in line with their legal requirements to provide independent careers guidance to pupils throughout their secondary education (11- to 18-year-olds). Benchmark 6 sets out that every student should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities and expand their networks.

This benchmark is less about work experience and more about experiences of the workplace. Employers will have a critical role in providing 16- to 18-year-old students with first-hand experience of their chosen occupational area in an authentic setting over a long period of time.

Councillor Charlotte Atkins asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care whose reply is set out below the question:-

## **Question**

What effective involvement does Staffordshire County Council have with the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board?

## **Reply**

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB) are now responsible for arranging NHS services in Staffordshire. The Council is involved with the ICB in a number of ways:

1. The Council's Chief Executive sits on the Board of the ICB

2. The Council and the ICB are statutory partners in the Integrated Care Partnership, which is co-chaired by the leaders of Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council
3. The ICB is a statutory member of the Health and Well-being Board
4. The Council and the ICB co-operate on a range of programmes to improve and integrate health and care services – for example hospital discharge services, creating a single health and care record, sustaining the workforce and supporting independent sector providers to improve quality of care.

Councillor Pardesi asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People whose reply is set out below the question: -

### **Question**

What is this Council's response when headteachers across the country report that children are so hungry they are eating rubbers, hiding in the playground because they don't have lunch money and even pretending to eat out of empty lunch boxes?

### **Reply**

Children in reception and KS1 aged 4yrs – 7yrs old are entitled to universal free school meals and so are able to access a cooked meal each day at school. Where headteachers are aware of children attending school hungry, they will support parents in checking the eligibility for free school meals. If there is no eligibility, then the school would look to support children so that they are not going hungry. Schools will also signpost families to other agencies who will be able to assist with food parcels and vouchers to be used during certain school holidays.

Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime, and you can save yourself time and money.

[Overview - Free school meals - Staffordshire County Council](#)

We have been using the Household Support Fund allocated to Staffordshire County Council to ensure that throughout the school holidays children in receipt of free school meals are able to access food vouchers to ensure people have access to help and support when they are not in school. This has resulted in,

1. A £15.00 Voucher to children eligible for Free School Meals over the May Half Term and for two weeks over the summer holidays.

2. Vouchers to support our care leavers.
3. Provided additional funding to enable the Staffordshire Warmer Homes Scheme [Staffordshire Warmer Homes - Warm Homes Scheme](#)

If you would like more information on how Staffordshire County Council will use this funding, please click on the link - [Cabinet Report \(staffordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

[Household Support Fund 2022 | Staffordshire Connects](#)

### **Supplementary Question**

When can schools expect more funding to support children who are coming in hungry?

### **Reply**

This is a question that should be put to the Secretary of State for Education, not me.

## **33. Petitions**

### **(i) Condition of the Pavements in Yoxall**

Councillor Jessel submitted a petition from local residents complaining about the poor condition of the pavements along various roads in Yoxall.

### **(ii) Request for the removal of Lime Trees along Hillport Avenue, Wolstanton**

Councillor Hutton submitted a petition from local residents requesting the removal/pruning of Lime Trees along Hillport Avenue, Wolstanton due to damage being caused to vehicles and property.

### **(iii) Closure of Shay Lane, Sebdon**

Councillor Winnington submitted a petition from local residents requesting the prioritisation of repairs to Shay Lane, Sebdon to enable the road to be re-opened.

**Chairman**



## **Statement of the Leader of the Council**

### **1. Staffordshire Means Back to Business – Oral Update**

The Cabinet have received an 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:

- The Council’s submission to central government, putting forward the A50-A500 Hydrogen Technologies Corridor in Staffordshire as a potential Investment Zone. (As part of the submission two key sites at Blythe Vale in Staffordshire Moorlands and Branston Locks in East Staffordshire have been included).
- The County Council’s business support programmes which have already invested over half a million pounds in start-up support programmes. The Start Up and Step-Up businesses support is one of the main priorities in the Council’s economic development strategy. As a County Council we have made a commitment to invest a minimum of £100,000 per year in Start-up and Step-up business support programmes on an on-going basis. Given that global events continue to impact the local and national economy, primarily the war in Ukraine and the related increases in fuel and energy prices which are impacting local businesses, this support has never been more important.
- The current economic climate which presents a number of challenges to the local, regional and national economies in the short-term, with the Bank of England now predicting that we will enter recession this year and remain in contraction for some time.
- The showcase of the West Midlands Interchange (WMI) project in South Staffordshire, by our investment body Make It Stoke and Staffordshire. The WMI has been approved through the national planning Development Consent Order (DCO) process, being considered as a nationally significant infrastructure project. The scheme is expected to generate over 8,000 direct jobs, and the developer states spending will support a further 8,100 indirect and induced jobs in the economy through the distribution chain. Following planning approval at a national level, our approach has been very much about working with the scheme developers to secure the best opportunities possible for our local residents and the wider community. As part of this approach, we were successful in securing up to £4.55m for recruitment and skills development activity over the life of the project.

- The inaugural WMI Employment Funding Steering Group held on the 10 November. This steering group is a decision-making body who are responsible for directing the spending of the employment fund. A WMI Employment Partnership will also be established early in the new year, which will include local public, private and education sector representatives. This partnership will help shape delivery and it will report into the Employment Fund Steering Group.
- The claimant count in Staffordshire has remained virtually unchanged over the last month, with only a very small increase of 40 claimants between September and October 2022, with the total number of claimants in the county now standing at 14,365. This is similar to the national picture, with the claimant rates for Staffordshire and England remaining unchanged at 2.7% and 3.7% of the working age population, respectively.
- The youth claimant count in Staffordshire has seen an increase of 80 to a total of 2,635 young people. The number of claimants aged 18-24 has therefore increased but been partly offset by a fall in the number of claimants from other age groups. This is the same as what has happened across England as a whole. At the moment it is not entirely clear as to why this is the case, and we will be closely monitoring the situation, but it may be due to young people leaving formal education. The proportion of young people in Staffordshire aged 18-24 that are claiming work-related Universal Credit has increased this month from 3.9% to 4.1% compared to 2.7% for the working age population and 4.7% nationally.

*(Cabinet – 19 October and 16 November 2022)*

## **2. Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 2, 2022/23**

The Cabinet have noted that significant progress has been made across the organisation during Quarter 2; however inflationary pressures across the organisation continues to have an impact on delivery. In addition, workforce capacity and recruitment, and demand challenges remain, particularly within the Health and Care and Children and Families services. There also continues to be areas of financial risk in Adult Social Care and Children and Families.

The latest revenue forecast outturn shows a forecast overspend of £10.908m (1.9%), prior to additional funding for inflationary pressures being taken into account. Once this one-off funding is included and an allocation from the Inflation Reserve is assumed, the overspend reduces to £6.408m (1.1%). This is compared to an overspend of £3.643m reported at Quarter 1.

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

## **3. Nexxus Trading Services Limited – Annual Report 2021/22**



Cabinet have received the Nexxus Care (trading name of Nexxus Trading Services Limited) Annual Report 2021/22.

Nexxus Care was established as a Council owned Local Authority Trading Company to provide care for people when no other provider is available in the market. The company is also available to support the Council where it needs to respond rapidly to specific incidents such as failure of a care provider.

Nexxus Care has now been fully operational for over four years. Cabinet noted that Nexxus Care achieved good performance and continued to see growth during 2021/22. The company now has 340 staff and in 2021/22 had an annual turnover of £8.444m, £2.205m (35%) greater than the previous year. Key achievements during the year included:

- maintenance of care services during the Covid pandemic
- takeover and running of two residential care homes
- continued provision of a lateral flow device testing service; and
- digital transformation across the business.

The in-year trading profit of £18,791 has been transferred to company reserves.

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

#### **4. Final Recommendations for the Future Commissioning Arrangements for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire**

Cabinet have considered the outcome of the engagement undertaken with stakeholders for the future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire. The feedback received has been used to develop the final recommendations for future commissioning arrangements.

Cabinet noted that the benefits of the proposed future commissioning arrangements are:

- The Council will set clear expectations about Supported Living, the capacity required, and the services expected from care providers.
- The Council will be able to develop relationships with a smaller number of care providers over a long period, which will enable investment in staff expertise and environmental adaptations.
- Stronger working relationships with District and Borough Council housing departments.
- Flexible use of staff within and between schemes to support sustainability and productivity of services.

- Strengthened quality assurance and contract management and the ability for the Council to work with care providers to develop and enhance their skills and facilities.
- Better communication between care and support providers and families.
- Opportunities to allow individuals placed out of county to be repatriated to Staffordshire where their needs could be better met locally.
- Better market control to be able to balance needs and future demands against availability of services.

Cabinet have approved the future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire and, to enable the revised arrangements to be put in place, they have agreed an extension of the current Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for commissioning Supported Living until 30th June 2024.

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

## **5. High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding**

Staffordshire County Council is to receive a total of £13,287,793 High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) funding covering financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. The funding is to support local authorities to deliver new places and improve existing provision, within education settings, for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Cabinet have approved proposals to use the funding within Staffordshire Educational settings to:

- Increase access to mainstream placements for children and young people with high needs (who might otherwise require more specialist provision) with the development of resource bases; and
- Increase the local availability of high needs places to help reduce the requirement for out of area placements/placements at independent special schools.

They have also delegated authority to the Director for Children and Families to allocate the funding to the individual capital projects at educational settings.

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

## **6. Family Hubs in Staffordshire**

Cabinet have considered an overview of the national context for Family Hubs, an overview of some of the local context that has been explored and have endorsed an outline plan for the direction for Staffordshire.

Developing the Family Hub Networks in Staffordshire provides an opportunity to build on the Placed Based Approach that we have developed with partners over recent years. It is therefore proposed that 8 Family Hub Networks are developed aligned to the district and borough boundaries. These family hubs will facilitate district-based conversations with partners to establish the local network. The network of support will be flexible, adaptable and respond to changing needs and priorities within each district. Each local area will be supported by Family Improvement Boards who will oversee the operational delivery at a local level and agree local priorities and work programme delivered by the partnership.

This new way of working will ensure families have easy access to the services they need. It is crucial that we continue to work with children and young to ensure they feel safe within their home and the community and are able to get the right help at the right time.

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

## **7. Early Help Strategy 2022-2027**

The Cabinet have approved proposals to refresh of the Council's early Help Strategy which has been developed as a partnership to reflect our shared principles and commitment to Staffordshire children and families.

The strategy has been refreshed through our Early Help and Place-Based Approach Group, underpinning our joint commitment to delivering the Strategy. This Group are also developing the linked Delivery Plan to ensure that the Strategy is fully realised.

The strategy aligns with the national development of Early Help as recommended by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) through the Supporting Families Programme, (known locally as the Building Resilient Families and Communities programme).

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

## **8. Recommissioning Domestic Abuse Services**

The Council's existing Domestic Abuse Victim and Perpetrator Services contract will terminate at the end of September 2023. Cabinet have approved proposals for the joint commissioning, with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Commissioner Office, of Domestic Abuse

Victim and Perpetrator Services, funded for up to five years, with an initial three-year contract with the potential to extend for a further two years, providing continuity and sustainability for this much-needed and valuable service.

The funding from Staffordshire County Council for the recommissioned service is to be maintained at the current level of £670,450 per annum; this will be increased in line with the County Council's MTFS inflation assumptions and will therefore mean that £683,860 will be available for the start of the recommissioned Contract.

By pooling our resources with Stoke-on-Trent and the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office, we have been able to ensure services for victims and families are consistently available across the whole of Staffordshire.

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

## **9. Procurement of a Framework Agreement for the Supply and Installation of Windows and Doors**

The Cabinet have approved proposals for the procurement of a framework agreement for the Supply and Installation of Window and Doors. The Framework Agreement will be for a period of 4 years starting 15th May 2023 to 30 April 2026 with the option to extend by 1 x 12-month period.

The County Council owns a number of buildings throughout Staffordshire which require repair and renewal of windows and doors to be undertaken in order to maintain them to a safe and satisfactory standard, such as schools, corporate property, libraries etc. The Framework Agreement is being procured to provide an agreed schedule of rates for PVC-U Windows, Aluminium Doors and Ancillary Work – Non-Domestic. The Framework Agreement can also be accessed by public sector partners including schools.

*(Cabinet – 19 October 2022)*

## **10. Climate Change Action Plan and Climate Change Annual Report**

The Cabinet have received the Council's Climate Change 2022 Annual Report, which records the positive progress that has been made on the Council's target to become net carbon zero by 2050. It was noted that there had been a reduction of some 15% in carbon emissions from 2019/20 to 2020/21. This reduction was a combination of the change in methods of calculating some of the Council's emissions, the reduction in DEFRA conversion factors along with operational savings. It also noted that this significant reduction in annual emissions was unlikely to be replicated going forward and future reporting was likely to show slower progress due to the nature of the challenge before the authority.

The Cabinet also approved the Climate Change Action Plan revision 2, November 2022, which details a list of actions which will assist the Council in reaching its ambition to become net carbon zero by 2050. The plan contains activities which will be relevant until 2025 although it is proposed to review annually to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

*(Cabinet – 16 November 2022)*

## **11. Half Yearly Treasury Management Report for the Period Ended 30 September 2022**

The Cabinet have received a summary of the County Council's borrowing and investment activities during the first six months of the year. They noted that the County Council maintained a cautious approach to investments; and that the policy of using cash instead of borrowing continued to generate savings, helping reduce the average interest the County Council pays on its debt. Overall, the report demonstrated that the County investment activities were being undertaken prudently and in line with agreed strategies in a very challenging environment.

*(Cabinet – 16 November 2022)*

## **12. Here to Help**

At the county council, we are acutely aware of the pressures many Staffordshire families and businesses are facing due to the rise in the cost of living.

Together with partners and local communities, we are keen to do everything we can to signpost people to the support which is available as part of our Here to Help Campaign.

Through the Household Support Fund, we have provided practical support like supermarket vouchers to eligible pensioners and even slow cookers to families most in need in parts of Newcastle. Our libraries too are offering a warm welcome and a warm drink over the winter months.

And, as ever, it is our amazing communities, voluntary groups and faith groups who are stepping up once again. Low-cost food stores, Christmas toy collections or just a chat over a cuppa. There are still some difficult months ahead, but it is the fantastic Staffordshire spirit which is helping make all the difference.

## **13. Warmer Homes**

Another amazing Staffordshire initiative is the Warmer Homes scheme. Since 2019, we have installed more than 450 new heating solutions in over 400 eligible homes.

Improving energy efficiency has helped Staffordshire residents save over £650k in home heating bills, which will be even more vital this winter.

Over the next three years, we have a further £5.9m to install green home measures in people's homes, including solar panels, air source heat pumps, underfloor heating, loft insulation and external wall insulation.

The scheme is targeted at low-income households and those suffering fuel poverty. The good news is that people can still apply. So, if you know any families who may benefit then encourage them to find out more at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/warmerhomes](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/warmerhomes)

#### **14. All Businesses Great and Small**

Growing the economy and helping businesses flourish, attracting new investment and promoting our tourism offer are key priorities for this county council.

This can vary from championing major infrastructure projects to supporting global names to giving fledgling businesses a helping hand to grow.

It was great therefore to see new life breathed into the Shire Hall just around the corner from this chamber.

The Shire Hall Business Centre is now open for business and last month an open day gave businesses the chance to find out more about what is on offer.

It really is great to see the Shire Hall open once again and playing a key role in helping more small businesses to thrive and grow.

#### **14. HAF**

The Holiday Activities and Food programme has not only proved a lifeline for many Staffordshire families but has also given children the opportunity to enjoy activities and experiences which otherwise may simply have been out of reach.

Since the scheme launched in summer 2021, more than 117,000 free places have been made available, with a further 12,700 places being made available this Christmas.

Dodgeball, football, paintballing, go karting, swimming, cycling, puppetry and Christmas arts & crafts are just some of the activities on offer. Not to mention a hot meal where possible.

HAF activities for families on low incomes will start on Monday 19 December and run until December 30.

## **15. 2022**

As 2022 comes to close, we have faced challenges few of us would have predicted. However, the resourcefulness and resilience shown by this county council, our partners and our communities continued to shine through.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has stepped up to help this year. To our own staff, including those who will be working over Christmas, to our fantastic network of carers, our band of volunteers and to you as council members for your hard work on behalf of this council and the communities we all serve.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. I look forward to 2023 where we can continue to build on Staffordshire's success story and deliver on our ambitions for this county and the people who live and work here.





**Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel**

Report of the Chairman of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel

To Staffordshire County Council

In accordance with agreed practice, I am reporting on matters dealt with by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel at its meeting on 24 October 2022.

The main items considered were:

**Questions to the PFCC from Members of the Public**

**Question 1**

**In total how many Police Fire and Crime Panel (PFCP) and Ethical Transparency and Audit Panel (ETAP) meetings have there been?**

Over the last 4 years (since 2019)

PFCP response: 23 Panel meetings.

ETAP response: 22 ETAP meetings

**Question 2 Out of these meetings how many times has a member of the public turned up or put forward a question?**

Panel Response: the number of public attending Panel meetings to watch the proceedings is not recorded. The number of people asking questions at panel meetings is:

Year	Meetings	Questions	People attended the meeting to ask questions in person
2019	6	3	1
2020	3	0	0
2021	8	3	0
2022	6	5	3

ETAP response:

Year	Meetings (Cover both Police and Fire)	Questions	People attended the meeting to ask questions in person
2019	6	0	1
2020	5	0	0
2021	5	0	0
2022	6	0	0

**Decisions published by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)**

No decisions had been posted on the Commissioners website since the last meeting.

## **Medium Term Financial Strategy - update - Police**

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) update report for the Police services was presented by the Commissioner and his Director of Finance.

The report set out:

- The current position of the 2022/23 budget
- An update on future years MTFS assumptions
- Sensitivity analysis around key financial items
- An update on the capital programme.

It was reported that since setting the budget in January 2022, the financial assumptions had changed dramatically. It was felt that the current level of uncertainty in the economy with rising levels of inflation; pay award uncertainty; unpredictable investment returns; and pension increases, made budget predictions very challenging.

The table in the report at paragraph 1.9 showed the key movements in the MTFS position since January 2022. Despite in-year pressures, the current position for 2022/23 was a forecast underspend of £0.9m. However, there was a change in predicted funding gap from £2.1m to £6.3m in 2025/26.

As a result of the Commissioners presentation and questions from the Panel, the following information was shared with the Panel. This was in addition to that provided in the written report:

- Since the MTFS was set, the HMICFRS inspection report had resulted in the need to invest in the policing model. Examples of investment were given as included technology improvements, vehicles etc. The Panel would receive a full update on these investments and their impact, at the February 2023 panel meeting.
- For planning purposes, the increase in precept had been planned at 2.99% for the years 2023/24 onwards. It was noted that currently, the government's spending review had awarded the flexibility on the precept of £10 per annum, which would be an increase of approximately 4.09% for Staffordshire.
- Following a question on how the expected gap in funding would be covered, the Commissioner explained that if the funding didn't come from government, an increase in precept may have to be considered and/or efficiencies would be explored, particularly through the use of technology. The use of reserves could be considered if necessary.
- Projections of inflation rates in future years was more challenging than in previous years. Assumptions had been estimated for future years, but this may need readjusting.
- Savings and income generating could be gained through: additional grants; Regional organised crime unit; secondments etc. The panel

was informed that other forces were having conversations with partners such as the NHS to be compensated for work undertaken, which it was felt should be covered by other teams, for example mental health. However, similar financial pressures were faced by all the partners.

- The prudent approach and the estimated saving of £0.9m in this financial year was acknowledged.

The Panel noted the report.

### **Medium Term Financial Strategy - update - Fire and Rescue Service**

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy update report for the Fire and Rescue services was presented by the Commissioner and his Director of Finance.

The report set out:

- The current position of the 2022/23 budget
- An update on future years MTFS assumptions
- Sensitivity analysis around key financial items
- Transformation update
- An update on the capital programme.

Similar financial assumptions had been made to that in the earlier Police MTFS report.

There was extra uncertainty with the pay negotiations for the Fire service which was currently estimated at 5%, as opposed to the anticipated 2%.

It was acknowledged that currently the increased service costs had been offset by cost savings. This was despite the unitary charge for some of the transformational programme PFI fire stations being variable and was now 8.3% which was a significant increase. This was expected to increase in future years.

It was noted that fuel costs were estimated at a 5% increase for fire and rescue, whilst for Police this was set at 2%. It was explained that officers' predictions were different but fuel contracts were procured in the same way for both police and fire and rescue services.

The Panel noted the report.

### **Fire and Rescue - Annual Assurance Statement 2021/22**

The Panel considered the draft Fire and Rescue Statement of Assurance for 2021/22. It was reported that the statement would be considered at the Commissioners next ETAP (fire) meeting with the final version being sent to the Panel for information.

The Panel noted the report

### **Questions to the PFCC by Panel Members**

The Panel asked questions and received the following responses:

a, when would the Travellers strategy be ready and distributed to Local Authorities/partners?

*In response, the Panel was informed that the Policy was being reviewed and considered by the Community Safety Forum. It would then be distributed to all partners so that a consistent approach could be used throughout Staffordshire.*

b, was the new policing operating model having an impact on public reassurance?

*In response, all officer ranks were out meeting residents and informing of issues in the local areas. The Commissioner expected the new approach, to have a positive impact.*

c, how would the monitoring of Police performance, particularly relating to the HMICFRS inspection report and the impact on residents be communicated?

*The performance meetings with the Chief Constable would continue and the Panel would receive regular updates on the Commissioners strategic plan and how the force was meeting his strategic priorities. Communication with both partners and the public was important to highlight improvement.*

Webcast can be found at [Browse meetings - Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel - Staffordshire County Council](#)

For more information on these meetings or on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in general please contact Mandy Pattinson  
e mail [mandy.pattinson@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.pattinson@staffordshire.gov.uk)

*Details of Panel meetings are issued to contact officers in each of the District/Borough Councils in the County and Stoke-on-Trent City Council for posting on their own web sites.*

Councillor Richard Cox, Vice Chair (in the Chair)  
Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel