

Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 18 January 2023

Attendance

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

Apologies: Paul Northcott

PART ONE

87. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16

There were no Declarations of Interest on this occasion.

88. Decision notice of the meeting held on 14 December 2022

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 be approved.

89. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the Staffordshire residents who were recognised in the King's New Year's Honours list; the importance of getting vaccinated against Covid and Flu, if eligible, to protect yourself and ease demand on the NHS; the support available for those hit hard by the cost of living, including through the Council's Here to Help campaign; the commencement of resurfacing works on the A34 near Stone, and the ongoing work to repair potholes; investment in the Staffordshire economy including the £3.5m investment at Chatterley Valley West in Newcastle; the official opening of Fradley Primary School in Lichfield; and the news that the Council's Chief Executive, John Henderson, will be stepping down later this year; be noted.

90. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee:

Decision – That the minutes of the meetings of the Property Sub-Committee held on 7 December 2022 and 4 January 2023 be received.

91. Staffordshire Means Back to Business - Oral Update

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 Council’s commitment to support Staffordshire’s local business community and to continue to make representations through our MPs to encourage government to seek a fair and growth-based approach to business rates to support jobs and investment.
- The claimant count, which saw a further increase of 335 claimants over the last month, with the total number of claimants in the county now standing at 14,640. The main contribution to the overall increase in claimants this month came from those aged 25-49 years of age with this group seeing an increase of 225 claimants.
- How the Council was continuing to play a key role in the delivery of local plans across Staffordshire. These plans were vital in supporting sustainable economic growth in Staffordshire, not least through allocating land that will ultimately lead to the creation of new homes and jobs.
- The economic growth programme through which the Council, working with partners, continued to support and directly deliver sites such as the Chatterley Valley enterprise zone, Redhill and i54.
- The Council’s intention to contribute to a piece of work to further consider the need and potential location for large scale strategic employment sites across the West Midlands region.
- Innovation activity within the county had increased substantially in recent years and particularly within our universities. Work was already ongoing on a number of further innovation projects within the county, including as part of the Hydrogen Technologies Valley proposal. Working with our district and borough partners through the Leaders Board, the Council was also beginning to consider further projects that could drive innovation activity across the county.

92. Health and Care Winter Update

	<p>“The NHS has been under extraordinary pressure this winter due to people unwell with respiratory virus infections and staffing issues.</p> <p>The Council has worked hard to ensure that the number of people in hospital waiting for social care remains low.</p> <p>We will continue to work with the NHS to facilitate timely hospital discharges and to support those residents who need adult social care.”</p> <p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To receive an update on pressures facing the NHS this winter and the additional and ongoing services commissioned by the Council to facilitate timely hospital discharges and support those residents who need adult social care.

Decision – (a) That the pressures facing the NHS this winter be noted.

(b) That the additional services commissioned by the Council to facilitate timely hospital discharges and support those residents who need social care be noted.

93. Future Social Care Workforce Strategy

	<p>“People working across Staffordshire in both children and adults social care, do an amazing job protecting and supporting the most vulnerable people in the county and we are committed to working hard not only to attract the best staff, but to keep the best staff.</p> <p>We recognise that nationally we have seen unprecedented challenges in recruitment and our mission is to develop a more resilient care sector that enables more effective recruitment and retention of care staff.</p> <p>In developing this new strategy, we have worked together with partners including the NHS and the independent sector and staff themselves, to look at</p>
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	<p>what matters most to them and how all employers can do their very best to recruit, retain and develop their own workforce.</p> <p>This includes encouraging more training and career progression opportunities as well as offering work placements and apprenticeships to attract more people starting out on their work life into the profession.”</p> <p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To receive an update on the development of the partnership Staffordshire Social Care Workforce Strategy, timescales for publication and the approach being taken to implement the key activities to achieve the outcomes.

Decision – (a) That the Staffordshire Social Care Workforce Strategy be endorsed.

(b) That the timescales for publication and launch, and arrangements for implementation, be noted.

94. Staffordshire County Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy

	<p>“The UK is already embarking on the transition towards electric vehicle use which is good news in terms of our combined efforts to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.</p> <p>As national legislation draws nearer it’s important that we take steps to enable the right infrastructure is in place across the county. We have an important role to play, working with our district and borough colleagues, to determine what this will look like based on the evidence gathered.</p> <p>David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p> <p>“Our strategy helps us to identify where the most appropriate places for charging points could be and how we will work with the private sector to facilitate successful delivery. We can work with businesses to encourage workplace charging and</p>
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	<p>residents to support off-street charging, in addition to people and organisations making planning applications.</p> <p>We understand that electricity may not be the only type of alternative power for vehicles in future years, but this strategy needs to focus on national policy. We anticipate funding will shortly become available from the Government to support our work to put the strategy in place.”</p> <p>Simon Tagg, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To seek approval for the adoption of a Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy developed by Staffordshire County Council working with the Staffordshire District and Borough Councils.

Decision – (a) That the adoption of a Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) be approved subject to the amendments proposed by the Leader of the Council as to: (i) the deletion of the words “from the Council” in the second line of the second paragraph on page 60 of the Strategy; and (ii) to replace the words “A socially equitable public” with the words “An accessible” in the first line of the fourth paragraph on page 60 of the Strategy.

(b) That it be noted that additional guidance on EV strategies may be issued by the DfT in connection with Local Transport Plans and that it be agreed that any minor required text changes to the Strategy be delegated to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure & Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change to implement.

95. Staffordshire Sustainability Board Communications Plan 2023

	<p>“We are on a mission to make Staffordshire sustainable. Engaging with our people about climate change is key to reducing the county’s carbon emissions and reaching our net zero target.</p> <p>As a local authority we are only responsible for a small proportion of carbon emissions in the county, but our position allows us to set an example, raise awareness and inspire people to make more sustainable choices.</p>
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	<p>This joint communications plan will help us to share clear, consistent messages with our residents, businesses and communities about the climate change challenge and how they can make an impact.</p> <p>We achieve much more by working together. Working closely with our local authority colleagues and collaboratively with our residents, communities, and businesses, we can really make a big difference.”</p> <p>Simon Tagg, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the joint Staffordshire Sustainability Board Communications Plan 2023 which has been developed with the Staffordshire Sustainability Board in conjunction with all district and borough councils to help residents to reduce their carbon emissions.

Decision – (a) That the progress of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board in developing a unified 2023 programme of activity across the county and eight district and borough councils, to tackle climate change and work towards our net zero targets, be noted.

(b) That the Staffordshire Sustainability Board joint communications plan (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), which sets out our 12-month programme of climate change awareness-raising and behaviour change activity, be approved.

96. 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 Communities and Culture	In approving the transfer of an item (Petrol Locomotive 0-6-0, No.800) from the Staffordshire County Museum collection.
Cabinet Member for Health and Care	In approving the expenditure of the County Council’s allocation of the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant.

97. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 15 February to 21 June 2023, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Diversity and Inclusion – Progress Update	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112
Empowering our Communities	Name: Catherine Mann Tel: (01785) 278320
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 3, 2022/23	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112
Our People Strategy 2023 and Beyond	Name: Sarah Getley Tel: (01785) 854265
Capital Programme for Schools 2023/ 2024	Name: Ian Tuner Tel: (01785) 277228
Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2023/24	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Staffordshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Mental Health and Mental Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Joint Coroners Service - Legal Framework and Financial Protocol	Name: Catherine Mann Tel: (01785) 278320

98. Exclusion of the Public

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

PART TWO

99. Sale of Surplus Property at Scotch Orchard Lichfield (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To agree the sale of surplus land and property at Scotch Orchard, Lichfield following an informal tender process.

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

100. Decision Making for Looked After Children/Use of Unregulated Placements – Update
(Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To provide Cabinet with an update in relation to the use of unregulated placements in extenuating circumstances.

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

Alan White
Leader of the Council