

## **Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Wednesday 19 October 2022

**14:00**

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

The meeting will be webcast live and can be viewed here at any time during the next twelve months:

<https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell  
Director of Corporate Services  
11 October 2022

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### **A G E N D A**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 29 September 2022** (Pages 1 - 6)
4. **Economic Strategy Delivery update** (Pages 7 - 22)  
Report of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills
5. **Delivering a Future Vision for the Countryside Estate** (Pages 23 - 54)  
Report of Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture
6. **Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service 2022-25** (Pages 55 - 76)  
Report of Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture
7. **Work Programme** (Pages 77 - 92)
8. **Date of next meeting - Thursday 10 November 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford**
9. **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 Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

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## **Part Two**

(All reports in this section are exempt)

Nil

### **Membership**

Tina Clements (Chair)	Peter Kruskonjic (Vice-Chair (Overview))
Mike Deakin	Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
Philippa Haden	Jessica Shulman
Philip Hudson	David Smith
Syed Hussain	Ross Ward (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Graham Hutton	Bernard Williams

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

### **Filming of Meetings**

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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 Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2022**

Present: Tina Clements (Chair)

**Attendance**

Philippa Haden	Jessica Shulman
Syed Hussain	David Smith
Graham Hutton	Ross Ward (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Peter Kruskonjic (Vice-Chair (Overview))	Bernard Williams
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf	

**Apologies:** Philip Hudson and Ian Lawson

**PART ONE**

**18. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

**19. Minutes of meeting held on 7 July 2022**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**20. Variation of Order of Business**

**RESOLVED** – That the order of business be varied and Item No. 6 on the Agenda, "Petition - Management of HGV's on Cemetery Road, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme", be now taken.

**21. Petition - Management of HGV's on Cemetery Road, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme**

County Councillor David Smith declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting room during its consideration owing to his membership of Planning Committee who would be considering an associated Planning Application in due course.

In accordance with:- (i) the provisions of Section 4 of the County Council's Constitution relating to petitions containing between 2,500 and 5000 signatures and; (ii) Guidance for Consideration of Petitions by

Staffordshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Committee were addressed by Mr. S. Burgess, the organiser of the petition, "Petition to Staffordshire County Council: Management of HGVs on Cemetery Road, Silverdale which had been presented to County Council at their meeting on 21 July 2022.

In addition, the 'local' Member for the area, County Councillor Simon Tagg spoke to the petition.

The Chairman informed the Committee that a Planning Application had been made by Walleys Quarry Limited 'to allow waste carrying vehicles to park on the internal haul road between 06:00 and 07:00 Monday to Friday (excluding Bank and Public Holidays)' on 26 July 2022, aimed specifically at addressing residents' concerns. This Application was likely to be determined by Planning Committee at their meeting on 2 December 2022 (at the earliest) and therefore, following advice from the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services, the matter should not be debated.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the petition be noted;

(b) That the petition organiser be thanked for his attendance at the meeting;

(c) That no further action be taken by the Committee pending determination of the above-mentioned Planning Application No. SCC/22/0078/FULL-MAJ by the County Planning Committee.

## **22. Schools White Paper**

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) regarding the Schools White Paper, "Opportunity for All: Strong Schools with Great Teachers for your Child", which had been published in March 2022 (schedule 1 to the signed minutes).

The White Paper set out the Government's ambition for a school system that helped every child in England to fulfil their potential by ensuring: - (i) "an excellent teacher for every child; (ii) high standards of curriculum, behaviour and attendance; (iii) targeted support for every child who needed it and; (iv) a stronger and fairer school system". A Schools Bill followed in May 2022 in order to provide the legislation necessary to enact the reforms.

The Committee heard of potential implications for the Local Education Authority arising from the proposed legislation which included: - (i) their retention of various statutory duties eg ensuring fair access to school places, provision of suitable home to school transport etc; (ii) a

requirement for Local Safeguarding Partnerships to commission safeguarding audits every three years; (iii) the establishment and maintenance of a Children not in School Register; (iv) provision of support to parents who chose to home educate their children; (v) changes to the School Attendance Order process requiring Orders to be issued within three days of the relevant event triggering the duty to issue and; (vi) a change in the non-statutory status of Government guidance entitled "Working Together to Improve School Attendance", to make it statutory.

During his presentation of the report the Cabinet Member highlighted that progress of the Schools Bill through Parliament was currently on-hold pending a review of current reforms by the new Secretary of State for Education.

In the full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued Members gave detailed scrutiny to the contents of the White Paper asking questions, seeking clarification and raising areas of concern to help inform the County Council's response, as necessary, including:- the need for any new legislation to reflect the importance of parental responsibility in raising children; (ii) the importance of ensuring all children were able to attain their full potential including those pupils with high ability; (iii) the future role and relevance of the Office for Standards in Education; (iv) the advantages and disadvantages of elective home education for children and how parents could better be supported by the Local Education Authority in the future; (v) how the specific needs of children with behavioural problems were to be addressed by future legislation and; (vi) how changes in the length of the school week helped to support the Government's ambitions for children.

In conclusion, the Committee were generally supportive of the findings of the White Paper and proposed legislation. They welcomed efforts to ensure every child reached their full potential. However, they were mindful of the extra responsibilities which were likely to be placed on Local Authorities and the corresponding resource implications for the County Council.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That the Cabinet Member be urged to have regard to their comments in his on-going correspondence with Government in implementing their new ambitions for the school system in England.

### **23. SEND High Needs Capital Funding 2022-24**

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) regarding High Needs Provision Capital Allocations funding

(HNPCA) for financial years 2022/23 and 2023-24 (schedule 2 to the signed minutes).

The County Council had been awarded a total of £13,287,793 HNPCA funding by Central Government for the period 2022 to 2024 to support the Authority in their delivery of new places and improve existing provision, within education settings, for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Specifically, the allocation would be used to improve access for children with SEND to mainstream placements and specialist provision in the county increasing the number of children with SEND able to access their local mainstream setting within their community and reduce the numbers of children and young people with SEND accessing independent placements and educational placements out of County.

In addition, the funding supported Staffordshire's SEND Strategy and the achievement of the Accelerated Progress Plan developed in response to the Local Area SEND revisit inspection which had been undertaken in January 2022. As part of the work on the Accelerated Progress Plan and Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Management Plan, a County-wide Review of Specialist Provision was being undertaken, to produce a model of graduated specialist provision that ensured equality of access to education which met individual needs of children within their local community.

During the discussion which ensued Members welcomed news of the HNPCA settlement, its implications for the Authority's SEND Strategy and looked forward to real improvements in the education of children with SEND which the additional funding would enable them to achieve.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That the utilisation of funding within Staffordshire's educational settings to support the delivery of new places and improve existing provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), in line with the SEND Strategy, be supported.

## **24. Work Programme**

**RESOLVED** – That, subject to the addition of "Tree Planting Net Zero by Nature" to list of items to be considered at their 10 November 2022 meeting, the updated Work Programme (schedule 3 to the signed minutes) be approved.

## **25. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 2.00 pm, County Buildings, Stafford**

**RESOLVED** – That the date, time and venue of the next meeting be noted.

**Chairman**



<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday 19 October 2022**

### **Staffordshire County Council's Economic Strategy – Delivery Update**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Considers the update on progress made in the delivery of the County Councils Economic Strategy since its consideration by the Committee in March 2022.
- b. Considers the interventions already made by the County Council and partner organisations and recommends further interventions to be considered by Cabinet that the Committee believes would help to enable the successful delivery of the Economic Strategy.
- c. Invites the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills to bring an update on delivery of the Strategy to this Committee for scrutiny every six months.

#### **Report of Cllr Philip White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills**

#### **Summary**

##### **What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment upon progress made in the delivery of the Economic Strategy, and supporting strategies and delivery plans, since it was considered by the Committee earlier in the year.

2. The successful delivery of the Economic Strategy in achieving its vision and aims remains dependent on many factors, not least the identification and delivery of appropriate projects and programmes. Following the successful delivery of our Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation Strategy in responding to and recovering from the global pandemic, work has continued to deliver our longer-term ambitions for the local economy, including those projects and programmes outlined within this report.
3. Monitoring the County Council's performance in delivering the Economic Strategy will be vital to ensuring we ultimately achieve our ambitions. The Committee has an important role in scrutinising our performance over the duration of the strategy, up to 2030.

## **Report**

### **Background**

4. The Committee considered and input into the County Council's new Economic Strategy in March 2022, following which we undertook a 4-week public consultation exercise alongside our Rural Economic Strategy to allow our residents, businesses, and stakeholders to help shape our future priorities and programmes.
5. Feedback received from the consultations, through both online forms and directly from communications received from and meetings held with stakeholders, was overall supportive of the priorities set out within both strategies. The ambitions that most people and organisations believed it would be most important to achieve in the Economic and Rural Economic Strategies respectively are to work with our partners to regenerate our town centres, and to improve rural digital connectivity.
6. Following the delivery of our Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation Strategy, we have of course continued to work to deliver our ambitions for the local economy as is detailed within this report. The current economic climate, detailed further within the next section, will clearly present challenges to the local, national, and regional economies in the short-term, with the Bank of England now predicting that we will enter recession this year.
7. Whilst this should not be underestimated and we will continue to ensure that we support our local businesses and residents where we can, our longer-term focus remains on those priorities set out within the Economic Strategy. Interventions put in place by the County Council, and local and national stakeholders, to support the economy through the forthcoming economic downturn should therefore be viewed as relatively short-term

measures to enable us to continue to work towards the delivery of our Economic Strategy and our vision for the local economy up to 2030. Any such interventions will be set out within the Economic Strategy Delivery Plan (appendix), a live document that aligns to our Corporate Delivery Plan, will be regularly reviewed, and reported to the Committee through these ongoing updates.

### **Summary economic headlines**

8. Global events continue to impact on the economy, primarily the war in Ukraine and the related increases in fuel and energy prices. To try and keep inflation under control, the Bank of England has increased interest rates for the first time in many years with such increases set to continue and increasing the cost of borrowing and servicing debt. These global issues will impact the Staffordshire economy for some time, with it now being widely expected that the UK economy will enter recession this year and remain in contraction for some time.
9. Clearly the impacts of these issues within Staffordshire are impossible to predict and will depend on many factors including any local and national support measures that are put in place. Indeed, the vast support to limit the impact of energy price rises is expected to somewhat limit inflation, although this will still be at a level significantly higher than would have been expected not so long ago.
10. These issues have the potential to impact our ability to deliver some of our Economic Strategy priorities in the short-term, although some of the priorities will come even more strongly into focus. A period of recession will reduce spending and therefore may have further impacts on at least some of our town centres. Whilst this is undoubtedly a challenge, it emphasises the continued need to support the regeneration of the towns.
11. Although vacancy rates in Staffordshire remain very high and unemployment low versus regional and national averages, we may see increases in unemployment in some areas and therefore support for people to secure employment, upskill or start their own business will be more important than ever. Securing investment within the county will of course be vital to creating those conditions to support new businesses and jobs, whilst continual focus on those nationally significant transformational projects, including the A50, A500 and A38 corridors, will be needed to create the dynamic, innovative, high-value local economy that we are striving to achieve. The clean energy opportunities along the A50 / A500 corridor, as an example, have the potential to play a huge role in the UK's future energy supply and security and the ambition to be a net exporter of energy by 2040.

12. Net zero will need to remain at the forefront of our minds. Businesses will be considering how they can limit the impact of energy price rises and therefore our highly successful Staffordshire Business Environment Network (sben) will be more relevant than it ever has been in its 30-year history. Through sben we will of course continue to help businesses on their journey towards net zero.

## **Summary of Recent Activity**

### **Priority: Town Centre / High Street Regeneration**

**Ambition: By 2030, we will tackle the challenges faced by many of our town centres and strive to create places that we can be proud of.**

13. Significant activity continues to be progressed on the regeneration of town and local centres across the county. This primarily relates to the delivery of Government programmes including Future High Streets Fund, Town Deals, and more recently the successful Levelling Up Fund bid in Cannock. Much of this funding is being directed through our District / Borough Council partners, but the County Council has a significant role to play, and we are fully engaged with and supporting the development of business cases and delivery of multiple projects across Staffordshire.
14. Recently we have been engaged with partners on the development of bids for round two of the Levelling Up Fund, with bids submitted at the beginning of August for projects in East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands and Tamworth. The County Council has also submitted its own bid focused on the development of the county's Major Road Network and improving connectivity between and to Burton, Cannock, and Stafford. Successful bids are expected to be announced in the Autumn, with any successful bids having the potential to generate significant further activity.
15. During summer 2022 we have been progressing work related to the appointment of a Development Partner for the Eastgate Regeneration programme in Stafford town centre. Following the appointment of external legal and commercial advisors, we will be preparing procurement documentation during Autumn 2022 with the intention of approaching the developer market in early 2023 and appointment of a Development Partner in late spring/early summer 2023. Alongside, and complementing other key regeneration initiatives in Stafford town centre (Staffordshire History Centre, Stafford Gateway, and the Future High Streets Fund programme), the Eastgate programme can transform a series of underused / vacant buildings and premises at a key location

bridging the traditional town centre and the Riverside shopping development.

### **Higher skilled, higher paid workforce**

**Ambition: By 2030, we will address the low levels of skills across some parts of the county and support more of our residents to gain the high-level skills needed to take advantage of many better paid job opportunities.**

16. We have recently launched our Staffordshire Jobs and Careers jobs brokerage service, the objective of which is to support Staffordshire residents into work through the management and delivery of free recruitment and support services to businesses; achieved through a bespoke tailored service to match and screen potential candidates. A digital 'Staffordshire Jobs & Careers' platform has been developed and forms part of the service to provide a quick and easy way to find employment and/or training opportunities.
17. We also continue to deliver our Apprenticeship 500 programme which was developed with our partners in response to the fall in apprenticeship numbers due to the pandemic, an issue seen across the country. As a direct result of the County Council's actions, with the support of partners, to date 205 businesses have taken on over 400 Apprentices through with support of the programme.
18. Ignite is our countywide initiative designed to encourage young people in their final year at college, to understand the basics of entrepreneurialism and enterprise. Ignite aims to invest in the innovation, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit that the next generation have, to enhance their ability to help themselves through giving them the know-how they need to have more options and lead the world of work. To date over 12,000 college students across Staffordshire have received focused training to set up their own business through the Ignite programme.
19. We also continue to support our skills providers in the development of their facilities, and there are more than 20 skills related capital projects currently in the pipeline across Staffordshire. This includes the delivery of the new £13m Institute of Technology, led by Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group, which will widen the participation in those science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects that will play an important role in our wider ambitions for the local economy, particularly enabling our residents to take advantage of higher paid job opportunities.

20. A great deal of skills related activity also continues to be progressed aligned to local capital projects. Many of the regeneration projects being progressed across the county, such as the town centre programmes and large-scale site developments including West Midlands Interchange, include an element of funding for skills programmes secured from the development to upskill and increase local employment opportunities, enabling residents to benefit from investment in their communities.
21. The County Council has responsibility for the delivery of Multiply, a £4.2 million programme to support people in developing their numeracy skills, regardless of age or profession. Residents will be able to be able to learn through online and locally delivered courses, with the programmes due to be launched in the Autumn. We will continue to monitor and report on progress of delivery of the programme and will update the Committee through these updates.
22. We also continue to deliver adult learning programmes via the Community Learning Framework (2019–23), providing informal and formal learning opportunities for adults and their families to support them to gain the skills they need to progress into volunteering, employment, and further learning. The provision engages approximately 3,000 learners annually.

### **Supporting start-up and step-up businesses**

**Ambition: By 2030, we will create the conditions to allow more people to start and grow their business within Staffordshire, thereby addressing our relatively low levels of business start-ups across large parts of the county.**

23. The County Council has recently commissioned independent research as to how we may best support start-up and step-up (trading for 2 to 5 years) businesses within the county. We have continued to successfully work with pre-starts and start-ups, including through our Get Started and Start-Up Loan schemes. Get Started has a target of supporting 120 new businesses to start within the county by March 2023, whilst the loan scheme is a £100,000 revolving pot that will continue to be reinvested to help more people start their own businesses. However, support for step-ups has been identified as a gap. We are currently considering our response and will be developing a new Start-Up and Step-Up Delivery Plan that will set out how we will support these businesses moving forwards.
24. The County Council continues to invest in high-quality business premises to support businesses to start, grow and invest within the county. We have recently opened our new business centre in the Shire

Hall, a landmark building in the centre of Stafford that has been refurbished into managed workspace with easy tenancy arrangements, including virtual, designed to be flexible and to specifically meet the needs of small and start-up businesses. This project was delivered through strong partnership working, including funding secured through the Local Enterprise Partnership. There are already several companies interested in taking office space within the development and getting more businesses back into our town centres will be critical to their regeneration.

25. Through investment of circa £1,140,000 from the Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Deal and County Council borrowing of up to £440,000, we will also be delivering an extension to our Enterprise Centre in Knutton. The proposed extension will create 4,500 square feet of new workshop space, and the borrowing costs will be repaid from the increased rental income generated on site. The scheme will create some much-needed light industrial units in the area and assists with larger plans to regenerate the high street.

### **Developing Investment Ready Projects**

**Ambition: By 2030, we will play our part in supporting the substantial planned growth within the county through the development of investment ready projects and securing funding for our infrastructure and services.**

26. Substantial levels of growth continue to be planned for and delivered throughout the county with several of our District / Borough partners currently in the process of refreshing their Local Plans, whilst many large-scale schemes are also in development. We continue to work proactively with our partners in support of the planned growth of the county and ensuring continued investment in our infrastructure, including our transport system and schools.

27. Through our Economic Growth Programme, we continue to develop and create the conditions for economic growth across Staffordshire, with more than 11,000 jobs and 4,500 houses enabled since 2014. Further employment outcomes will be generated in due course from the Chatterley Valley west development, for which plot and site earthworks development commence in Autumn 2022 and is expected to realise some 1,500 jobs from 2024 and beyond. The County Council is investing £3.5m in the site to unlock its potential, using retained business rates receipts from the site's Enterprise Zone status to repay the investment.

28. As the Superfast Staffordshire programme (delivered 30-80Mbs connectivity to 96.5% of Staffordshire) closes, the Council is now

embarking upon the ambition to deliver Gigabit connectivity (1,000Mbps) to 100% of the County by 2030. Alongside our continued support for the rollout of broadband infrastructure across the county, our intention is also to fund digital connectivity programmes that promote improved digital connectivity and demonstrate new connectivity technologies and their advantages. These programmes will include mobile (4G/5G), Community Wi-Fi and fixed wireless solutions as well as assisting other Council digital programmes where connectivity might present a problem. Funding for these programmes will be delivered from the forecast gainshare expected from the successful Superfast Staffordshire programme.

## **Strategic Corridors**

**Ambition: By 2030, we will ensure we do not miss the substantial opportunities afforded by our location in the centre of the country by developing our key strategic A50 / A500 and A38 corridors, including securing increased investment in innovation activities.**

29. The strategic corridors that exist across the county present some of our greatest opportunities to support the creation of more highly paid, innovative, high-tech jobs within the county. Internationally renowned companies that are connected across these corridors, within Staffordshire and beyond, are involved in the development of revolutionary technologies that will be vital to the future local, national, and international economies, with the development of hydrogen technologies by businesses and research institutions across the A50 / A500 corridor being one example.

30. To drive forward the A50 / A500 Strategic Corridor, the County Council has appointed Deloitte's to help interface with the primary manufacturers along the route. As the public sector we have had limited success in engaging with what could be described as global manufacturing brands (e.g., Toyota, Rolls Royce). Organisations such as Deloitte's already have that interface. Our intention, through their appointment, is to capitalise on that interface to develop an investable proposition, which is private sector led, and can be considered at a regional and national level for the benefit of businesses and people in Staffordshire. Deloitte's are now appointed, and we are expecting tangible output from them by the end of the current calendar year.

## **Supporting the Economy to Become Net Zero**

**Ambition: By 2030, we will put climate change at the heart of all that we do, including supporting businesses on their journey to Net Zero.**

31. The Staffordshire Sustainability Board has been formed as one of the actions in the County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2, where the overarching aim of the Board is to facilitate collaborative working to enable successful transition to a Net Zero County, as defined within Staffordshire County Council's climate emergency declaration. The Board was formed by the Staffordshire Leaders Board and is made up of elected members from all the local authorities within Staffordshire. It was agreed by the Board that all the councils should adopt a unified vision and that they should also commit to a fundamental pledge that identifies first, solid steps to set a strong foundation for continued positive climate action.
32. Alongside this, the Leaders Board has specifically identified Green Growth as a priority, with a particular focus on green skills. Over the coming years, carbon reduction targets are going to require a significant shift in many behaviours and practices, and this presents both opportunities and threats, not least to businesses. The need to retrofit existing buildings and meet new building regulations, as an example, is expected to generate vast numbers of employment opportunities and will require an appropriately skilled workforce. The County Council has already been working to address these issues, including through our support of the development of the local Skills Action Plan.
33. The Staffordshire Business Environment Network (sben) has this year celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continues to support businesses in adopting energy efficiency, thereby helping businesses to reduce their costs whilst also supporting the move towards Net Zero. Working with local partners and utilising funding secured through the Local Enterprise Partnership, the County Council has delivered the Low Carbon Business Evolution Programme, providing grants of up to £20,000 to eligible businesses to implement energy efficiency measures. This programme is due to end in March 2023, and we are currently considering a new Green Solutions scheme to replace it.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

34. The Strategy primarily relates to the 'support Staffordshire's economy to grow, generating more and better-paid jobs' Strategic Plan priority and all the associated priorities. However, there are aspects of the Strategy that cut-across all the Strategic Plan priorities with

increased prosperity in the County having the potential to have positive impacts on resident's health, safety, and happiness.

### **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

35. The draft of the Economic Strategy was considered by the Committee in March 2022. Prior to this, the Committee had considered the delivery of our previous Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation Strategy on at least a bi-annual basis.

### **Community Impact**

36. Following measures implemented in response to the pandemic, economic events continue to have the potential to affect some demographic groups and locations more than others, although this is a situation that evolves rapidly and with some uncertainty. However, a key aim of the delivery of the Strategy is to ensure all residents can gain high-value, better-paid employment. We continue to produce the Economic Bulletin monthly, providing a 'live' evidence base to monitor the state of the local economy and allowing the County Council to respond accordingly.

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Appendix – Economic Strategy Delivery Plan 2022/23

### **Contact Details**

**Assistant Director:** Anthony Hodge, Assistant Director for Business and Enterprise

**Report Author:** Matt Shufflebotham

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**Appendix - Economic Strategy Delivery Plan 2022/23**

Summary	What success will look like in 2022/23	How we will measure success? (KPI)	Cabinet Lead	SLT Lead	WLT Lead
<b>Town Centres</b> - We will work with our partners to level up our town centres through targeted interventions.					
To continue to work with the local planning authorities, to support masterplan-led regeneration schemes, in particular bidding and delivery of central government programmes that include future high street fund and town deals. Future opportunities may also come through UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and Levelling Up Funds, and preparing for HS2.	Eastgate Regeneration proposals - Procurement of preferred Development Manager / Development Partner by end of June 2023.  A further pipeline of opportunities will be established with our local planning authorities and other partners where relevant (e.g. strategic one public estate sites / premises).	Pipeline and / or annual business plan published  Successful development and delivery of projects  This is likely to gain increased momentum throughout the financial year, and Work Programme outputs / KPI's will be established as appropriate	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge
Hub Towns Programme	Project Teams with the relevant District/Borough Councils working on individual plans to assist the 5 identified Rural Hub Towns.	SWOT analysis will be shared and action plans developed. A specific business support programme for each of the 5 towns will be developed in partnership. Funding will be applied for when a suitable scheme is available.	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge
<b>Annual Capital Programme.</b> Carry out highway design that is: proportionate to the scheme size and complexity; complies with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015); and consults and engages with elected representatives and local communities in an appropriate and timely manner.	Delivery of the Divisional Highway Programme (DHP) to the satisfaction of Members and local communities.  Ensure that good quality, sustainable, highway infrastructure assets are constructed, that are durable and efficient to maintain and manage.  Continued development of the IT Projects Delivery Project Team (set up in November 2021), with a focus on KPI reporting and the creation of an improvement plan.  Monthly and quarterly updates on the progress and finances of the programme.  Setup an annual, internal audit of compliance with CDM 2015.  Ensuring that sufficient design staff are trained and employed to deliver a growing IT programme.	Percentage of IT programme schemes (including carry over schemes from previous financial years) at:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On hold</li> <li>• Design stage</li> <li>• Construction stage</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• On hold / cancelled</li> </ul> IT programme expenditure per quarter against forecast expenditure per quarter.  Percentage of DHP schemes (including carry over schemes):  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On hold</li> <li>• In progress</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Cancelled</li> </ul>	David Williams	Darryl Evers	James Bailey
<b>Higher Skilled, Higher Paid Workforce</b> - Enable young people and adults to get the training and skills so they can have a successful career and that employers have the right skills to help their business be competitive and Staffordshire's productivity grows.					
<b>Employee Skills Partnership.</b> Manage the delivery of the 3 £1.5m UK CRF projects in accordance with the requirements placed upon the Council as the Lead Authority.  Manage the delivery of 4 skills Equipment Fund projects funded by the LEP's Getting Building Fund.  Manage the delivery of the Ignite student business start-up project.	All 3 projects achieve their respective output, outcomes targets by June 2022.  The SEF 3 projects will enable the delivery of high quality and high level training programmes to support the growth in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire's priority economic sectors.  Staffordshire young people in FE 16-18 and school 6th Form with aspirations to start their own business will receive training and support through the Ignite business start-up programme.	No. of people supported - 424 No. of businesses supported - 222 No. of organisations supported - 18.  SEF 3 Apprenticeship - growth 178 Learners - growth 174  No. of students received Ignite lesson - 6000 No. of students registered on Ignite online learning platform - 450	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines

<p><b>Apprenticeship &amp; Technical Skills.</b> Procure apprenticeship provision that meets the skills development needs of the core business and schools - maximising the levy spend including Transfer of Funds. Manage the Apprenticeship 500 initiative, which is part of the - Staffordshire Means Back to Business. CRF and SCC funding.</p>	<p>The increase in levy spend and the reduction of expired levy will be maintained. More teams will use the apprenticeship route to fill vacancies and recruit new talent into the Council. All funds available via the Transfer of Levy will be shared with Staffordshire businesses that cannot access apprenticeship funding from elsewhere.</p> <p>The grant will support eligible and approved employers who will be use the grant to enable them to recruit new apprentices to support business recovery and growth.</p>	<p>Levy spend will increase by 4%. Apprentice recruitment will increase by 20%.</p> <p>500 apprenticeship starts.</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines
<p><b>Adult Learning &amp; Skills.</b> Through adult learning programmes we will provide courses that contribute to better health &amp; wellbeing, resilience, independence and social inclusion for all young people and adults. A range of formal and informal learning programmes providing support to people and their families to gain the skills they need to progress in the world of work and give children the best start in life.</p>	<p>Funding is targeted and maximised.</p> <p>Good levels of participation.</p> <p>Good quality teaching &amp; learning leads to good achievement with no achievement gaps in equality groups.</p> <p>Safeguarding is effective and high percentage of learners report feeling safe.</p> <p>High learner satisfaction levels.</p> <p>Learners move into positive destinations - further learning, volunteering, employment.</p>	<p><b>Achieves 97% of agreed funding profile</b></p> <p>25% males</p> <p>70% new learners</p> <p>Attendance 90%</p> <p>Achievement 94%</p> <p>Pass 98%,</p> <p>Retention 96%</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines
<p><b>Multiply.</b> The programme will provide a range of interventions and courses that support local residents to develop their numeracy skills.</p>	<p>Funding is targeted and maximised to extend the reach across Staffordshire. Good levels of participation across a range of identified targeted cohorts. Participants progress onto further learning, develop skills for everyday and where appropriate progress within their career.</p>	<p>Number of Numeracy courses</p> <p>Number of people participating</p> <p>Number of people achieving a qualification</p> <p>Number of courses developed in collaboration with employers</p> <p>Number of people referred from partners to upskill courses</p> <p>Number of different cohorts participating</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines
<p><b>Jobs Brokerage</b></p>	<p>To be completed</p>	<p>TBD</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines
<p><b>Start-ups / Scale-ups - Support more people to start and grow their business as a priority, ensuring that a variety of programmes are available to suit individuals with different needs. Support existing businesses to thrive and grow in Staffordshire.</b></p>					

<p><b>Business Start Ups &amp; Growth.</b> Work with partner organisations to create new programmes with a variety of options for all those wanting to start a business in the County. This will include looking at individuals from BAME / Unemployed Communities.</p>	<p>Achievement of the start-up programme targets</p> <p>Achievement of the Staffordshire Means Back To Business Programme Targets</p> <p>Establishment of new start up programmes which meet the needs of all people in Staffordshire</p> <p>Emphasis on continue to develop and deliver start-ups as part of year 3 delivery of the start-up programme</p> <p>Continue to support pre starts and start up individuals through the Staffordshire Means Back to Business Programme</p> <p>Development of a new support programme to support step-up businesses (trading 2 to 5 years), addressing a gap identified through commissioned research</p>	<p>By the end of the Three Year start up programme, target is 300 Individuals through the programme, and 200 new businesses set up.</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge
<p><b>Enterprise Centres.</b> Continue to offer good quality business units through the enterprise centre portfolio. Tenants to work with the team to understand how to manage business premises in preparation for their move to the private sector.</p>	<p>Develop new business premises across the county according to need, starting with the opening of the Shire Hall Business Centre.</p> <p>Develop business support programmes with partners such as the chamber of commerce, FSB, and Growth Hub that provide existing businesses with the opportunities to flourish. Partnership working will successfully result in new schemes for existing businesses.</p> <p>Achievement of the occupation targets of the enterprise centres, and a continuation of the work with property services to move tenants onto 5 year leases.</p> <p>The Shire Hall Business Centre Project will continue on track. The Business and Enterprise Team will continue to work across functions on new enterprise centre projects such as Rugeley Power Station.</p> <p>Delivery of the extension of our Enterprise Centre in Knutton, providing light industrial units and supporting the wider regeneration of the high street.</p>	<p>85% minimum occupation in all 7 existing enterprise centres.</p> <p>The successful opening of Shire Hall, and 50% occupancy by December 2022.</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge
<p><b>Staffordshire Means Back to Business.</b> Utilising community renewal funds, the team will continue to offer business support services to local companies and individuals who want to start a business. Working with the district and Borough Councils, the business and Enterprise team will continue to seek out new funding streams to continue this partnership working through the year.</p>	<p>Meeting objectives set out in the Staffordshire Means Back To Business CRF Programme.</p> <p>Sourcing continuation funding to enable the programme to continue throughout the financial year.</p>	<p>Total Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted</p> <p>Total number of people supported to participate in education and training</p> <p>Total number of businesses receiving grants</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge & Anthony Baines

<p><b>Economic Growth Programme</b> - continuing our successful Economic Growth Programme which continues to create the conditions for growth for new jobs and housing.</p>	<p>End Users Identified and on site at i54 Western Extension</p> <p>Chatterley Valley Development on site (earthworks and highways/access works)</p> <p>Branston Interchange improvements on site (subject to successful LUF2 bid)</p> <p>Stafford Gateway Strategic Regeneration Framework Adopted</p> <p>Ongoing infrastructure works secured via key section 278 works packages</p>	<p>Hectares of land serviced / enabled</p> <p>Sq Ft of employment generating development</p> <p>Jobs created and safeguarded</p> <p>New homes enabled</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge
<p><b>Developing Investment Ready Projects</b> - <i>Develop investment-ready projects vital to the future of the county, ensuring our pipeline projects are ready to access funding.</i></p>					
<p>Levelling up fund is expected to be announced in Spring Statement, C/O HM Treasury. Other funds may be launched throughout the year.</p>	<p>Successful Grant Bids</p>	<p>Grant opportunity maximised.</p> <p>This is an output type activity, of which the outcomes are not yet prescribed.</p> <p>As various government prospectuses are published / launched, KPI's will be updated here accordingly.</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge & Anthony Baines
<p>Accelerate delivery of gigabit capable technologies, maximising the opportunities and benefits for the businesses and residents of Staffordshire to enable the growth of our digital economy.</p> <p>Maximising the use of public sector assets, developing lucrative internal and external networks as well as contributing to and influencing policy to facilitate delivery and to reduce digital exclusion whilst supporting our climate change agenda.</p>	<p>Closure of Superfast Staffordshire and transition to Project Gigabit.</p> <p>Engage and support a successful procurement process for Project Gigabit - a government investment valued at between £70M and £123M in Staffordshire (including Stoke on Trent).</p> <p>5G development strategy in place and agreements with mobile network operators on improving coverage.</p>	<p>Take-up of Superfast services (at contract closure) exceeds 75%</p> <p>255,135 (61.1%) premises with Gigabit capability (Current baseline is 55.15%)</p> <p>Positive relationship with 100% of providers that have a successful bid in Gigabit procurement exercise (quantity currently unknown)</p>	Simon Tagg	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines
<p>Delivery of the 2022/23 elements of the Schools Capital Programme, including both the maintenance programme and the basic need projects.</p>	<p>Opening of the two new schools in Uttoxeter and Fradley for September 2022.</p> <p>Completing the expansion of St John's PS, Essington and Princefields First School, Penkridge.</p> <p>Achieving planning permission and making good progress on the construction of: a new Primary School at Deanslade (Lichfield) and the relocation/ expansion of St Leonards Primary School (Stafford) to the Kingston Centre.</p> <p>Deliver the schools maintenance programme circa £8 million and over 100 projects.</p>	<p>Schools capital spend - delivery of projects in time and on budget</p>	Jonathan Price	John Tradewell	Ian Turner
<p><b>Strategic Corridors</b> - <i>Develop an east/west strategic corridor project that enables businesses in Staffordshire to innovate and grow as part of the wider Midlands Region, initially developing new governance arrangements and supporting delivery.</i></p>					
<p>Growth potential identified as an investment corridor, with private sector and universities presenting opportunities for infrastructure improvements. Plus range of other research and innovation / skills interventions.</p>	<p>Clear governance arrangements and direction of travel over strategy / delivery.</p>	<p>Adopted governance arrangements (Y/N)</p> <p>Successful delivery of corridors</p> <p>This is likely to gain increased momentum throughout the financial year, and Work Programme outputs / KPI's will be established as appropriate.</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge

**Supporting the Economy to Become Net Zero** - Support Staffordshire's businesses to raise awareness of commercial opportunities to achieve long term sustainability and maximise their business opportunities through innovative environmental activity.

<p>The Staffordshire Business &amp; Environment Network (SBEN) will work with businesses to raise awareness of commercial opportunities, train and provide tools to implement environmental initiatives and make necessary changes as part of their journey to net zero.</p>	<p>Deliver a low Carbon Business Evolution Programme with grants of up to £20,000 for environmental improvements</p> <p>Deliver a Carbon Literacy training service and provision of tools such as a Carbon Tracker to track and implement actions to reduce business carbon emissions.</p> <p>Practical support and provision of tools has enabled businesses to improve their environmental performance.</p> <p>SBEN membership has seen an annual increase.</p>	<p>Save 1500 tonnes of carbon through the work with businesses by the Low Carbon Business Evolution Programme</p> <p>Delivered Carbon Literacy training to 180 people and 10 organisations</p> <p>5% increase in SBEN membership</p>	<p>Philip White</p>	<p>Darryl Evers</p>	<p>Anthony Hodge</p>
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**Supporting themes** - Delivery of those supporting strategies and delivery plans that provide greater focus on specific issues as appropriate and will play a key role in the delivery of the overall Economic Strategy.

<p>Rural Economic Strategy</p>	<p>Delivery of the Rural Economic Strategy to take advantage of those opportunities and address any issues specific to the rural economy.</p>	<p>To be decided as part of the delivery of the Strategy</p>	<p>Philip White</p>	<p>Darryl Evers</p>	<p>Anthony Hodge</p>
<p>Visitor Economy Action Plan</p>	<p>Supporting the delivery of the Destination Management Partnerships emerging Visitor Economy Action Plan</p>	<p>To be detailed as part of the delivery of the Plan</p>	<p>Philip White</p>	<p>Darryl Evers</p>	<p>Anthony Hodge</p>
<p>Place Branding / Inward Investment</p>	<p>The We Are Staffordshire Place Branding work remains integral to the delivery of our economic growth programmes, allied to our work to support increased inward investment within the county through the Make It Stoke-on-Trent &amp; Staffordshire service.</p>	<p>Forms part of the delivery of the KPIs related to the Economic Growth Programme, detailed above.</p>	<p>Philip White</p>	<p>Darryl Evers</p>	<p>Anthony Hodge</p>



## **Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday 19 October 2022**

### **Delivering a Future Vision for the Countryside Estate**

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Considers and provides comments upon the draft delivery plan for the countryside estate in advance of a recommendation to County Council Cabinet.

#### **Local Members Interest**

NA

#### **Report of Cllr Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

#### **Summary**

##### **What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?**

Following the Committee's previous consideration and support of revised outline proposals for the countryside estate, the Committee is now asked to consider and comment upon a more detailed vision and delivery plan.

#### **Report**

##### **Report Summary**

1. In February 2022, the Committee considered a revised proposal for the management of the countryside estate. Recognising the significantly changed context following the pandemic and with a major focus on climate change and nature recovery, the revised proposal was to retain the management of the estate in-house and to focus on maximising the benefits it delivers across the Council's strategic priorities.
2. As requested by the Committee, this report presents a more detailed vision and delivery plan for the in-house management of the estate. Given financial constraints, the proposals seek to make best use of existing resource and to utilise opportunities to recover costs and generate income plus secure external funding and support to deliver the outcomes wherever possible. Business cases for additional investment will be developed as required.

## Background

3. Staffordshire County Council owns a large countryside estate of around 2,280 hectares, including six country parks, nine picnic sites and three greenways. This paper focuses on the management of this estate going forward; the paper does not include management of public rights of way, which are a separate issue with different requirements.
4. In February 2022, Prosperous Staffordshire Scrutiny Committee considered a [paper](#) proposing a revised vision for the countryside estate. Previous proposals agreed by Cabinet in 2019 had been to explore transferring management of the estate to external bodies. However, with the significantly changed context since 2019, including recovery from the pandemic and a renewed focus on climate change and nature recovery, the revised proposal was for an in-house model which sought to maximise the benefits the estate offers to Staffordshire's communities, visitors and environment.
5. In February 2022, the Committee resolved: (a) That the report be received and noted. (b) That the revised Future Vision for the County Council's Countryside Estate be supported. (c) That consideration be given to the inclusion of reference to habitats and wildlife in the Vision to re-enforce the work already undertaken in the Staffordshire Nature Recovery Declaration. (d) That a further report enabling pre-decision scrutiny of future investment proposals for Staffordshire's Country Parks be brought to the Committee for consideration, at the appropriate time.
6. This paper sets out the revised vision and delivery plan for scrutiny ahead of a Cabinet decision and your comments will inform the Cabinet Report.

## A new vision for Staffordshire's Countryside Estate

7. Our new vision for the countryside estate is to provide accessible and inclusive natural greenspace for communities and visitors, actively supporting health and wellbeing. The estate will showcase the Council's work to tackle climate change, support nature recovery and celebrate our heritage, with the needs of conservation and recreation carefully balanced. Managed by the County Council and supported by community volunteers, the estate will provide opportunities for learning and enjoyment, and provide business opportunities that enhance the visitor experience and contribute to sustainable site management.
8. This new vision for the countryside estate will support the County Council's overall vision for an *innovative, ambitious and sustainable*

*county, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.* The proposals are framed around the Council's priorities.

9. The following plan sets out how the countryside estate will meet the council's priorities, the actions to be taken and how performance will be monitored. It includes both short-medium term actions, plus longer-term aspirations to work towards.

### **Supporting Staffordshire's Economy**

10. There is potential, notably at the larger country parks, to improve the park offer to visitors through an enhanced catering offer and activities, which in turn presents opportunities for local businesses. At Chasewater, a feasibility study is currently underway to explore wider development opportunities. Some sites have further potential for business units, and lease of areas / buildings to support activities which complement the site and current provision. The sites would also benefit from a promotion plan to raise awareness of what is available, link to the Enjoy Staffordshire website and make connections to local businesses that complement the parks offer.
11. In the longer term, the aspiration would be to significantly enhance facilities at the main sites. Cannock Chase is a key destination within a nationally significant protected landscape; however, the current facilities are outdated and unable to cope with the increasing visitor numbers. In the short term, better use will be made of what is currently available, but in the longer term a new café and visitor centre complex will be required which will require significant external investment. At Chasewater, the feasibility study being produced will identify the more significant investment needs for this site. There are opportunities at the smaller country parks to enhance the visitor experience, at a scale appropriate to each site.
12. At all sites, the aim is to improve the visitor experience in ways that work in harmony with the environment, to support economic development and to generate income which can be reinvested in the management and operation of the countryside estate for the community.
13. There are also opportunities for the estate to support new entrants to the environment sector, addressing significant skills shortages. This could include linking with local colleges and universities, and / or seeking external funding for traineeships.
14. The table below sets out the key actions for supporting the economy:

<b>Priority 1: Support Staffordshire's economy to grow, generating more and better-paid jobs</b>
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<b>Action</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Investment requirements</b>	<b>KPI</b>
Enhance catering offers at country parks	Main country parks	2022-5	Will generally be built into contracts; some infrastructure investment may be required – to be confirmed	New facilities in place; customer feedback; social value; income to reinvest in site management
Explore increased provision of business units and business opportunities that link to the Park offer	Chasewater and Cannock Chase; possible limited opportunities at other sites	2023-5	To be confirmed – external funding may be required	Businesses operating; new start-ups; income to reinvest in site management
Parks Promotion Plan – improved website, social media and promotion of parks offer, including linking with local businesses and cultural industries that complement the offer. Leaflets and site signage.	All	2022-5	Current budget and external funding bids	Web site and social media data – followers / visits / likes / shares
Placements and traineeships to support growth of green sector and address skills shortages	All	2023 ongoing	Explore links with colleges; these would not generally be paid placements. Seek external funding for traineeships.	Placements supported
Major redevelopment of café and visitor centre facilities at Marquis Drive	Cannock Chase	Long term plan - 2025 onwards	Subject to availability of external funding	New facility in place
Expansion of facilities at Chasewater	Chasewater	2024 onwards	Subject to availability of external funding	New facilities in place

15. **Case Study: Countryside Explorer** – in 2019 monies from car park charges on the parks were used to lever in funding from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from Lichfield District Council. This supported the Countryside Explorer project, which has delivered new children’s play areas at Cannock Chase and Chasewater, a Chase2Water trail linking Cannock Chase and Chasewater, outdoor gym equipment, new information and interpretation on site and at the visitor centres, and a new heritage trail at Greenway Bank. This is a good example of how the parks offer can be enhanced by using monies recovered from the site to secure additional external investment.

### **Climate change, environment and sustainability**

16. The countryside estate already makes a significant contribution to the Council’s environmental ambitions. Its natural habitats absorb and store carbon, help natural flood management and support a wide range of plants and animals. Nearly 60% of the estate is designated and protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and much of Cannock Chase Country Park is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) marking its international significance. Cannock Chase also lies within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a nationally significant protected landscape. The estate supports rare and protected species, some of which require targeted conservation efforts.
17. There is an ongoing need to manage and enhance wildlife habitats for their biodiversity and to enhance the role they can play in tackling and adapting to climate change. Currently the service receives grants through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme to help support management of areas that are SSSI. Other grant funding is available to support tree planting and targeted species recovery work. The service works in partnership with other organisations where appropriate to share knowledge and operate at landscape scale.
18. The estate will make a key contribution to wider initiatives including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which will be developed over the coming years to identify priority locations for nature conservation and expansion across Staffordshire and Stoke. The estate will also contribute to the Carbon Zero by Nature programme, which is exploring how we can sequester carbon to achieve Staffordshire County Council’s net zero target, by using natural habitats such as woodland creation and peatland restoration to lock up carbon.
19. As part of the climate change action plan, the service is also exploring greening the service by moving to electric vehicles and equipment, or

HVO fuel where electric is not possible. Electric charging points could also be provided at the busier sites and there is scope to promote positive behaviour change through events and activities. Consideration of how the sites can be managed to adapt to climate change is also underway, e.g. greater provision of shade in picnic areas to cope with hotter temperatures.

20. The following table sets out the actions in relation to environment and sustainability:

<b>Priority 2: Tackle climate change, enhance our environment, and make Staffordshire more sustainable</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Investment requirements</b>	<b>KPI</b>
Increase carbon sequestration to help meet net zero through tree planting and habitat enhancement	Minor tree planting on most sites; woodland creation at Deep Hayes CP; wetland / peat restoration at Cannock Chase	Ongoing	External funding via woodland grant scheme etc.	Trees planted; carbon sequestered
Support nature recovery through habitat enhancement linked to Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Habitat enhancement at all sites; Management of protected features at Cannock Chase, Chasewater and Apedale; river restoration and woodland creation at Deep Hayes	Ongoing	Funding via grants for SSSIs, S106 / CIL / biodiversity net gain funding	SSSI in favourable condition; hectares of habitat restored
Targeted species recovery work linked to LNRS	Country parks	Ongoing	Existing resources / grants	Species abundance / range
Promotion, education and behaviour change – events and activities to raise awareness of climate change & nature	Country Parks  (tree giveaways, wildlife web	Ongoing	Climate Change fund	Participation

recovery and what people can do	cams, guided walks etc)			
Greening the countryside service (also acts as promotion) – electric / HVO vehicles and equipment, renewable building technologies installed; adaptation measures developed	All	2022-4	Climate change fund / external funding for additional resource requirements	Carbon reduction

### Health, wellbeing and community involvement:

21. Numerous studies evidence the benefits of spending time in natural greenspace to people’s health and wellbeing. Staffordshire’s countryside estate already plays an important role in providing accessible greenspace and a range of healthy activities such as health walks, park runs, etc. As part of the new vision, there is real scope to increase health, wellbeing, community and cultural outcomes.
22. This section includes actions linked directly to health, such as exploring green / social prescribing, health walks, activity promotion etc. However, it also includes our volunteering offer and how this can be expanded to benefit participants through both physical activity but also social inclusion and reducing isolation. Linking activities to interests such as wildlife, heritage and the arts can help us reach audiences for whom physical activity may not be the main attraction. This section also includes action to reduce barriers to access, both physically and also other barriers such as safety or cultural aspects that may prevent some people gaining the benefits their local greenspace can provide.
23. Community involvement is critical to the success of the countryside estate. Volunteers already play a key role in supporting management and conservation, but there is scope to expand the volunteer offer to provide a range of experiences. A supporter scheme is also proposed for those wishing to find out more about the sites and support their management.
24. The following table includes actions for health, wellbeing and community involvement.

<b>Priority 3: Encourage good health and wellbeing, resilience and independence.</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Investment requirements</b>	<b>KPI</b>

Develop a Healthy Parks Programme to include health walks, mindfulness walks, activity promotion, outdoor gyms, etc. and explore social prescribing models. Link to Better Health Staffordshire plus groups already linked to sites for addiction recovery, mental health support etc. to expand offer.	Main country parks / all sites as appropriate	2022 onwards	Explore potential health and sports funding	Participants / activities  Health outcomes for specific projects
Undertake a programme of site improvement to improve accessibility and reduce barriers to use, including access for all facilities, dementia-friendly status etc. Ensure improved promotion of information about site accessibility and the site offer is available to target audiences.	All sites	2022 onwards	Some funding already available for Chasewater; significant funding requirement - explore external funding via S106, CIL, AONB, public health, lottery etc.	Visitor surveys
Provide an enhanced community / cultural / arts offer including through volunteers and through externally funded programmes.	All sites	2023 onwards	Existing resources / volunteer support / external funding requirement	Participants / activities delivered
Develop Volunteer Strategy and expand the volunteer programme to include volunteer wardens for key sites and broader volunteering to include conservation work, litter patrols, visitor welcome, fire watch, health walk leaders, guided walk leaders.	All sites	2023 onwards	Existing resources / volunteer support.	Volunteer hours
Support Friends Groups and develop a Parks Supporter Scheme.	Main country parks	2023 onwards	Existing resources	Number of supporters

## Transport and Digital

25. The Countryside Service currently utilises its expertise to support issues of deer interacting with highways. The Deer Safety Project has been running for several years, working with leading experts to test deterrent devices to reduce vehicle collisions. Countryside Officers also deal with dead and injured deer on the highway to ensure safety of road users. This work will continue as the deer population expands in the county.
26. This section also includes management of the three greenways which provide multi-user routes, and connections to the wider highway and rights of way network from the parks. There is potential to provide EV charging points at busier country parks to support greening.
27. Digital infrastructure is a major constraint at some sites, impacting on both SCC operations but also on the ability to provide up to date services to visitors who now expect good connectivity at key sites. Cannock Chase is a priority due to the number of staff and visitors affected by the currently extremely poor connectivity.
28. The following table sets out the actions for transport and digital connectivity:

<b>Priority 4: Fix more roads, and improve transport and digital connections</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Investment requirements</b>	<b>KPI</b>
Continue to support Highways with deer-vehicle collision reduction and management – deer safety project and emergency response work	Notably Cannock Chase area	Ongoing	Existing resources	Number of collisions
Support sustainability through provision of EV charging at key park locations	Main country parks	2023-5	Climate change fund / business investment	Charging points / use / carbon saving
Manage greenways and rights of way across parks to provide leisure and utility routes	3 greenways / all sites	Ongoing	Existing resources / S106 / CIL / bid for LTP funds	Issues reported
Enhance digital connectivity at Cannock Chase CP and potentially other main parks to enhance both staff operational efficiency and	Cannock Chase / main parks	2022	New fibre connection – some budget available	Connectivity improved

support improved visitor facilities and connectivity				
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### Best start

29. Access and proximity to greenspace has been shown to have positive benefits for pregnancy outcomes and early years development, establishing positive behaviours that are likely to continue throughout life. Some links have already been made using country parks as locations for activities linked to early years and working with vulnerable families. There is great scope to expand this role further.
30. Some sites currently support outdoor learning centres, forest schools and other learning activities for children. There is scope to further develop this, expanding to other sites and also working with schools and providers to develop holiday activities, junior ranger events etc.
31. The following table sets out the priority actions to support offering young people the best start in life:

<b>Priority 5: Offer every Staffordshire child and young person the best start in life, and the chance to achieve their potential.</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Time scale</b>	<b>Investment requirements</b>	<b>KPI</b>
Develop a programme with family support teams, including walks, events and activities. Link to Holiday Activities and Food programme providers.	Main country parks	2023 onwards	Seek external funding and sponsorship as required	Number of participants
Support and expand outdoor learning, forest schools etc.	Main country parks	Ongoing	n/a	Participants
Work with providers to develop activities for children and young people – junior ranger sessions, orienteering etc.	Main country parks	2024 onwards	Seek external funding as required	Participants

## Key Priorities

32. The key priorities from the above programme for the next 6-12 months are:
- a. Enhanced catering offers at main country parks
  - b. Complete feasibility study for Chasewater Country Park
  - c. Extension of pay and display to the north of the county
  - d. Parks Promotion Plan – online presence and welcome signs / orientation
  - e. Nature recovery work for designated sites and target species, and planning work for woodland creation for net zero
  - f. Greening the service – electric / HVO vehicles, charging points etc.
  - g. Sustainability promotion and behaviour change
  - h. Commence development of Healthy Parks Programme and deliver Wayfinding Project at Cannock Chase (partnership scheme funded by Sport England)
  - i. Access audits and work to enhance access where funds currently available – bid for further funding
  - j. Develop volunteer strategy and recruit additional volunteers
  - k. Deliver fibre broadband to Cannock Chase CP
  - l. Deer safety project and callout

## Financial Impact

33. There are no MTFS commitments linked to these proposals. The MTFS commitment of £496,000 has been met through the restructure of the Environment and Countryside Service, completed in 2022.
34. Given the pressures on Council budgets, no additional funding from internal budgets is being requested at this stage. Instead, it is proposed that the new vision for the countryside estate will be resourced by:
- a. Securing grants and external funding. – Existing grants are already received via Countryside Stewardship for habitat management, and targeted grants for species recovery work. There are further opportunities through lottery, AONB, rural development, levelling up and other sources. Availability of funds may impact on delivery of some actions, but some are scalable to resources available meaning that progress can be made in many areas.
  - b. Developer contributions – funds have been secured for several sites where nearby developments will significantly increase footfall

on country parks and where this may have an impact on the site's environmental quality or infrastructure, including at Chasewater and Apedale Country Parks. For Cannock Chase, Cabinet has previously agreed a significant programme of protection measures funded by developer contributions which will help manage increasing visitor pressure on protected habitats resulting from an increased population.

- c. Income from leases, licences and concessions which complement the park offer – e.g. cafes and catering, use of buildings and facilities. It is essential that income generated on the sites is retained by the service and reinvested in site management and operation.
  - d. Costs recovered through pay & display car parking – the Countryside Act enables local authorities to charge for car parking at country parks. It requires that any surplus funds be ring fenced to be reinvested in the management of the park. Pay & display already operates successfully at Chasewater Country Park and at two locations on Cannock Chase. It is proposed that the existing and established pay and display approach be extended to five sites in the north of the county over the next two years, and at further locations on Cannock Chase in line with the previously agreed Cannock Chase protection programme.
  - e. Donations, supporter scheme, crowd funding and sponsorship – there may be opportunities through the supporter scheme and by linking with local communities and businesses to raise funds to support particular park improvements.
35. Should additional SCC funding be required for specific larger-scale projects, a business case proposal will be developed and considered through the appropriate processes under the scheme of delegation. This is likely to be required for improvements at Cannock Chase and Chasewater Country Parks.

### **Community Impact Assessment**

36. The Community Impact Assessment for the new vision for the countryside estate has been updated and can be viewed in appendix 1. The proposals represent a positive impact since they seek to enhance the ability for all members of the community to gain the benefits of access to natural greenspace and to protect and enhance the environment.
37. To implement these improvements however, there is a need to recover costs through extending pay and display parking to additional sites. Recognising current cost of living pressures for many service users, a range of measures have been identified to reduce impacts, including:

- a. Meters will not be installed at new sites until after the current winter period when people's household costs may be high;
- b. Charges at new sites will be phased in, with an initial voluntary period for a few months;
- c. Charges at existing sites will remain at the current rate until April 2024. These are modest charges (£1 for up to 2 hours; £3 per day and £36 for an annual permit) and compare favourably with other countryside locations in the area which can charge £3 up to an hour and £8 per day;
- d. An annual permit will be available for use at all SCC countryside sites which significantly reduces the cost (to less than 10 pence per day) for people using the sites regularly.

38. Annual permits for those who regularly volunteer at the sites and members of the supporter scheme are also being explored.

39. It is important to note that the costs recovered through parking charges will enable better management of the car park facilities and investment in the management of the sites, including making them more accessible for all abilities, caring for wildlife and heritage and improving the visitor experience.

### **Conclusion and recommendation**

40. The revised vision and delivery plan sets out how the in-house model would contribute broadly across the Council's strategic priorities, maximising the benefits of the countryside estate to our communities and environment. If supported by the Committee and approved by Cabinet, this proposal would supersede the 2019 decision.

41. It is recommended that the Committee considers and provides comments upon the vision and delivery plan for the countryside estate in advance of a recommendation to County Council Cabinet.

### **Scheme of delegation**

42. Should the proposal be agreed by Cabinet, operational decisions on significant funding bids and implementing car parking charges at specific sites would be made by the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills in consultation with the lead Cabinet Member and local members as appropriate.

### **Next Steps**

43. Following consideration by the Committee, proposals will be presented to Cabinet noting any feedback through the scrutiny process.

**List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 – Community Impact Assessment**

**Contact Details**

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# Community Impact Assessment

## Countryside Estate – New Vision

### **Project Sponsor:**

Catherine Mann, Interim Assistant Director –  
Culture, Rural and Safer Communities

### **Project Manager:**

Sarah Bentley, Head of Environment &  
Countryside

Date: Tuesday, 11 October 2022

## ➤ Equality Assessment

The Public Sector Equality Duty is part of the Equality Act 2010 and this Duty requires us as a public body to have ‘due regard’ to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act. It requires us to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a ‘relevant protected characteristic’ and people who don’t.

Protected Characteristics	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<b>Age</b> - older and younger people	<p>The Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment (MENE) report 2018-19 shows that there are “larger proportions of infrequent visitors in the oldest age groups, lower socio-economic groups and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds”.</p> <p>The MENE Children’s report 2018-19 also found disparities in the numbers of children spending time outside between more affluent / deprived areas, and that</p>	<p>Financial pressures on Council budgets could impact on service delivery in future due to retaining the estate mainly in house.</p> <p>However current MTFS commitments have been delivered.</p>	<p>The proposal includes measures to increase the long-term financial sustainability of the estate to address the potential financial risks.</p> <p>The focus the proposal gives on delivery rather than further transformation would deliver benefits more rapidly to site users.</p>
<b>Disability</b> - people who are living with different conditions and disabilities, such as: mental illnesses, long term conditions, Autism and other neurodiverse conditions, learning disabilities, sensory impairment and physical disabilities.			
<b>Gender reassignment</b> - those people in the process of transitioning from one sex to another			
<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b> - people who are married or in a civil partnership should not be treated differently at work			
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b> - women who are pregnant or who have recently had a baby, including breast feeding mothers			
<b>Race</b> - people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins			

Protected Characteristics	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p><b>Religion or Belief</b> - people with any religious or philosophical belief, including a lack of belief. A belief should affect a person's life choices or the way they live for it to be considered</p>	<p>children from BAME backgrounds were less likely to spend time outdoors.</p>		
<p><b>Sex</b> - men or women</p>	<p>Under the revised proposal, resource would be focused on frontline delivery and improving facilities rather than management arrangements. This would enable more rapid delivery of improvements and investment in the sites that would address the barriers to use by some protected groups, such as those referenced above.</p>		
<p><b>Sexual orientation</b> - whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes</p>			

<b>Who will be affected</b> – consider the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigations / Recommendations</b>
<p>Staff within the Countryside Service with responsibility for the sites.</p> <p>Due to ongoing selection processes under the staff review, specific data for staff cannot be provided at this time.</p>	<p>Under this proposal, the uncertainties regarding job security which have been ongoing since 2013/14 would come to an end. This would be a huge benefit to staff following the impacts of both the uncertainty of change processes but also the impacts of service delivery during COVID. This would support staff health and wellbeing.</p> <p>It also reduces the risk of staff leaving and of absence which may be high if further change processes were to be required.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>

➤ **Health and Care Assessment**

A key priority within our Strategic Plan is to ‘Encourage good health and well-being, resilience and independence’. This section should therefore be used to identify the impact of the proposal on delivery of this priority.

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>The proposal will impact resident and visitor mental health and wellbeing and help enable positive choices around healthy lifestyles.</p>	<p>The proposed model includes focus on opportunities to support health and wellbeing through improved access to green space and offering targeted activities / offers.</p> <p>Research has concluded that "green prescribing" by medical professionals could help people maximise the therapeutic benefits of spending more time in outdoor green spaces.</p> <p>Research carried out by 'Fields in Trust' calculated that UK country parks and green spaces provide over</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>£34bn of health and wellbeing benefits, saving the NHS at least £111 million per year through prevented GP visits.</p> <p>The Houses of Parliament publication, '<a href="#">Green Space and Health</a>' (2016), sets out various health-related facts including:</p> <p>Levels of physical activity are higher in areas with more green space, with people living near the greenest areas achieving the recommended amount of physical activity.</p> <p>A correlation has been observed between those living closest to greener areas and reduced levels of</p>		

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>mortality, obesity and obesity-related illnesses.</p> <p>Some indicators of psychological stress, including blood pressure and heart rate, are reduced in participants exposed to visual and auditory stimuli associated with nature.</p>		
<p>The proposal also impacts upon risks in relation to accidents and falls.</p>	<p>Earlier investment in site infrastructure would reduce risks of accidents and falls on sites.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>

➤ **Communities Assessment**

Use this section to identify the impact of the proposal on communities.

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>The proposal will impact on communities living near the countryside estate, many of which are in rural areas. Impacts include those relating to community capacity; crime and community safety; and education, attainment, training and associated outcomes for children and young people.</p>	<p>The 2018 Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces report references a range of research summarising evidence in support of how green spaces benefit communities, including:            “Playing and learning outside is a fundamental part of childhood, and strong evidence from a four-year project commissioned by Natural England showed that learning outdoors results in children being happier, healthier and more motivated to learn.”, and:            “Parks and green spaces improve community cohesion by offering shared spaces for community</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>connections and to tackle social isolation (Cohen-Cline et al., 2015; Hartig et al., 2014; White et al., 2013).”</p> <p>The MENE Children’s Report 2018-19 identified a range of positive visit outcomes reported by adults who had spent time outdoors with children – with the strongest levels of agreement relating to outcomes of enjoyment, feeling calm and feeling relaxed and revitalised. It also found that family and other guardians are an important influence on children’s engagement with nature.</p> <p>Benefits of the proposal include potential to build community capacity &amp; cohesion and involvement in the</p>		

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>estate – including in rural communities located near countryside sites. Greater community capacity and involvement will increase pride of place in these local amenities. This helps create a safer and more welcoming visitor environment.</p> <p>The proposal presents opportunities for forest schools and educational activities to support learning and to achieve positive outcomes for children from outdoor visits.</p>		
<p>The proposal will impact on participation in social and leisure activities.</p>	<p>Improved facilities will enhance the leisure offer on sites, enabling regular participation in leisure activities.</p> <p>The 2018 Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces report (as above) summarises how</p>	<p>Car parking charges could impact on affordability to park vehicles on site. These charges are now common at countryside sites, however their</p>	<p>The mitigations as outlined in the proposals – no extension of charges to new sites until 2023; phased approach with initial voluntary period; annual permits at reduced cost for regular users; freeze rate to April 24 - would reduce the impact</p>

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	“access to local green spaces has a positive impact on health by encouraging people to be active every day”.	introduction at a time of significant cost of living pressures required consideration.	of car parking charges on the countryside estate.
The proposal impacts on opportunities for volunteering	The proposal includes an enhanced volunteering offer provided by the service.	n/a	n/a

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## ➤ Economic Assessment

A key priority within our Strategic Plan is to ‘**Support Staffordshire’s economy to grow, generating more and better paid jobs**’. This section should therefore be used to identify the impact of the proposal on delivery of this priority.

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
The proposal will impact businesses linked to countryside and hospitality sectors, and businesses local to the countryside estate. There are also impacts on businesses more generally. Please also see ‘Workforce Assessment’.	Green and natural spaces are fundamental to people’s prosperity. They underpin sustainable economic growth by attracting	Car parking charges may impact but are now commonplace at countryside sites.	Mitigation measures relating to car parking charges are included in the proposals. We will also work with businesses on the sites to explore any further mitigations required.

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>businesses and investment and can improve workforce productivity.</p> <p>Green spaces provide important functions to society, which have an economic value. These functions are known as 'ecosystem services', helping reduce costs to local and wider communities. For example, woodlands absorb pollution and lock up carbon, which cleans our air.</p> <p>A Staffordshire Ecosystem Assessment (2014) considered around 35% of the total geographical area of the county. The ecosystem services assessed were</p>		

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>valued at more than £110m annually.</p> <p>Research by 'Fields in Trust' calculated the Total Economic Value to an individual of country parks and green spaces is £30.24 per year, and included benefits gained from using green space and non-use benefits such as the future preservation of parks.</p> <p>A case study in the Economic Value of Our Green Spaces Report (Land Trust, 2018) demonstrated how the creation and maintenance of a green space can add value to nearby houses, create and safeguard jobs and generate revenue for local businesses.</p>		

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>The 2018 Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan states “our natural assets are of great importance locally and nationally and form a major part of our offer to investors.”</p> <p>Investment and improvement of the countryside estate strengthens the part it plays in underpinning Staffordshire’s role as a visitor destination and great place to live / work, attracting inward investment. An improved countryside estate can also support Staffordshire’s workforce to be</p>		

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	healthier and improve wellbeing.		
The proposals may affect site users on low incomes.	Free to use green spaces.	Car park charges may be a deterrent for those with low incomes.	The mitigations as outlined in the proposals – no extension of charges to new sites until 2023; phased approach with initial voluntary period; annual permits at reduced cost for regular users; freeze rate to April 24 - would reduce the impact of car parking charges on the countryside estate; explore better walk / cycle links so local people can be less dependent on cars.

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### ➤ Climate Change Assessment

A key priority within our Strategic Plan is to 'Tackle climate change, enhance our environment, and make Staffordshire more sustainable'. This section should therefore be used to identify the impact of the proposal on delivery of this priority.

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
The proposal has climate change implications in relation to the county council's countryside estate	The proposal will make a positive contribution to net zero and adaptation	n/a	The focus the proposal gives on delivery rather than further transformation would deliver benefits more rapidly to the sites.

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
			Conversely, if the proposal and associated recommendations are not agreed; the alternative model (a focus on management arrangements) would reduce the timeliness and delay the impact of any contributions to net zero and adaptation, where prompt action is vital.

## Environment Assessment

Use this section to identify the impact of the proposal on the physical environment. How does the proposal support the utilisation and maintenance of Staffordshire's built and natural environments, thereby improving health and wellbeing and strengthening community assets?

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
The proposal will impact on the physical environment in a variety of ways	In the UK, 56% of species declined and 15% are extinct or were threatened with extinction between 1970 and 2013 (State of Nature 2016). We have also lost 80% of our heathland since 1800 –	n/a	n/a

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>in Staffordshire, probably more like 90%.</p> <p>13% of heathland and grassland species are threatened with extinction in Great Britain (State of Nature 2016).</p> <p>Green spaces provide important functions to society, which have an economic value. These functions are known as 'ecosystem services', helping reduce costs to local and wider communities. For example, wetlands store water, reducing flows and help reduce the risk of flooding.</p> <p>A Staffordshire Ecosystem Assessment (2014) considered around 35% of the total</p>		

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>geographical area of the county. The ecosystem services assessed were valued at more than £110m annually.</p> <p>The proposal will offer environmental benefits and improve the environmental quality of the (rural) natural environment making up the countryside estate, as well as access to it. Improved physical access to the countryside estate will be achieved through better infrastructure.</p>		

## **Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service 2022-25**

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Notes the range of activity which takes place across Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service to support the delivery of County Council outcomes.
- b. Provides comment on the overall direction of travel for the Library Service.
- c. Notes the proposals for Burton, Tamworth, Cannock, Leek and Kidsgrove Libraries and provides comment.

#### **Report of Cllr Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

#### **Summary**

##### **What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?**

1. Review and endorse the range of activity which takes place across Staffordshire Libraries and note the value that this activity delivers in supporting the delivery of County Council outcomes (sections 1 and 2).
2. Note and comment on the proposals for Burton, Tamworth, Cannock, Leek, and Kidsgrove Libraries (section 3).

## **Report**

### **Brief Report Summary**

3. Highlights the work Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service has taken to recover the service after the pandemic.
4. Outlines how the Library Service is working to support Staffordshire County Council outcomes to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on local communities and how this work is shaping the future direction and strategy for the Library Service.
5. Describes the proposals for Burton, Tamworth, Cannock, Leek and Kidsgrove Library buildings.

### **Background**

6. Within Staffordshire the Library Service helps to connect communities, improve health and wellbeing and digital inclusion and promotes equality through learning, literacy and cultural activity. This is achieved through the delivery of four national Universal Library Offers: Health and Wellbeing; Reading; Culture and Creativity; Information and Digital. These are underpinned by two national Library Promises, the Children's Promise and the Print and Impaired People's Promise.
7. The Library Service works with internal and external partners to deliver on key work strands that support the national Universal Library offers and meet Staffordshire County Council priorities.
8. As the county works to recover from the pandemic the Library Service has fully recovered the service offer and is delivering a blended programme of physical and virtual activity to support County Council outcomes.
9. The Library Service is helping to address key outcomes from the pandemic including supporting the County Council's priorities to grow the economy through the establishment of Start-Up Hubs in libraries, encouraging good health and wellbeing by working with Health Education England to improve health and digital literacy in local communities and enabling every Staffordshire child to have the best start in life by supporting learning in the home.
10. The Library Service is supporting the County Council to tackle the climate change emergency by helping people to change behaviours.

11. The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 gives the County Council a statutory duty to provide "a comprehensive and efficient library service".

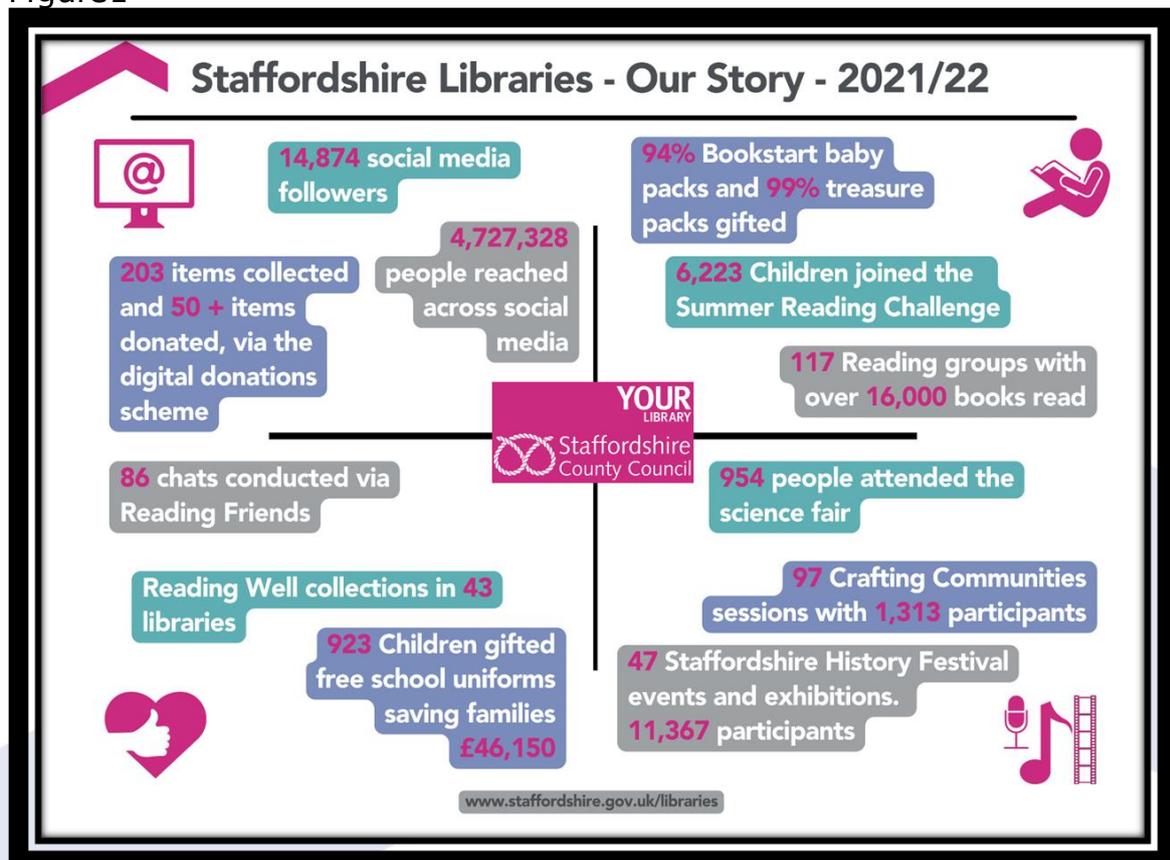
### Section 1 – The Library Offer

12. As part of Staffordshire County Council's statutory network there are 43 Libraries and 2 Mobile Libraries. 27 libraries are delivered through partner organisations.

13. During 2021-22:

- a. Staffordshire Libraries had 201,701 library members, 1,091,677 physical library visits and issued nearly 1,230,025 items.
- b. Figure 1 demonstrates the work achieved to support the recovery of the Library Service during the period 2021-22.
- c. During 2021-22 we engaged:
  - 20,221 people in 1,486 Reading Offer sessions
  - 4,380 people in 703 Information and Digital Offer sessions
  - 24,335 people in 2,121 Culture and Creativity Offer sessions
  - 16,874 people in 1,368 Health and Wellbeing Offer sessions

Figure 1



## Section 2 - Supporting County Council Priorities

14. Staffordshire's libraries are a vehicle for enabling the County Council to deliver its ambitions and priorities for the years ahead.

### Start-Up Information Hubs

15. In 2021 the Library Service received a grant from Arts Council England of £64,520 to work in partnership with Business Enterprise Support (BES) to establish Start-Up Information Hubs in libraries.

16. The project has been developed in consultation with local people and BES customers who have found it difficult to access relevant information and support. Research has informed BES that current start-up programmes do not reach those who are unemployed, who have multiple barriers to employment & who wish to set up a lifestyle business. The situation worsened during COVID-19.

17. As part of the Start-Up Offer all 43 libraries will provide information on self-employment & dedicated space allocated for start-up promotional materials, leaflets, business related reading books, and information factsheets. Access to COBRA [Free online resources - Staffordshire County Council](#) library computers and the 3d printing machines in some libraries will provide those who wish to research further or develop their business plans further support.

18. The aim of the Start-up Information Hub is to ensure more people have easy access to basic information in buildings which are local to people and are known for being safe, non-threatening spaces. This will encourage those who lack confidence to seek out the support they need to pursue their business idea without having to "join" a class or participate in sessions which do not meet their needs or aspirations.

19. The following table shows the growing use of COBRA since it was introduced in June 2022

Number of Downloaded Information Sheets

June 2022	July 2022	August 2022
19	27	113

Information downloaded includes how to create a business plan, how to set up a business bank account and there have been 5 downloads of how to run a mobile take-away business.

## **Health and Digital Literacy**

20. Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service is one of 8 library services to be awarded funding to help address the issue of adults in England (43%) struggling to read and understand written health information. This situation has been exacerbated during the pandemic.
21. The £9,999 funding from Health Education England will enable the Library Service to deliver Be Your Health.
22. The Library Service, NHS Knowledge and Library Services, Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will partner with 16-25 year olds to co-design a programme of work to improve access to health and digital literacy information for young people in Newcastle and Burton areas and this will provide a model for libraries nationally [Health and digital literacy partnership provides local learning for better health - Knowledge and Library Services](#)

## **Moonbeams Early Years Action Research Programme 2022**

23. Public libraries have a significant role to play in supporting children's development from the very earliest months as well as helping parents and carers to support their child as they grow and learn.
24. Across the county Early Years practitioners have recognised the impact of Lockdowns on children's speech and language development and Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service is one of three library services to secure a place on the Moonbeams Action Research Programme 2022.
25. This action research partnership between Newcastle under Lyme Library, Hassell Primary School and artists is supported by Arts Connect and the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC). The programme of research looks at developing language and communication through arts and creativity with 0-5-year-olds in libraries.
26. By participating in the research programme, we will strengthen the local library partnership with Hassell Primary School, foster trusted and effective relationships with families and support improved vocabulary, language skills and reading for pleasure in children.

## **Climate Change**

27. Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service is one of 15 library services to secure funding to deliver on the national Green Libraries work Green Libraries Grants - CILIP: the library and information association

28. £2,500 funding will allow the Library Service to develop Changing Climates Changing Lifestyles, a programme of activity that will encourage people to make simple lifestyle changes to support Climate Change.
29. A toolkit of resources will be produced for Climate Change Library Champions to ensure libraries are part of the drive to address Climate Change in local communities.
30. Professional artists, Juneau Projects will run workshops in libraries on a recycling theme for families.

### **Section 3 - Library Buildings**

#### **Burton Library**

31. A submission to Arts Council England for Libraries Improvement Fund Round 2 is being developed.
32. The focus is on widening audience reach and improving the ground floor of the library to create a multi-purpose space that will include a Maker space, sensory areas, and an improved audience area for events.
33. Engagement with community groups, partners and stakeholders will form an integral part of this project to ensure local needs are reflected.

#### **Tamworth Library**

34. Tamworth Borough Council is vacating Marmion House which currently accommodates the County Council's Adult Care and Families teams.
35. Tamworth Library has been identified as the most suitable place to base these teams.
36. The library building will be reconfigured to accommodate Staffordshire County Council staff moving into the building.
37. The library offer will be available from the ground floor and the first floor of the building.
38. To minimise disruption and to enable the building work to be completed as quickly as possible, the library will be relocated temporarily to 56a Albert Road during October and will return to the Corporation Street library in Spring 2023 when the building work is complete.

### **Cannock Library**

39. In October 2021, Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) were notified that their Levelling Up Funding (LUF) bid had been successful. CCDC have been awarded £20m LUF to develop a new and enhanced cultural and leisure destination in the town with incubator workspace to address local unmet design.
40. CCDC are seeking to create a cultural hub in the town centre of Cannock which will include a revamped theatre and a cinema.
41. SCC have been approached by CCDC to see whether they would be interested in being involved in looking at the potential inclusion of Cannock Library and other services.
42. During July and August, the Library Service has been engaging with Cannock Library customers to seek their views on this potential move.

### **Leek Library**

43. A refresh of Leek Library is part of the application to the Government's Levelling Up Fund Programme to invest in the Nicholson Institute.
44. This project will transform the Nicholson Institute, refurbishing the lower ground floor and creating a flexible, multi-use space that will be used by Buxton and Leek College during the week for student services, such as counselling, welfare and employability and skills training, and evening and weekend use for events, subject to agreement from the Charity Commission.
45. The rest of the building will be enhanced, creating a dynamic new offer for the town, which brings together museum, gallery and library services into a blended experience over the ground and first floors of the building.

### **Kidsgrove Library**

46. Discussions are taking place with the Town Deal Board for Kidsgrove Library to be involved in the Kidsgrove Shared Service Hub.

## **Section 4 - Next Steps**

47. Baroness Elizabeth Sanderson of Welton has been appointed by the Government to help develop a new strategy for public libraries. The strategy will focus on new ideas to improve library service provision and will help to formulate innovative new policy ideas. The strategy will be published in 2023 and will shape future public library service delivery.
48. With the increasing costs of fuel, energy, food, travel etc impacting on residents and businesses across Staffordshire the Library Service will work with partners to sign-post to existing support and will highlight the range of resources and services available at the library.
49. The library service will continue to develop the library offer based around the Universal Library Offers in section 1 and will continue to deliver on the grant funded projects to meet Staffordshire County Council priorities in section 2.
50. The library service will continue to seek opportunities to improve library buildings and engage with local communities. If the funding applications referenced in section 3 are successful, the library service will be part of a Project Team to ensure different areas of expertise and a full range of views are considered. Engagement with local communities will take place and Community Impact Assessments.

### **Section 5 - Link to Strategic Plan**

51. That everyone in Staffordshire will:
- d. Have access to more good jobs and share the benefits of economic growth
  - e. Live in thriving and sustainable communities
  - f. Be healthier and independent for longer

### **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

52. Previous committee papers: Staffordshire Library Service 2020-2025, 17 January 2020

### **Community Impact**

53. High level CIA to be completed.

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

N/A

## Contact Details

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# Community Impact Assessment

Staffordshire Libraries & Arts Service 2022-2025:

Proposals for Library Buildings

Sue Ball

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

## ➤ Equality Assessment

The Public Sector Equality Duty is part of the Equality Act 2010 and this Duty requires us as a public body to have 'due regard' to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act. It requires us to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'relevant protected characteristic' and people who don't.

Protected Characteristics	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p><b>Age</b> - older and younger people</p> <p>In January 2022 of the total library membership: 3.7% were aged under 5 years 29.8% were aged 5-15 years 13.6% were aged 16-29 years 33.9% were aged 30-64 years 17.2% were aged over 65 years 1.8% were categorised as age unknown</p>	<p>Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service works within the framework of the national Universal Library Offers and the Children's Promise and the Print Impaired People's Promise.</p> <p>The Library Service provides a wide range of activities for all age groups including Baby Bounce and Rhyme times, Code Club, Reading Groups, Knit and Natter, Craft Group, Reading Friends etc.</p> <p>The submission to Arts Council England for Libraries Improvement Funding Round 2 (LIF2) for Burton Library focuses on making the</p>	<p>In reconfiguring the library space some groups may feel excluded.</p> <p>In the temporary Tamworth Library there will be no space to accommodate Baby, Bounce and Rhyme and this physical service will be temporarily suspended until we return to the newly refurbished library.</p> <p>People may find the newly refurbished spaces unfamiliar and difficult to navigate.</p>	<p>The reconfigured library spaces will be flexible spaces that enable a wide range of activities to take place within the library. We will work with local groups to understand their needs and ensure the flexible space meets their needs.</p> <p>In reconfiguring the spaces libraries will remain DDA compliant.</p> <p>We have engaged with the local community about the potential Cannock Library relocation and the temporary relocation of Tamworth Library. We will continue to engage with local communities impacted on any library relocations/refurbishments.</p> <p>Through the library projects our aim is to widen our audience reach and ensure the library offer is inclusive.</p> <p>In the preparation for the LIF2 application to Arts Council England</p>
<p><b>Disability</b> - people who are living with different conditions and disabilities, such as: mental illnesses, long term conditions, Autism and other neurodiverse conditions, learning disabilities, sensory impairment and physical disabilities.</p> <p>The Library Service does not collect data on disability and works with partners and groups to understand local needs.</p>			
<p><b>Gender reassignment</b> - those people in the process of transitioning from one sex to another</p>			

Protected Characteristics	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations		
<p>The Library Service does not collect data on gender reassignment.</p>	<p>library more inclusive by providing multi-sensory spaces for adults and children and improving digital access for those with an eyesight impairment.</p>		<p>we have engaged with groups on the resources to provide. If the application is successful further research and consultation has been built into the planning stage.</p>		
<p><b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b> - people who are married or in a civil partnership should not be treated differently at work</p>			<p>Friends of Burton Library Group identified some key pieces of equipment to enable the library offer to be more inclusive to those with sight impairment.</p>		
<p><b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b> - women who are pregnant or who have recently had a baby, including breast feeding mothers.</p> <p>The Library Service does not collect this data.</p>	<p>Libraries are safe and welcoming spaces with a diverse range of stock that is fully inclusive of the communities served.</p>		<p>When we re-open newly refurbished library spaces we will have a member of library staff or a library volunteer at the door to welcome people and signpost them to library areas.</p>		
<p><b>Race</b> - people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins</p> <p>The Library Service does not collect this data</p>				<p>Reconfiguring library spaces will provide support to parents with the home learning environment and early skills development for their children – providing safe, welcoming spaces and a range of services including Baby Bounce &amp; Rhyme activity, the availability of board books &amp; picture books, gifting of Bookstart packs with partners.</p>	<p>We will work with library groups and promote library Sunflower Hours for those with additional needs so that they feel supported when they visit newly refurbished libraries.</p>
<p><b>Religion or Belief</b> - people with any religious or philosophical belief, including a lack of belief. A belief should affect a person's life choices or the way they live for it to be considered.</p> <p>The Library Service does not collect this data.</p>					<p>We will update our Autism Friendly maps on the library website to reflect the new library layouts.</p>
<p><b>Sex</b> - men or women</p> <p>In January 2022 of the total library membership the following genders were members of the library:</p> <p>40.4% identified as male</p>			<p>We will continue to promote the library offer, including the e-library content to all members of the local community through our partners and</p>		

Protected Characteristics	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
53.4% identified as female 6.2% preferred not to say			stakeholders and library social media.  During the temporary relocation of Tamworth Library we will signpost to digital story time and rhyme time content.
<b>Sexual orientation</b> - whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.  The Library Service does not include this data.			

Who will be affected – consider the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>Tamworth Library staff will be affected by the temporary relocation to 56a Albert Road during the refurbishment of Tamworth Library.</p> <p>Of the Tamworth workforce there are:</p> <p>Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% in the 40-49 years age group</li> <li>• 50% in the 50-59 years age group</li> <li>• 30% in the 60-69 years age group</li> </ul> <p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% are female</li> <li>• 10% are male</li> </ul> <p>Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% have no disability</li> <li>• 20% have a disability</li> </ul>	<p>The temporary library is a short distance from the old library and is on a bus route and is near to the station. The temporary location has car parking. The temporary library remains close to Tamworth shopping centre.</p>	<p>Staff anxiety about a temporary relocation</p>	<p>Briefings with the library staff have taken place and the Libraries Area Manager South is progressing one to one meetings for those staff who wish to discuss any concerns about the temporary relocation.</p> <p>An update has been presented at the Trade Union Forum.</p> <p>Staff have been engaged with the design proposals for the newly refurbished library and the planning for the temporary relocation.</p> <p>As other library developments take shape we will continue engagement with library staff.</p>

<b>Who will be affected</b> – consider the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigations / Recommendations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% are recorded as a disability unknown</li> </ul> <p>Marital Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% are married</li> <li>• 20% are recorded as other</li> <li>• 50% are recorded as unknown</li> </ul> <p>Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% white – British</li> <li>• 20% white – Other</li> </ul> <p>Sexual orientation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% are married</li> <li>• 20% are recorded as other</li> <li>• 50% are recorded as unknown</li> </ul>			

<b>Who will be affected</b> – consider the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigations / Recommendations</b>
In the other reconfigured library buildings library staff will remain on site.			

## Health and Care Assessment

<b>Key considerations</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigations / Recommendations</b>
Staffordshire Libraries & Arts Service delivers the national Universal Health & Wellbeing Library Offer	<p>Provision of national Reading Well collections which help people to manage their own health &amp; wellbeing.</p> <p>Delivery of the national Reading Friends programme which helps those who are lonely &amp; isolated to stay connected</p> <p>Funding from Health Education England to</p>	No risks identified	<p>Continue to promote the health and wellbeing library offer.</p> <p>Continue to work with partners to deliver the health and wellbeing library offer.</p>

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	help Staffordshire young people improve their health and digital literacy skills.		

➤ **Communities Assessment**

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>Page 72</p> <p>Temporary relocation of Tamworth Library to 56a Albert Road during the refurbishment of Tamworth Library</p>	<p>Residents will be able to access a physical Staffordshire Library offer in Tamworth during refurbishment work at the library.</p> <p>The temporary library is a short distance from the library and is on a bus route and is nearer to the train station. The temporary library is situated near to a number of health providers including dentists and a pharmacy</p>	<p>Small ground floor rooms providing access for a reduced number of PCs.</p> <p>Customers may be unaware of the temporary relocation and will think there is no physical library offer.</p>	<p>Public engagement sessions have been held in September at Tamworth Library to share details of the relocation and the plans for the refurbished library with library users.</p> <p>The meeting room identified for groups will have Wi-Fi access. We have spoken with groups using the PCs e.g. Family History Group about how they could adapt their meetings using the technology available.</p> <p>We will work with SCC Communications and Marketing Team to ensure the local community</p>

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>which enables people accessing these services to conveniently visit the library. It is situated near to residential housing and near to the shopping area in Tamworth.</p> <p>The site has good parking facilities for those travelling by car and disabled access.</p> <p>The refurbished Tamworth Library and other refurbished library spaces will enable the provision of modern, up to date, flexible spaces for staff and local communities.</p>		<p>is well informed about the Tamworth temporary relocation and the move back to the library.</p> <p>For all the public library projects we will engage with the local community to ensure their needs are reflected in the library and the offer remains inclusive.</p>

Key consideration	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Establishment of Start-Up Hubs in libraries	Residents thinking about working for themselves will be able to access books and information to help them make informed decisions and to support them as they navigate the process of self-employment.	No risks identified	<p>Continue to work with partners and County Council colleagues to roll out Start-Up Hubs in Community Managed Libraries.</p> <p>Continue to promote the resources and the library digital offer.</p> <p>Libraries to signpost to local community support/organisations.</p>

### ➤ Climate Change Assessment

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
The library service has secured a Green Libraries Grant to deliver on climate change	The funding will allow the development of a toolkit of resources and training to ensure library staff and volunteers are confident in delivering	No risks identified	Climate Change Library Champions have been identified for every library. Training and awareness sessions have been designed and set up. A toolkit of resources is being developed. Professional

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	<p>climate change messages through signposting, supporting SCC climate change campaigns through library displays of books and information and through their planning of events and activities for the local community.</p>		<p>artists have been commissioned to work in libraries to deliver activities with a recycling theme for families.</p>

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➤ **Environment Assessment**

Key considerations	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Section 3: Submitting your CIA

Prior to submitting your Community Impact Assessment (CIA), please ensure that the below actions have been completed, to reassure yourself / SLT / Cabinet that the CIA process has been undertaken appropriately.

- The project supports the Council's [Strategic Plan](#) and [Medium Term Financial Strategy](#)
- The aims, objectives and outcomes of the project have been clearly identified and it is clear what the decision is or what decision is being requested
- For decisions going to Cabinet, the CIA findings are reflected in the Cabinet Report and potential impacts are clearly identified and mitigated for (where possible)
- The appropriate evidence has been used to inform the CIA and decision – engagement / consultation, data, research, local knowledge
- The appropriate people have been involved to provide knowledge and expertise to inform the CIA / decision
- The CIA evidences how the Council has considered its statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 and how it has considered the impacts of any change on people with protected characteristics

### Next Steps:

- When you are satisfied you have completed the above actions, the CIA needs to be approved as appropriate – depending on the size of your project, this could be your manager, project lead or SLT
- If your CIA is going to Cabinet, it should be submitted as part of the Cabinet papers
- You should also submit your CIA to [amanda.dawson-blower@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.dawson-blower@staffordshire.gov.uk)

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2022/2023**

This document sets out the work programme for Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022/2023.

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee are responsible for scrutiny of highways infrastructure and connectivity, flood and water management, education, learning and skills. As such, the statutory education co-optees will sit on this committee. The Work Programme is linked to the Vision, Outcomes and Priorities detailed in the Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26.

We review our Work Programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something important comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

#### **Councillor Tina Clements**

Chairman of Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee

If you would like to know more about our Work Programme or how to raise issues for potential inclusion on a Work Programme, then please contact Jonathan Lindop, Scrutiny and Support Officer ([jonathan.lindop@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.lindop@staffordshire.gov.uk)).

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Thursday 26 May 2022 at 10.00 am	Work Programme Planning  Rural Economic Strategy Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Anthony Hodge	Requested by email (Cabinet Member 17 March 2022).	(a) That the report be received and noted.  (b) That the County Council's draft Rural Economic Strategy 2022/2030 be supported.  (c) That the Cabinet Member have regard to their comments (see minutes of meeting) in the final version (and its Implementation Plan) expected to be published in late Summer/early Autumn 2022.  (d) That further update reports on the progress made in implementation of the Strategy be brought to the Committee on a quarterly basis.
Wednesday 15 June 2022 at 2.00 pm (additional meeting)	Highways Transformation – Update Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey	Requested by Cabinet Member at 14 April 2022 Committee Meeting.	(a) That the report be received and noted.  (b) That satisfactory progress had been made in the Highways Transformation Programme to date.

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Page 79			<p>(c) That the Cabinet Member be urged to have regard to the above-mentioned comments in his work to identify the most appropriate future delivery model for the Highways maintenance service.</p> <p>(d) That progress in the Highways Transformation Programme Continue to be monitored closely and further update reports be brought the Committee, as necessary.</p>
	<p>SEND Green Paper – Staffordshire’s response Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Helen Riley/Tim Moss</p>	<p>Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting.</p>	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the contents of the County Council’s proposed response to the Government’s White Paper entitled “SEND review: right support, right place, right time”, as set out in the report, be supported.</p> <p>(c) That the various measures contained in the White Paper already being implemented by Staffordshire, making them an exemplar, be welcomed.</p>

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			(d) That the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) be urged to continue his efforts to lobby Central Government for additional resources so that the various other aspirations contained in the White Paper can be successfully delivered within a satisfactory time-scale.
Thursday 7 July 2022 at 10.00 am Page 80	Highways Transformation Programme – Three Strands Progress Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey	Requested at 13 January 2022 Committee Meeting.	(a) That the oral report and presentation be received and noted.  (b) That satisfactory progress had been made in the Highways Transformation Programme to date.  (c) That the Cabinet Member be urged to have regard to the above-mentioned comments in his work to implement the new future delivery model for Staffordshire Highways.
	Town Centre Regeneration Programmes (Working with District and Borough Partners – Update	Requested at 29 November 2021 Triangulation Meeting. Postponed until late summer at the request of Cabinet Member (via email from Anthony Hodge 1 February	

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p>Cabinet Member: Phillip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Hodge</p>	<p>2022). Further identified at 26 May 2022 Committee Meeting. Postponed at the request of Cabinet Member (email from Anthony Hodge, 10 June 2022) at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting.</p>	
<p>Page 81</p>	<p>HS2 Connectivity with existing 'classic' Network Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Clive Thompson</p>	<p>Raised at 13 January 2022 Committee meeting; offer of engagement with Avanti West Coast received 28 February 2022 (email from Jason Pacey, HS2); provisionally accepted by Chairman 4 March 2022.</p>	<p>(a) That the oral report and presentation be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the efforts made to date to maximise the opportunities available to Staffordshire residents from the construction of the high-speed rail line by HS2 be welcomed.</p> <p>(c) That a further update be brought to the Committee in January/February 2022.</p> <p>(d) That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills continue to be held to account for his efforts to maximise the opportunities available to Staffordshire residents from the construction of the line, where possible.</p>

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
<p>Page 82</p>	<p>Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021/27 Outcome Measures – Progress Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Jamie Cooper</p>	<p>Requested at 29 November 2021 Committee meeting.</p>	<p>(a) That the oral report and presentation be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the news of additional Government Funding which had been made available in support of flood risk management in Staffordshire and the progress made to date in this respect, be welcomed.</p> <p>(c) That the Cabinet Member be urged to have regard to the Committee’s comments in his on-going work towards ensuring effective flood risk management in the County.</p> <p>(d) That the issue of flood risk management be kept under close review and further scrutiny be undertaken, as necessary.</p>
<p>Thursday 29 September 2022 at 10.00 am</p>	<p><del>North Staffordshire Local Air Quality Plan</del> <del>Cabinet Member: David Williams</del> <del>Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Clive Thomson</del></p>	<p>Requested by email 4 February 2022 (Joanne Keay on behalf of Cabinet Member). Postponed at the request of Cabinet Member (email from Darryl Evers via Joanne Keay 12 July 2022) until Autumn 2022.</p>	

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Schools White Paper Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Tim Moss	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting.	
Page 83	<del>Countryside Review – Update</del> Cabinet Member: <del>Victoria Wilson</del> Lead Officers: <del>Helen Riley/Sarah Bentley</del>	Requested at 24 February 2022 Committee Meeting. Programmed for early Autumn at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Reprogrammed for additional 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting.	
	<del>Staffordshire History Centre – Update</del> Cabinet Member: <del>Victoria Wilson</del> Lead Officers: <del>Catherine Mann</del>	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed for early Autumn at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Reprogrammed for additional 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting.	
	<del>Libraries &amp; Arts – Update (Burton-on-Trent, Cannock and Tamworth)</del> Cabinet Member: <del>Victoria Wilson</del> Lead Officers: <del>Catherine Mann</del>	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed for early Autumn at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Reprogrammed for additional 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting.	
	Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly Update. Cabinet Member: David Williams	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Update for Q2 postponed until later in Q3 at request of Director (email from James Bailey 18 August 2022).	

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey		
Page 84	Economic Recovery Renewal and Transformation/Economic and Rural Strategies Six-Monthly Progress Update (incorporating former APMG Report – Future Economy and Enterprise – Update) Cabinet Member: Philip White Leads Officer: Anthony Hodge	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 July 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Further update incorporated into County Economic Strategy report to 23 March 2022 Committee meeting. Postponed at the request of Cabinet Member on 20 June 2022 to 19 October 2022 Committee Meeting.	
	SEND High Needs Capital Funding 2022-24 Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Bhardwaja/Debbie Nash	Requested by email 19 July 2022 (Debbie Nash on behalf of Cabinet Member). Agreed by Chairman 21 July 2022	
Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 2.00 pm	Countryside Review Update including Chasewater Vision Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Sarah Bentley	Requested at 24 February 2022 Committee Meeting. Programmed for early Autumn at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Reprogrammed for additional 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting.	
	Staffordshire History Centre – Update	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting.	

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Page 85	<p><del>Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson</del> <del>Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Catherine Mann</del></p>	<p>Programmed for early Autumn at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Reprogrammed for additional 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting. Postponed until December 2022 meeting at request of Cabinet Member on 8 September 2022.</p>	
	<p>Libraries &amp; Arts – Update (Burton-on-Trent, Cannock and Tamworth) Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Catherine Mann</p>	<p>Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed for early Autumn at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Reprogrammed for additional 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting.</p>	
	<p><del>Chasewater Vision</del> <del>Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson</del> <del>Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Catherine Mann</del></p>	<p>Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting. To be included in Countryside Vision – Update (see above)</p>	
	<p>Economic Recovery Renewal and Transformation/Economic <del>and Rural</del> Strategies Six-Monthly Progress Update (incorporating: (i) former APMG Report – Future Economy and Enterprise –</p>	<p>Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 July 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Further update incorporated into County Economic Strategy report to 23 March 2022 Committee meeting. Postponed at the request of Cabinet Member on 20 June 2022 to 19 October 2022 Committee</p>	

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Update and; (ii) National Numeracy Programme Cabinet Member: Philip White Leads Officer: Darryl Evers/Anthony Hodge	Meeting. Revised content (Economic Strategy only) agreed at Pre-Agenda preview on 27 September 2022.	
	<del>Civil Parking Enforcement – Proposed Scrutiny Review</del> <del>Cabinet Member: David Williams</del> <del>Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey</del>	Requested by Cabinet Member on 10 August 2022. Postponed at request of Cabinet Member (email from Darryl Evers, 4 October 2022).	
Page 8 Thursday 10 November 2022 at 10.00 am	Household Waste Recycling Centres – New Service Performance against Key Performance Indicators. Report to also include details of five-year investment plan and significant policy changes, at request of Cabinet Member on 7 September 2022. Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Clive Thomson	April 2022 update requested at 16 September 2021 Committee meeting. Postponed at request of Cabinet Member until reconfigured service operational (email from Clive Thomson/Carole Smith 8 March 2022).	
	Digital Infrastructure - Update	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting.	

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Evers		
	Tree Planting Net Zero by Nature Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Clive Thomson	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 18 August 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed for 10 November 2022 Committee meeting at 29 September Committee meeting.	
<del>Thursday 22</del> Friday 16 December 2022 at 10.00 am (Re-scheduled at request of Chairman)	Staffordshire History Centre – Update Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Catherine Mann	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed for early Autumn at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Reprogrammed for additional 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting. Postponed from 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at request of Cabinet Member on 8 September 2022.	
	Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly Update. Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Last reported to 7 July 2022 Committee meeting. Update for Q2 postponed until later in Q3 at request of Director (email from James Bailey 18 August 2022).	
Friday 3 February 2023 at 10.00 am	Civil Parking Enforcement – Proposed Scrutiny Review	Requested by Cabinet Member on 10 August 2022. Postponed from 19 October 2022 Committee meeting at	

### Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey	request of Cabinet Member (email from Darryl Evers 4 October 2022). Target date for note - February 2023 Committee meeting.	
Thursday 27 April 2023 at 10.00 am	Staffordshire Community Learning Service's annual self-assessment report for 21/22 Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Evers	Requested by email 28 September 2021 (Amanda Darlington on behalf of Cabinet Member).	

Any provisional matter requiring Committee confirmation/approval are shown in green

### Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2022/2023

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting
Delivering Housing in Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Deaville Lead Officers: Anthony Hodge/ Mark Parkinson/Matthew Shufflebotham	Programmed for consideration at November 2020 Committee Meeting but Agenda full. However, nothing further to report at present.	To be advised.
Live Labs Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel/Jonathan Price/David Williams Lead Officers: Clive Thomson/Louise Clayton/Nick Dawson	Carried forward from 2020/21 and 2021/22 Work Programmes.	To be advised
Safer Roads Partnership Update Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers	Requested at 16 September 2021 Committee meeting.	To be advised

<b>Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2022/2023</b>		
<b>Suggested Item</b>	<b>Details (Background)</b>	<b>Proposed Date of Meeting</b>
Bus Transport for Young People Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Clive Thomson	Requested at 29 November 2021 Triangulation Meeting. Further identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting.	To be advised
OFSTED 2022 Inspection No. 2 Progress Plan – Education for All Pupils including Specialist Provision. Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Baghwaja	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee Meeting.	To be advised.
Local Transport Plan Refresh. Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officer: Darryl Evers/Clive Thomson	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee Meeting.	To be advised.
Digital Infrastructure Plan Progress Update. Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Anthony Baines	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee Meeting.	To be advised.
Tourism and Visitor Economy: Cabinet Member: Phillip White Lead Officers: Darryl Evers	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting.	To be advised.
School Age Education – Development Post Pandemic Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Bhardwaja/Tim Moss	Identified at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting	To be advised.
Tree Planting Net Zero by Nature Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Sarah Bentley	Identified at 18 August 2022 Triangulation Meeting.	Programmed for 10 November 2022 Committee meeting at 29 September Committee meeting. Postponed at

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2022/2023		
Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting
		request of Cabinet Member (email from Sarah Bentley, 6 October 2022)

Any provisional matter requiring Committee confirmation/approval are shown in green

Standing Items 2022/2023		
Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
HS2 Six-monthly Update – Impact on Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officer: Darryl Eyers/ Sarah Mallen	Requested at 26 February 2021 Committee meeting (amended at 23 July 2021 Committee Meeting). Next update due January 2023.	
Economic Recovery Renewal and Transformation Six-Monthly Progress Update (incorporating former APMG Report – Future Economy and Enterprise – Update) Cabinet Member: Philip White Leads Officer: Darryl Eyers/ Anthony Hodge	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 July 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Further update incorporated into County Economic Strategy report to 23 March 2022 Committee meeting. Next update due at September 2022 Committee meeting.	
Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly Update. Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/ James Bailey	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Next Update due September 2022 (Update for Q2 postponed until later in Q3 at request of Director (email from James Bailey 18 August 2022)).	

Any provisional matter requiring Committee confirmation/approval are shown in green

**Briefing Notes / Updates / Visits 2022/2023**

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome

**Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2022/2023**

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Ongoing	Sexual Harassment in Staffordshire Schools	Participation requested by Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Rev Michael Metcalf (Prosperous Scrutiny representative).	Final draft report considered at 14 April 2022 Committee meeting. Sign-off to be notified and monitoring arrangements to be agreed.
Cancelled	'Bus Back Better' – Enhanced Partnership for Staffordshire Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Clive Thomson	Requested by email 5 January 2022 (Louise Clayton on behalf of Cabinet Member). Postponed until March 2022 meeting following delay in announcing Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) settlement by Central Government. Further delay in announcing Settlement received (email from Louise Clayton 8 March 2022). Notified of unsuccessful BSIP Bid by email 12 April 2022 (Louise Clayton on behalf of Cabinet Member). Cabinet Member evaluating consequences for Staffordshire.	
	Civil Parking Enforcement	Requested by Cabinet Member on 10 August 2022.	

Any provisional matter requiring Committee confirmation/approval are shown in green

<b>Membership – County Councillors 2022-2023</b>	<b>Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2022-2023</b> (All meetings to be held at County Buildings, Stafford unless otherwise stated)
Tina Clements (Chairman) Ross Ward (Vice-Chairman – Scrutiny) Peter Kruskonjic (Vice-Chairman – Overview) Philippa Hadden Philip Hudson Syed Hussain Graham Hutton David Smith Bernard Williams Mike Deakin (Co-optee) Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf (Co-optee) Jessica Shulman (Co-optee)	Thursday 26 May 2022 at 10.00 am
	Wednesday 15 June 2022 at 2.00 pm (additional meeting)
	Thursday 7 July 2022 at 10.00 am
	Thursday 29 September 2022 at 10.00 am
	Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 2.00 pm (additional meeting)
	Thursday 10 November 2022 at 10.00 am
	Friday 16 December 2022 at 10.00 am
	Friday 3 February 2023 at 10.00 am
	Thursday 27 April 2023 at 10.00 am