

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Wednesday 7 June 2023

14:30

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

The meeting will be webcast live, a recording of which 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
30 May 2023

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 27 April 2023** (Pages 1 - 8)
4. **Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update**

Oral report and presentation by the Cabinet Member of Highways and Transport
5. **Staffordshire County Council's Economic Strategy – Delivery Update** (Pages 9 - 26)

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills
6. **Digital Infrastructure in Staffordshire Update** (Pages 27 - 58)

Report of Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change
7. **Work Programme Planning** (Pages 59 - 72)
 - (a) **2023/24 Work Programme**

Draft schedule attached

(b) **Proposed Scrutiny Review - Civil Parking Enforcement**

Report of Scrutiny and Support Manager

8. **Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 6 July 2023 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”.

Part Two

(All reports in this section are exempt)

Nil

Membership

Charlotte Atkins	Peter Kruskonjic (Vice-Chair (Overview))
Tina Clements (Chair)	Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
Hannah Gallimore	David Smith
Philippa Haden	Samantha Thompson
Philip Hudson	Ross Ward (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Graham Hutton	Bernard Williams

Notes for Members of the Press and Public

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Recording by Press and Public

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**Minutes of the Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Meeting held on 27 April 2023**

Present: Tina Clements (Chair)

Attendance

Charlotte Atkins	David Smith
Philippa Haden	Samantha Thompson
Philip Hudson	Ross Ward (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Graham Hutton	Bernard Williams
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf	

Also in attendance: Darryl Eyers, Jonathan Lindop and Simon Tagg

Apologies: Peter Kruskonjic

PART ONE

61. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

62. Minutes of meeting held on 22 March 2023

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

63. Household Waste Recycling Centres – Outcome of the Public Consultation and Policy Changes for 2023/24

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Environment Infrastructure and Climate Change regarding the outcome of public consultation on Staffordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) together with proposed policy changes for implementation in 2023/24 (schedule 1 to the signed minutes).

The County Council had a network of 14 HWRCs across Staffordshire together a further jointly funded site at Lower House Farm, Warwickshire, whose primary function was to receive household waste. There was no statutory duty to accept commercial or trade waste at any of these sites.

Since April 2022 the operation of HWRCs had been brought in-house and better access to data had revealed a significant increase in the deposit of bulky and trade waste (especially at the Cannock site). This situation had

significantly increased disposal costs and pressure on existing budgets. In addition, there had been minimal capital investment across the network during the time the service had been outsourced. Therefore, various changes to existing policies were being considered with the aim of ensuring residents were not having to subsidise the disposal of bulky/trade waste and to finance improvements.

Consultation with the public (including traders and businesses) on the proposed changes had been undertaken between 5 December 2022 to 22 January 2023 to seek their views so that, where possible, any concerns or queries could be mitigated. During this period, a total of 1,002 responses were received and following an analysis, key messages had been identified including:-

Policy 4 (Van and Trailer Use)

Proposal - Introduce a van permitting or vehicle recognition-based system for vans and cars with trailers used by Staffordshire residents disposing of household waste generated from domestic properties.

Key Messages

- Half of respondents stated 12 visits per year should be allowed with a van permit.
- Van users had a higher preference for 12 permits per year - 73% compared to 38% of car users. However, this remained a top option across all vehicle types.
- Respondents cited the impact of a van and trailer permit scheme would be to:- (i) Reduce congestion and queues (14%); (ii) Penalise residents with privately owned vans (16%) and; (iii) Increase fly tipping (11%).

Mitigations

- Ensure clear definition of vehicles and trailers requiring a van permit. Full details to be included in an online application and effectively communicated.
- Site staff empowered to be supportive of Staffordshire County Council residents and to make appropriate decisions when faced with exceptional circumstances.
- Lessons learnt from other Local Authorities with van permits to be used to shape the solution for Staffordshire.

Policy 15 (Commercial (Trade) Waste)

Proposal - Option (a) - Staffordshire only business and commercial waste accepted at all sites and increase trade prices per load for larger vans and pro rata increase when traders use cars, small vans and or trailers;

Option (b) - Staffordshire and non-Staffordshire business and commercial waste accepted at larger sites only and increase trade prices per load for larger vans and pro rata increase when traders use cars, small vans and or trailers and;

Option (c) - Staffordshire and non-Staffordshire business and commercial waste accepted at all sites and increase trade prices per load for larger vans and pro rata increase when traders use cars, small vans and or trailers.

Key Messages

- More respondents (60%) supported the option (Option). This option was most prevalent in Cannock Chase, with 73% compared to 60% overall.
- Respondents favoured prioritising Staffordshire County Council's boundary for the disposal of trade waste. However, concern was raised regarding increased fly tipping.

Mitigations

- Introduce a two-month amnesty for non-Staffordshire traders to allow time for any new arrangements to be fully communicated.
- Work closely with the District and Borough Councils to monitor fly tipping and assist with appropriate action, including enforcement, as required.

The re-use of items collected at HWRCs was currently managed by the Katherine House Hospice registered Charity which received approximately 150,000 items per year of which 80% were offered for sale. The current arrangements were due to expire in April 2023. However, the contract had been extended to April 2024. Whilst a separate public consultation on options for a longer-term solution had originally been envisaged, a soft market testing exercise had concluded that this would not be worthwhile owing to a lack of potential partners. Therefore, work was underway with the existing provider to review their operations at HWRCs and develop a new model for the future.

In the full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued, Members gave further detailed scrutiny to the proposed policy changes having regard to the results of the public consultation, asking questions, seeking clarification and raising areas of concern as necessary including:- (i) the arrangements to distinguish between private residents using trailers at HWRCs and commercial traders; (ii) how health and safety considerations could be improved as part of the wider development of services at HWRCs including citing of Automated External Defibrillators and 'Bleed' Kits; (iii) how the current arrangements for dealing with fly-typing could be improved notwithstanding the anticipated inconsequential effect of the proposed policy changes; (iv) the arrangements for Parish Councils and voluntary organisations to continue to use HWRCs without charge; (v) waste from neighbouring Local Authority areas; (vi) the importance of the proposed amnesty period during the transition to the new arrangements; (vii) monitoring and enforcement considerations; (viii) the anticipated length of time required to issue permits and; (viii) additional training required by operatives at HWRCs.

In conclusion, the Committee welcomed further news of the investment proposals for HWRCs and re-affirmed their preference for Option (a) above in relation to Policy 15 – Commercial (Trade) Waste. In addition, they were supportive of and assured by the proposed mitigations identified in response to concerns highlighted from the public consultation and stressed the importance of improving service delivery for the benefit of local residents.

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

(b) That their support for the proposed changes with regard to Policy 4 (Van and Trailer Use) above, be reaffirmed.

(c) That their support for Option (a) for the proposed changes with regard to Policy 15 (Commercial (Trade) Waste) above be re-affirmed.

(d) That the proposed changes to Policy 14 (Schools, Charities (*and other not for profit organisations*)) involving a short application process as set out in Appendix 4 to the report be supported.

(e) That long-term proposals for the future treatment of 're-use' items be brought to the Committee for scrutiny, at the appropriate time.

64. Flood Risk Management Strategy - Update

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Environment Infrastructure and Climate Change updating them on progress with regard to the development of the County Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy (schedule 2 to the signed minutes).

Members were informed that since the previous Strategy was approved in 2018, there had been nine significant flood events each bringing their own financial and emotional costs for individuals, local communities and businesses.

Working with communities and incorporating recent experience and innovative practice, the updated strategy aimed to include ways of managing and reducing flood risks in Staffordshire, as well as considering how best recovery could be achieved quickly. Also, it incorporated comments previously made by the Committee in respect of greater collaborative working with Partners such as District/Borough Council's, Environment Agency and Canal and River Trust etc in respect of Flood Risk Mitigation.

At their meeting on 15 March 2023, Cabinet resolved that:-

- (a) the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be approved.
- (b) That the accompanying documents: Habitats Risk Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, be approved.
- (c) That the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change be authorised to sign-off any necessary changes and publish final versions of a) and b) assuming no significant changes necessary.
- (d) That the Strategy be revised again, when implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 makes Staffordshire County Council a SuDS Approval Body responsible for the approval, adoption, maintenance and management of sustainable drainage systems, to take account of this.

At that time, a public consultation on the revised Strategy was being undertaken, the results of which were appended to the report for Members' information. In addition, Risk Management Authorities and stakeholder organisations with an interest in flood risk management were consulted on the draft Strategy with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England being consulted on the accompanying Strategic Environment and Habitat Regulation Assessments.

Members heard that the above-mentioned consultations had generated various comments including from:- (i) The Environment Agency regarding concerns over compliance of the Strategy with the Strategic Environmental Assessment; (ii) Natural England who had cited the

national response to the Environment Agency Strategy and; (iii) Historic England who had requested greater reference to the historic environment.

Members were also given details of 24 Flood Risk Management Schemes currently being promoted in the County together with a 'Flood: Aware, Informed and Resilient' (FAIR) Project.

In the full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued, Members gave detailed scrutiny to the Authority's continuing approach to flood risk management having regard to the consultation responses received, asking questions, seeking clarification and raising areas of concern as necessary, including:- (i) the detrimental effect of outdated drainage infrastructure on flooding in the County; (ii) the role of third parties in ensuring appropriate management of water on their land together with enforcement actions available to the County Council where appropriate; (iii) the role of Planning Authorities in maintaining the provision of flood plains and promoting a better use of run-off water; (iv) the responsibility of the Highway Authority to adequately maintain road gullies and the role of local Members in reporting defects; (v) the need for better co-ordination between Partners and for a lead authority to be responsible for seeking resolution of issues and; (vi) communication with the public including publication of timescales for completion of projects.

In conclusion, Members welcomed news of the additional Government funding for Staffordshire and the progress which had been made by the Authority in the various flood risk management schemes in the County. However, they urged the Cabinet Member to have regard to their comments during his continued work in this area and undertook to give further scrutiny to the matter in future, as necessary.

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

(b) That Appendix 1b to the Strategy, "Draft Local flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan", (and/or other documentation, as appropriate) include details of current Flood Risk Management Schemes being promoted in the County together with indicative timescales for their completion.

(c) That the publication of live flood schemes on the County Councils' Flood Risk Management website be supported subject to appropriate environmental reports to be undertaken.

(d) That further scrutiny of the Authority's work in the area of Flood Risk Management be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.

65. Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) - Annual Report 2021/22

The Committee considered a report of the Chairman of Staffordshire Standing Advisory County on Religious Education (SACRE) regarding their 2021/22 Annual Report which covered their work during the period September 2021 to September 2022 (schedule 3 to the signed minutes).

SACRE was a statutory Committee of the County Council whose role was to inform and advise the Authority on all matters relating to religious education and collective worship in Staffordshire's 'Maintained' schools. Whilst the Scrutiny Committee had a limited role in scrutinising the work of SACRE, the County Council commissioned support for them from Entrust. Therefore, Members were interested to learn whether these arrangements had operated satisfactorily and if not, to hold the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) to account as, necessary.

Members noted that the support commissioned by the County Council through Entrust had included clerking, venue hosting and advisory services (as supplied by a part-time Advisor in Religious Education post for up to twelve days work per year). In addition, the Advisor also provided in-service training courses to teachers whose schools had bought into this enhanced service.

During the discussion which ensued, they were pleased to note that the support given to SACRE compared well with that of other areas in the Country (as set out in the Annual Report) and that the Advisory Council had no concerns regarding their operation during the year.

The Committee then thanked Reverend Prebendary Michael Metcalf for an interesting and informative presentation of the report.

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

(b) That the support commissioned by the County Council for SACRE during 2021/22 was appropriate and effective and that no further issues required scrutiny at this time.

66. Work Programme 2022/23 and 2023/24 (Indicative)

RESOLVED – (a) That the updated 2022/23 Work Programme (schedule 4 to the signed minutes) be approved.

(b) That the 2023/24 Work Programme (indicative) be noted.

(c) That Members hold an informal Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Planning Session on Friday 2 June 2023 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

**67. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 7 June 2023 at 2.00 pm,
County Buildings, Stafford**

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

Chairman

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday 07 June 2023

Staffordshire County Council's Economic Strategy – Delivery Update

Recommendations

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 October 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 in six months' time.

Local Member Interest:

N/A

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 our Economic Strategy, and supporting strategies and delivery plans, since it was considered by the Committee in October 2022.
2. The successful delivery of our Economic Strategy in achieving its vision and aims remains dependent on many factors, not least the identification and delivery of appropriate projects and programmes.

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 last considered the delivery of our draft Economic Strategy in October 2022. Since then and following consideration of feedback received from the extensive consultation exercise we undertook, we have finalised and published the Strategy on our website:

- a. [Economic strategy: 2023-2030 - Staffordshire County Council](#)

5. Whilst innovation featured heavily within the draft of the Strategy, the importance of this in achieving our vision for the local economy is now emphasised within the final version. Our more recent work to achieve our ambition for innovation, and all other priorities, within the County is detailed throughout the report.
6. Supporting our rural economy and tourism sectors are key parts of the delivery of our overall Economy Strategy. We have also recently published our Rural Economic Strategy, whilst our Visitor Economy Action Plan, which was prepared in collaboration between local authority and private sector partners that make up our Destination Management Partnership, was unanimously endorsed by the Staffordshire Leaders Board at the beginning of December. This includes several key actions to boost our visitor economy including encouraging more people to work within the sector, addressing emerging skills challenges and supporting the development of the local accommodation offer.
7. The global economic climate, detailed further within the next section, continues to present challenges to the local, national, and regional economies in the short-term. 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.
8. Interventions put in place by the County Council, and local and national stakeholders, to support the economy through challenging periods are 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, which is regularly reviewed and reported to the Committee through these ongoing updates.

Summary economic headlines

9. Global events continue to impact on the economy, primarily the war in Ukraine and the related cost-of-living pressures. To try and keep inflation under control, the Bank of England has continued to increase interest rates over recent months, thereby increasing the cost of borrowing and servicing debt. These global issues are expected to continue to impact the Staffordshire economy for some time, although the national economy is not now expected to enter recession as was initially predicted, whilst inflation is expected to fall throughout the coming year.
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 and have come even more strongly into focus. Staffordshire remains in a strong position to remain resilient through challenging times. Unfortunately, we have seen some increases in unemployment over recent months, although these have largely been in-line with national trends, whilst our overall unemployment rates remain significantly below regional and national averages. Demand for labour and skills remains high, with there currently being 1.1 jobs available for every claimant within the county, and therefore our focus continues to be to support those that unfortunately find themselves unemployed, to transition into work.
11. The resilience of the local economy is at least in part due to our continued efforts to support the creation of high-quality jobs within the county, as is detailed throughout the rest of the report. Since 2010, around 42,000 additional new jobs have been created in the county, with many more in the pipeline.

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.

12. 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 the Levelling Up Fund. We were successful in our bid

for round two of the Levelling Up Fund (further details are set out in paragraph 29), whilst Staffordshire Moorlands District Council were successful in securing £17.1 million to redevelop Leek town centre, including substantial investment in the Nicholson Institute, home to Leek's library, museum and art gallery. Together with Cannock Chase District Council's success in round one, this means that the Staffordshire local authorities have secured over £57 million for the county from the Levelling Up Fund alone.

13. 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. Rural Hub Towns are being discussed through the Rural Economic Strategy work to ensure the smaller centres receive support to help them thrive. A project with Keele University students has highlighted areas for potential development linked to the SWOT analysis already in place.
14. The County Council continues to invest in high-quality business premises to support businesses to start, grow and invest within the county. We opened Shire Hall last summer following an extensive £2 million refurbishment of the building and the development has already proved hugely successful and is now home to 15 companies across a range of sectors, with only a few of the units now remaining. Shire Hall is an important part of the County Council and Borough Councils plans for the regeneration of Stafford, and as town centres continue to move away from retail, this is exactly the type of development that will ensure that our centres thrive and support our residents in starting a business within the county.
15. Work is well advanced to procure a Development Partner who will work with the County Council to design and deliver the Eastgate Regeneration scheme which will play a key role in the transformation of Stafford town centre through a residential led, mixed used development focused on vacant and underused buildings and land in the County Council's ownership. The opportunity, which is a direct opportunity for the County Council to deliver town centre regeneration, was launched at the UKREiif property exhibition in mid-May. Potential developers will be assessed and short listed to enter a further procurement stage during summer and autumn, with the aim to formally appoint the Development Partner by the end of 2023.

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. To support the delivery of our overarching Economic Strategy, we are currently developing a new Employment and Skills Strategy for Staffordshire with the support and input from our skills providers and partners. This will be used to guide future employment and skills work programmes, to support external funding bids, to enable effective communication of Staffordshire's shared employment and skills goals, and to inform the development of other relevant skills plans and actions as appropriate. The Employment and Skills Strategy will be brought to the Committee for consideration and input later in the year.
17. We 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. Work is ongoing on the £16m Institute of Technology which is scheduled to open in 2024. St. Modwen Logistics, one of the UK's leading logistics developers and managers, is the latest partner to join the Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group led consortium of education providers and employers from across the Midlands to form the IoT. This will bring together key industry, education and research providers within the county to aid partnership working and widen participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects. St. Modwen Logistics will provide further opportunities for learners to develop skills in the specialisms of the built environment and sustainability.
18. To support our continued ambition for more people to start a business within the county (as detailed in the next section), we have recently commissioned a study, to be delivered by the Growth Company, to capture the current landscape of education and skills, programmes and training courses that promote enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, to identify any gaps in provision and to make any recommendations for change. The aim is to ensure the provision available to Staffordshire residents and businesses is comprehensive, transparent, and easy to navigate to assist individuals and businesses who wish to improve their enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, to start a business or grow a business to the next level.
19. The Ignite programme is one of our current business start-up and entrepreneurial skills programmes, delivered by the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, which supports young people in the final year of further education who have the aspiration to start their own business. The programme is constructed around an intensive workshop, alongside an online learning portal, to provide general employability skills and the skills needed to start a business, with support from Staffordshire

Chambers enterprise advisers. Areas covered include business planning, marketing, networking, cashflow forecasting and selling. The programme is in its third year and to date 13,500 students have been supported on the programme.

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 Community Learning Service delivers provision that supports and develops individuals and groups for whom formal learning may have been a barrier in the past and works with them to build confidence and to realise their true potential. For the most disadvantaged learners this includes 'first steps' learning opportunities as a way of increasing participation for people who are least likely to engage in adult learning and to prepare learners for a more formal course of learning. The service received a 'good' Ofsted grade following a recent inspection that took place between 31st January and 2nd February 2023. Inspectors reported that leaders successfully work with a range of subcontractors to shape the curriculum, ensure that planning takes account of relevant local council priorities and that learners gain significant benefits from their courses. As a result, leaders positively support the focus for economic prosperity across the communities in which they work.
22. The Council have received £4.2m over three years to deliver the national Multiply programme, consisting of targeted adult numeracy interventions delivered at local level to adults aged 19 plus who have not previously obtained a Level 2 or equivalent numeracy qualification. The programme aims to boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work to enable them to achieve a formal qualification that can open doors for them, such as into a job or progression to further study. Delivery will be across all parts of the county and consist of some outreach tasters, with the majority of provision being non-accredited short courses with clear progression routes onto accredited Functional Skills and/or GCSE maths available at local colleges and/or independent training providers.

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. We have delivered and continue to deliver many business support programmes and created high-quality start-up space across the county over recent years to support and encourage people to start and grow a business. We have now supported 548 individuals through the Staffordshire Start Up Mentoring Programme, commissioned through the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce since June 2020. 253 of those who successfully complete the course have decided that self-employment is for them and have started their own business. Get Started and Grow has supported more than 160 business owners who have been trading up to 5 years with professional services support in marketing, finance or digital marketing. The programme has expanded this year to include Human Resources and Legal Services as an option for the businesses and the County Council will continue to procure established Staffordshire businesses to provide this support.
24. A series of peer-to-peer Networks has been launched for new businesses who want to take the next steps in their journey to success. The facilitated sessions take a group of 6 to 8 people who successfully completed the Start Up Mentoring Programme and supports them in working through difficulties they may be facing to help find solutions together.
25. My Own Boss supports entrepreneurs who are struggling to launch their new business and provides up to 6 hours of bespoke coaching to look at barriers to trading. To date 72 people have been approved to participate in this scheme.
26. The most recent information released by the Office for National Statistics show our efforts are bearing fruit. In 2021, a thousand more businesses were born in Staffordshire than the previous year. Our business birth rate has therefore improved substantially and is now, for the first-time ever, in-line with the national average. Businesses born within Staffordshire are also remain far more likely to survive compared to the national average. This is a huge positive for the county and is an area that will remain a strong focus for us in the coming months and years.

Innovation

Ambition: Build upon our existing strengths and future opportunities to increase innovation activity throughout the county, both within our businesses and innovation institutions.

27. From a relatively low base, innovation activity within the county has increased substantially in recent years and particularly within our universities. This includes the delivery of many innovation projects,

including the Smart Energy Network Demonstrator Feedback and HyDeploy project to trial injecting hydrogen into the gas network to name just a couple. Feedback received through the consultation on our Economic Strategy strengthened the view that supporting further increases in innovation activity will be essential if we are to achieve our ambitions for the Staffordshire economy, and whilst innovation already featured heavily, this importance is now recognised through innovation identified as a standalone priority within the final Strategy.

28. We are of course not starting from scratch and work is ongoing on a number of further innovation projects within the county, including as part of the A50 / A500 corridor (further details set out in paragraphs 33 to 36). Through our placemaking role, we have been hugely successful in supporting innovate companies to start and invest within Staffordshire, as evidenced by the huge success of Keele University Science and Innovation Park. We therefore also continue to consider how we can support and deliver appropriate premises for innovative companies across the county, as we have done most recently at Shire Hall.
29. Companies throughout the county continue to innovate and create the technologies of the future, with one of our local SMEs, CocoonFMS based in Lichfield, recently being successful in securing £129,000 from the first round of the Freight Innovation Fund in partnership with the major logistics employer Simarco. This will help to create a digital calculator to provide automated management of port costs and shipping expenses, providing more accurate invoice information to users, reducing delays and improving the planning of deliveries. This highlights the innovation that is already happening with the county and the type of activity that we want to continue to support.

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.

30. 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.

31. In January we were notified that we had been successful in our bid for £20 million of Levelling Up Funding. This will be used to improve a number of major roads around the county, reduce journey times, put greener, cleaner buses on main roads, improve walking and cycling routes and, as part of the delivery of our Strategic Infrastructure Plan, support the growth in jobs and housing planned to be delivered in the county.
32. Through our Economic Growth Programme, we continue to develop and create the conditions for economic growth across Staffordshire, including supporting the development of employment sites. i54 South Staffordshire is one of our flagship employment sites and work to develop two plots in preparation for new occupiers at the site is underway. One of these plots is on the existing site, with the other being on the Western Extension, which will support the creation of a further 1,000 jobs when fully occupied. i54 remains an outstanding example of what we can achieve, including when working with our District and Borough and surrounding authority partners.
33. Excellent progress is also being made at the Chatterley Valley West site in Newcastle-under-Lyme where the first development plots are nearing completion. Highway access works are due to commence in May and a detailed planning application for the first 75,000 square foot speculative unit is currently being considered.
34. Elsewhere, at the Branston Locks site in Burton upon Trent, around 300 houses have now been built, alongside the completion of the first phase of industrial units, two of which are occupied by Werner ladders and Syncreon logistics.

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.

35. 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. In particular, the A50 / A500 corridor presents some of our greatest opportunities for growth, connecting many major towns and cities, universities, large-scale Original Equipment Manufacturers and numerous other economic institutions across a 90km stretch through the heart of England.

36. Improving connectivity and congestion across the corridor has been the primary focus in recent years, but wider opportunities for supporting growth are gaining more and more traction. This is especially true with regards to the technologies being developed by the world-renowned companies present in the area, with the corridor set to become a national hub for the manufacture of hydrogen engines for vehicles from cars to aeroplanes.
37. Recently the Government granted permission for JCB's hydrogen-powered backhoe loaders to be used on UK roads and they will soon be working on construction sites across the country. JCB's hydrogen project has already led to the creation of 150 new jobs with the promise of hundreds of more to come.
38. We are now driving forward plans to consider how the County Council and our partners can best support our businesses and institutions to further increase innovation activities, improve connectivity and ultimately support growth in highly paid jobs. We have commissioned Deloitte, who already have a track record of working with many of the businesses across the corridor, to undertake an initial piece of work to engage with the largest employers to understand their views of what will be required to support continued growth, increased levels of innovation and greater productivity. This has highlighted several potential areas which warrant further exploration, all related to the green economy and decarbonisation agenda, with further work now underway to develop an investment proposition that will enable us, with stakeholders from across the corridor, to have discussion with partners and Government as to how we can fully realise the benefits of the opportunities across the corridor.

Link to Strategic Plan

39. 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

40. The delivery of the Economic Strategy was last considered by the Committee in October 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

41. 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 1 – Economic Strategy Delivery Plan 2023/24

Contact Details

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Appendix - Economic Strategy Delivery Plan 2023/24

Summary	What success will look like in 2023/24	How we will measure success? (KPI)	Cabinet Lead	SLT Lead	WLT Lead
Town Centres - 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.	<p>Eastgate Regeneration proposals – Procurement of preferred Development Partner by end of December 2023.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Pipeline and / or annual business plan published</p> <p>Successful development and delivery of projects</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 Eyers	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 Eyers	Anthony Hodge
Annual Capital Programme. 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.	<p>Delivery of the Divisional Highway Programme (DHP) to the satisfaction of Members and local communities.</p> <p>Ensure that good quality, sustainable, highway infrastructure assets are constructed, that are durable and efficient to maintain and manage.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Monthly and quarterly updates on the progress and finances of the programme.</p> <p>Setup an annual, internal audit of compliance with CDM 2015.</p> <p>Ensuring that sufficient design staff are trained and employed to deliver a growing IT programme.</p>	<p>Percentage of IT programme schemes (including carry over schemes from previous financial years) at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On hold • Design stage • Construction stage • Completed • On hold / cancelled <p>IT programme expenditure per quarter against forecast expenditure per quarter.</p> <p>Percentage of DHP schemes (including carry over schemes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On hold • In progress • Completed • Cancelled 	David Williams	Darryl Eyers	James Bailey
Higher Skilled, Higher Paid Workforce - 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.					
<p>Employee Skills Partnership. Manage the delivery of the 3 £1.5m UK CRF projects in accordance with the requirements placed upon the Council as the Lead Authority.</p> <p>Manage the delivery of 4 skills Equipment Fund projects funded by the LEP's Getting Building Fund.</p> <p>Manage the delivery of the Ignite student business start-up project.</p>	<p>All 3 projects achieve their respective output, outcomes targets by June 2022.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>No. of people supported - 424 No. of businesses supported - 222 No. of organisations supported - 18.</p> <p>SEF 3 Apprenticeship - growth 178 Learners - growth 174</p> <p>No. of students received Ignite lesson - 6000 No. of students registered on Ignite online learning platform - 450</p>	Philip White	Darryl Eyers	Anthony Baines

<p>Apprenticeship & Technical Skills. 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>Adult Learning & Skills. Through adult learning programmes we will provide courses that contribute to better health & 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 & 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>100% of learners feel safe on their course 98% of learners report they have been informed about how to keep themselves safe from radicalisation and extremism 90% attendance 96% retention 98% pass 94% achievement The overall satisfaction rate of learners to be a minimum of 98% At least 30% of Learners who were unemployed and looking for work at the start of their course progress into a positive destination At least 70% of learners report positive impacts on their wellbeing and/or confidence as a direct result of attending their course The actual number of enrolments and funding earned to be at least 97% of agreed delivery profile (TBC 23-24 academic year following procurement) The overall percentage of new learners attending community learning to be a minimum of 70%</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines
<p>Multiply. 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 different types of provision: 44 Number of different initiatives developed with employers: 26 Number of different initiatives developed with community groups: 25 Number of different initiatives that lead to a qualification: 2 Number of learners participating in substantive provision: 3,584 Number of learners participating in outreach provision: 400</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Baines
<p>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.</p>					
<p>Business Start Ups & Growth. 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 ensuring services are in place for those finding it difficult to launch their business idea due to areas such as long term unemployment, english language difficulties or a lack of confidence.</p>	<p>Achievement of the start-up programme targets for Start Up Mentoring programmes and Get Started and Grow.</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 Business Programme including a comitment to spend £100,000 in the financial year.</p> <p>Development of support programmes to assist 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>Enterprise Centres. 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 enterprise facilities across the county according to need, including looking at new delivery models such as hotdesking and mail boxes.</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 the development of Innovation Space.</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 8 existing enterprise centres.</p> <p>The successful management of Shire Hall, and 80% occupancy by December 2023.</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge
<p>Staffordshire Means Business. Utilising SCC and external funding, 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 Business Programme which includes start up services and environmental solutions for businesses.</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 support</p>	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge & Anthony Baines
<p>Economic Growth Programme - 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 site earthworks and highways/access works completed</p> <p>Branston Interchange improvements on site (subject to confirmation of LUF 2 funding)</p> <p>Stafford Gateway Strategic Regeneration Framework adopted and proposals developed further</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>Developing Investment Ready Projects - <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

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. 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.	Closure of Superfast Staffordshire and transition to Project Gigabit. 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). 5G development strategy in place and agreements with mobile network operators on improving coverage.	Take-up of Superfast services (at contract closure) exceeds 75% 255,135 (61.1%) premises with Gigabit capability (Current baseline is 55.15%) Positive relationship with 100% of providers that have a successful bid in Gigabit procurement exercise (quantity currently unknown)	Simon Tagg	Darryl Eyers	Anthony Baines
Delivery of the 2022/23 elements of the Schools Capital Programme, including both the maintenance programme and the basic need projects.	Opening of the two new schools in Uttoxeter and Fradley for September 2022. Completing the expansion of St John's PS, Essington and Princefields First School, Penkridge. 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. Deliver the schools maintenance programme circa £8 million and over 100 projects.	Schools capital spend - delivery of projects in time and on budget	Jonathan Price	John Tradewell	Ian Turner
Strategic Corridors - 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.					
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.	Clear governance arrangements and direction of travel over strategy / delivery.	Adopted governance arrangements (Y/N) Successful delivery of corridors 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 Eyers	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.					
The Staffordshire Business & 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.	Deliver energy audits through the Green Solutions programme with grants of up to £10,000 for environmental improvements available in areas where the District and Borough Councils contribute UKSPF funding 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. Practical support and provision of tools has enabled businesses to improve their environmental performance such as Sustainability Growth Mapper.	Save carbon through the Green Solutions Programme according to the individual District and Brough Councils outputs. Deliver Carbon Literacy training to 100 people.	Philip White	Darryl Eyers	Anthony Hodge
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.					
Rural Economic Strategy	Delivery of the Rural Economic Strategy to take advantage of those opportunities and address any issues specific to the rural economy.	To be decided as part of the delivery of the Strategy	Philip White	Darryl Eyers	Anthony Hodge

Visitor Economy Action Plan	Supporting the delivery of the Destination Management Partnerships emerging Visitor Economy Action Plan	To be detailed as part of the delivery of the Plan	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge
Place Branding / Inward Investment	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 & Staffordshire service.	Forms part of the delivery of the KPIs related to the Economic Growth Programme, detailed above.	Philip White	Darryl Evers	Anthony Hodge

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Wednesday 07 June 2023

Digital Infrastructure in Staffordshire Update

Recommendations

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Endorse the update and approach being taken in deploying the Digital Infrastructure Strategic Framework
- b. Note the further areas of consideration and improvement being developed in support of the Council's overall digital first strategy.

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of Councillor Simon Tagg Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change

Summary

1. This report provides a six month update on April and November 2022 Digital Infrastructure in Staffordshire report presented to this committee and provides further details on plans for the utilising the infrastructure and enabled technology, it is primarily for the information of members.

Report

Background

2. The Digital Infrastructure Strategic Framework (DISF) presented as part of the Digital Infrastructure in Staffordshire report to this committee in April of 2022 was agreed at Cabinet in June 2022, it set out key objectives to deliver improved connectivity and realise the benefits for Staffordshire businesses and residents.

National Context

3. Further to the background set out in the DISF, the national importance of digital infrastructure was highlighted when the new prime minister stated '**What really matters for economic success is innovation. If we want our country to succeed, we need to do what we've**

always done and embrace new technologies and the people and culture that creates them.'

Staffordshire Context

Digital Infrastructure update.

4. Project Gigabit. Building Digital UK (BDUK) is an Executive Agency of DCMS with a mission to ensure that homes and businesses across the UK can access fast and reliable digital connectivity. One of its main programmes is Project Gigabit, in May 2022 a market engagement exercise was conducted for Staffordshire (LOT19) to identify intervention areas requiring subsidy to have gigabit (1,000 Mbps) broadband delivery. Since that time and working with BDUK the following initiatives are proceeding:

- a. We believe there to be 435,000 premises for subsidy consideration in Staffordshire of which 51,000 are deemed ready for intervention with another 105,000 under review.
- b. BDUK are launching a (type A) procurement under the LOT19 project to subsidise gigabit delivery to 5,400 premises in the Staffordshire Moorlands and (North) East Staffordshire (from Moorlands down to just above Uttoxeter) areas.
- c. BDUK will also soon be launching another procurement (Type C) for eligible premises (currently 10,800) in the rest of the county (not covered by the Type A procurement).
- d. We are also working with BDUK and suppliers on enhanced voucher subsidy projects to deliver 4,800 premises into the County.
- e. As part of two on-going sub-regional procurements (Gigahubs, subsidised public sector buildings identified in intervention areas – one led by Nottinghamshire CC and another by the Department for Education) 122 premises (schools and some health centres) have been identified for subsidised gigabit connectivity.

5. An existing Central Government Gigabit Voucher scheme to provide financial support to premise owners in obtaining gigabit capable broadband service is currently ongoing. The voucher scheme is proving to be a popular and successful scheme and was enhanced by BDUK in December. To date existing voucher project ongoing have had the following impact:

- a. 21 communities (1,179 premises) have gone live with voucher support
- b. 6 communities (947 premises) in delivery and due for completion

c. 5 communities (320 premises) have been approved and are now awaiting delivery of gigabit services.

6. An example of how the Council team work with the community to develop and deliver a successful voucher scheme is Lea Heath and Drointon, near Hixon and Stowe by Chartley in Stafford Borough. In order to develop a scheme a community lead is identified and works with the Council team and supplier (in this case Openreach) to design a solution.

a. The map below show premises included in the scheme in purple x48, where each premise agreed to 'give' their voucher to support the scheme.

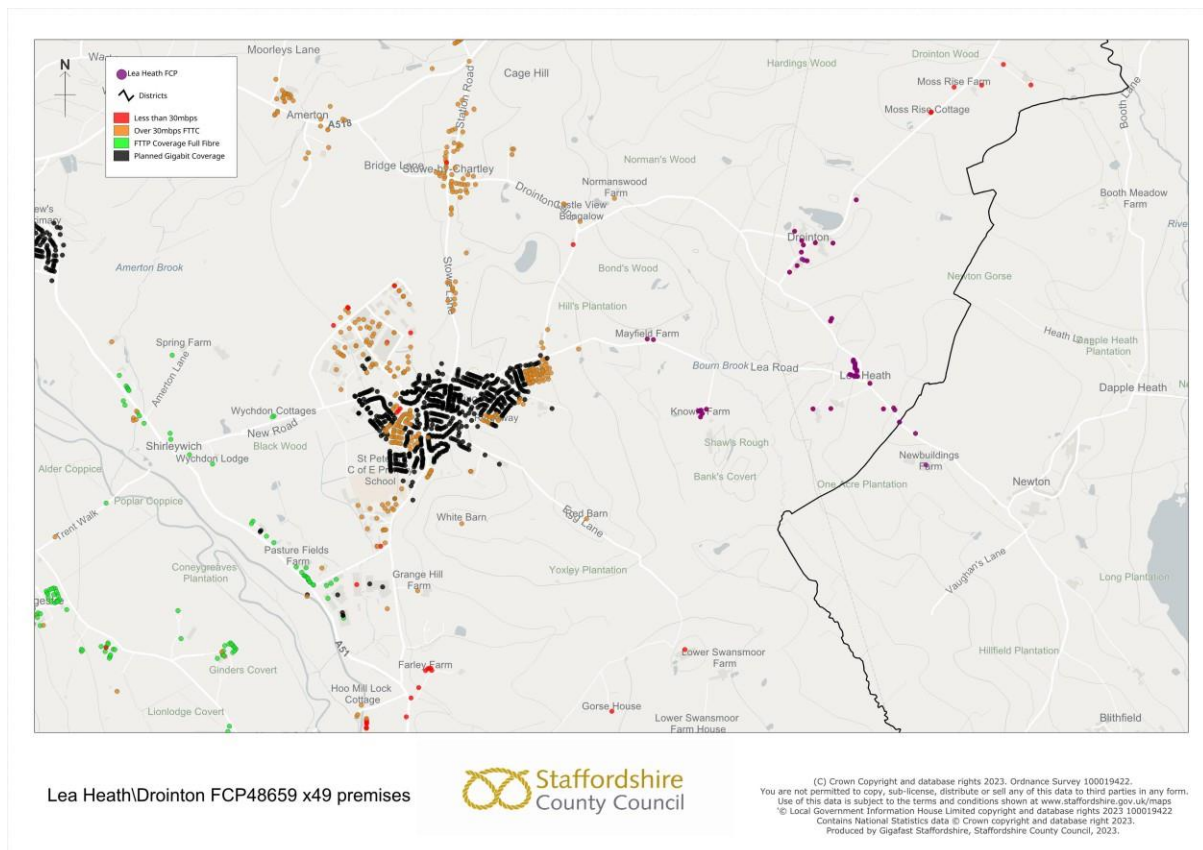
b. The application process began in October 2020 and went into delivery in March 2022 and premises went live with a full fibre service in December 2022.

c. The cost of the scheme was £99,431, (£2,071 per premise) with the Council 'topping up' the overall Government scheme with a grant of £8,976. Vouchers are still being claimed from individuals by Openreach to recoup their investment.

d. The initial community Lead, who lives in Lea Heath had to get help from another member of the community in Drointon as these are two small settlements and he didn't know every resident.

e. The Council team (Gigafast Staffordshire) helped advise both community leads and sent letters endorsing the scheme. Leaflets were distributed and social media by the team meant enough interest (i.e 48 premises) was established to make the scheme cost in.

f. Quote from Community Lead, "The speed and reliability of the new full fibre has allowed us to run our business (Dor-2-Dor Stoke) properly and efficiently from home"



7. Barrier busting approach. The team continue to encourage infrastructure investment by alternative network suppliers into the County. However, further work has been done to mitigate the disruption to vehicle traffic, pedestrians and residences as well as ensuring proper re-instatement of our highways assets. Working with the Highways team and suppliers on improving communication to residences and businesses impacted by the inevitable construction required as well as ensuring that the suppliers are aware of their responsibilities before they start construction and permits are issued we have created a 'Staffordshire Approach' document to be shared with the suppliers that sets out our expectations of their behaviours and what in return they can expect from the Council. This document is appended to this report.

Analogue lines withdrawal

8. In November 2017, the telecoms industry announced its intention to retire analogue telephone networks such as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) by the end of 2025. The industry will upgrade landline services to new digital technology using an internet connection, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Digital Voice or All-IP telephony by December 2025/

9. The situation and implications to the Council has been investigated with the following notes/actions/recommendations presented to informal cabinet (26 April 2023)
- a. A departmental audit identified approximately 600 diverse analogue lines being used by the Council at the moment (175 security/alarm/lift lines, 350 single telephone lines, 70 traffic signals and a small number of cctv lines. Departments are also asked to note increased cyber-attack profile when replacing analogue systems with digital alternatives. It was recommended that each department be responsible for replacing these lines within existing budgets.
 - b. Reputational risks need to be mitigated.
 - i. The initiative is industry led but will have impacts upon a number of our stakeholder communities (parish/district councils, voluntary groups, vulnerable groups who use telecare solutions etc). A communications programme will be done to inform these groups of the upcoming changes. Openreach have offered to support the communications initiatives.
 - ii. The analogue services have traditionally been powered from the local exchange, so in the event of local power failures premises using these analogue services have been able to remain connected. However, this change to digital services means that devices will now be powered locally/in premise and thereby will lose communications in the event of a power failure (Bad weather/storms etc) and battery back up/resilience needs to be considered. The civil contingency team have the initiative on their risk register and the potential impact will be further investigated.
 - c. As society becomes increasingly digital and the Council progresses its digital first strategy, we are becoming more dependent upon public telecommunications infrastructure to deliver service. Digital resilience needs to be considered i.e what happens to council services if/when industry decides to withdraw a critical infrastructure service. As well as the analogue line withdrawal we are aware that the mobile network operators and OFCOM are planning to withdraw 2G and 3G mobile services, this will impact services such as first generation smart meters, home alarm systems, care alarms, payment terminals etc.

Access and Adoption update

10. The Gigafast Staffordshire website has been live for nearly a year. The site continues to raise awareness on various digital connectivity solution and technology, including broadband, mobile, fixed wireless along with a range of useful resources and links. The website has been created to provide Staffordshire residents and businesses with unbiased

advice and information, that will increase take up of services and help grow the digital economy.

- a. The latest research shows that UK has 42% of full fibre coverage but only a quarter is currently taking a service. Our team are working on increasing this by providing much needed content to tackle the know barriers such as cost, knowledge, confidence, awareness of availability, digital skills and cost.
- b. A recent article published by Smartinsights suggests, roles requiring digital skills pay 29% over those roles that do not. The Gigafast Staffordshire website signposts users to areas such as Ofcom, where to find social tariffs, how to obtain further digital skills (liaising with our training unit, libraries service etc).
- c. A recent report provided suggested that 'More than 8 in 10 middle-skill jobs (82%) require digital skills, a 4% increase since 2015: Spreadsheets and word processing remain the baseline for digital skills, with 78% of middle-skill jobs calling for these at a minimum. Therefore, it is vital that we encourage the residents of Staffordshire to increase their digital skills to help people find work and grow the economy. Both of the statistics provide can also be found on the Gov.uk website Current and future demand for digital skills - a call to action - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- d. The team have designed a range of digital skills quizzes to suit a wide target audience that will be deployed across public facing sites across the county, this will include; GP surgeries, job centres, libraries, nurseries, visitor centres, leisure centres. The aim is to get people to complete the quiz to help identify if they have basic digital skills, upon completion they will be redirected to a wide range of free digital skills courses and provided with the relevant details to contact our internal Adult Community Learning teams' Digital tutors and IT buddies.
- e. The Digital Infrastructure team continues to manage the Gigafast Staffordshire social media channels and has carried out several campaigns. This includes a campaign on social tariffs which are still not largely known about. Another ongoing social media initiative is '#FullFibreFriday' which aims to share good news stories and updates on the development of the fibre network around Staffordshire each Friday.
- f. A survey published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows 5.3m Britons have either never gone online or not used the internet in the last three months. This amounted to 10 per cent of the UK population in 2018, when the survey was conducted. The survey has not been repeated since the pandemic however what our community

engagement suggests, is that people have not gained the skills or confidence to stay safe online.

Digital Connectivity update.

11. The Digital Infrastructure team continues to work with other digital teams on how digital infrastructure enables the delivery of digital services to residents and business. This work includes looking at how the Council may be able to take advantage of future internal network procurements such as the Public Services Network which may provide further opportunities to co-ordinate cross government delivery, better access to social tariffs (only 2% of eligible people have taken up social tariffs in the UK) including enhanced tariffs for multiple dwelling units.
12. In collaboration with our neighbouring local authorities, Staffordshire County Council are working on a Regional Mobile connectivity project. We helped organise and co-hosted a Market Testing event to understand services that the market can enable to capture, monitor and analyse mobile phone coverage and services (2G, 3G, 4G and 5G) across the specified geography, broken down to a more detailed level for each of the councils. Following on from the market engagement event, we have drafted a DPS, as we now want to understand suggested methodologies to create an ongoing and dynamic view (data and voice) across participating counties. That will allow us to engage with mobile network operators, Ofcom, DCMS etc. to establish plans to improve the experience of our residents and businesses.
13. SCC are now represented in the DCMS - Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) Early Adopters Group (EAG). The EAG comprises a network of Local Authorities that have mobile digital strategies in place and want to understand lessons learnt and best practice from the early adopters in utilising mapping systems, perceived coverage issues and how best to use assets such as street lighting to provide better connectivity. The team has also engaged with our procurement team, legal team, street lighting team, EON (PFI supplier of lighting columns) and a mobile network operators on the practical deployment of improved 4G and 5G mobile services. We are also a member on the ADEPT Digital connectivity group, helping influence future public funded interventions.
14. The development of the digital infrastructure both fixed and mobile are key enablers to the economic future success of the county and we are investigating and progressing a number of connected initiatives as part of the work.

- a. The Public Service Network managed by the ICT team and host a number of other government clients as well as SCC departments is up for contract renewal this year and alternatives are being investigated that may enable further social value initiatives that support digital inclusivity into the county (e.g additional social tariffs, further support to deliver broadband services to the very hard to reach premises).
- b. We are working jointly on investigation the potential of the Internet of Things (IOT) devices may have in transforming the way some services (Childrens services, community health, housing services etc) can be delivered using IOT devices such as environmental sensors, real time digital signage, traffic insights, footfall monitoring. This work is also involving partner District/Brough Councils with both Lichfield and Newcastle Under Lyme (town deal) showing interest.

Timescale

15. The DISF set out the framework for delivery up until 2030 when we aim to achieve 100% gigabit connectivity. Recent procurement activity suggests that the target is achievable although some very hard to reach premises, estimated at between 0.3% and 1% may require either increased subsidy outside of Project Gigabit or alternative solutions such as low earth orbit satellite.

Link to Strategic Plan

16. A key priority of the Strategic Plan 2022-26 is to improve digital connections and to use digital technology to connect, inform and support the people of Staffordshire. Digital infrastructure is a key enabler of the ubiquitous use of digital services.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

17. N/A

Community Impact

18. The Digital Infrastructure project has a positive impact upon communities as it aims to reduce digital exclusion based upon a person's location and using the website signposts information leading to obtaining digital skills and support.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Fibre Streetworks Toolkit: The Staffordshire Approach (March 2023)

Digital Infrastructure in Staffordshire report delivered to this committee - [Agenda for Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 4th April 2022, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

Digital Infrastructure in Staffordshire report delivered to Cabinet in June [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday 15th June 2022, 10:00am Staffordshire County Council](#)

Staffordshire new website signposting digital infrastructure advice to residents/businesses www.gigafaststaffordshire.co.uk

Building Digital UK summer report updating progress on Project Gigabit including results of Staffordshire market test (LOT19) www.gov.uk/government/publications/project-gigabit-delivery-plan-summer-update-2022

Openreach detail with regard to analogues lines withdrawal can be found at [PowerPoint Presentation \(openreach.com\)](#)

The Staffordshire Approach document setting out what is expected from network infrastructure deployment operators and what they should expect from the Council is appended (Appendix 1) to this document.

Contact Details

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Staffordshire County Council

Fibre Streetworks Toolkit: The Staffordshire Approach

March 2023



Change Control

Date: 30/03/2023

Document title	Traffic & Network Management Plan (TANMP)
Author	Hayley Fletcher
Owner	Highway Asset & Network Management Team

Revision History

Version	Date	Change Description	Author
First Issue	30/03/2023	N/A	Hayley Fletcher
Revision 1	28/04/2023	External release	Hayley Fletcher

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1. Introduction

Staffordshire County Council recognises that digital connectivity is an enabler for us to become an innovative, ambitious and sustainable county, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.

A key priority of Staffordshire County Council's [Strategic Plan 2022-26](#) is to improve digital connections and to use digital technology to connect, inform and support the people of Staffordshire. Our [Digital Infrastructure Strategic Framework \(DISF\)](#) sets out key objectives to 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. To maximise the use of public sector assets, develop 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.

This document is intended to act as a local supplement to the Street Works Toolkit for Fibre Deployment in England & Wales Version 2.0 with additional information about the requirements and expectations of Staffordshire County Council (SCC) as a Highway Authority.

The Department for Transport (DfT) and The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) have indicated they are looking to Highway Authorities and Utilities to assess this toolkit and select the recommendations that are best suited to their local circumstances. As such, Staffordshire County Council have endeavoured to clarify our expectations of fibre utilities and existing best practice we would like to see implemented on our highway network.

We believe that collaboration is key to a strong, cooperative working relationship between Staffordshire County Council and the various utilities looking to complete the widespread rollout the install and maintenance of fibre apparatus on the highway network.

By working together and engaging at every stage of the ultrafast broadband project rollout, we aim to build up an environment of trust and confidence in each other to work together in a fair and consistent manner that allows for flexibility where appropriate to do so.

Further information can be found in the [Street Works Toolkit](#).

2. Early Engagement

Staffordshire County Council would expect fibre utilities and any associated contractors to engage with us at the earliest opportunity prior to any network build planning. We would request that engagement occurs up to 6 months prior (or even sooner, if at all possible) to any civils works commencing with an outline of the following:

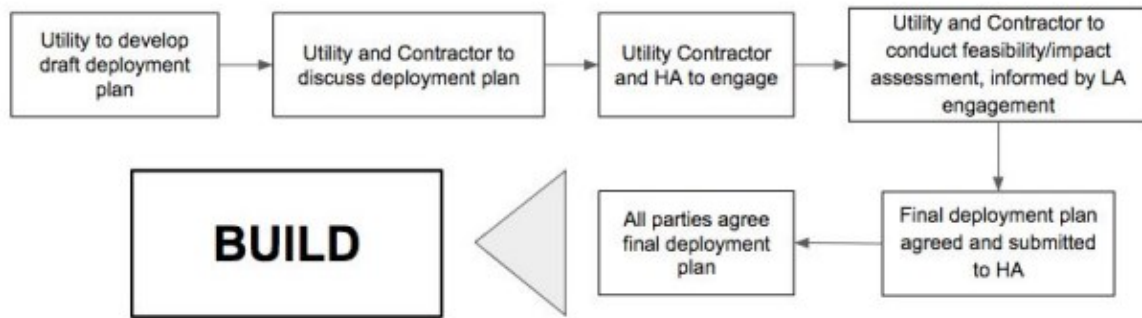
- Locality of the proposed work
- Duration of the proposed work
- Scale of the proposed work (how many properties/streets are likely to be affected)

This will allow Staffordshire County Council to assess the proposals and consider these against any other demands and considerations on the highway network. We will endeavour to provide guidance around the proposals presented to us and discuss how to achieve the delivery of the installation of assets whilst minimising the disruption this may cause to the public.

Your first points of contact that will need to be engaged with at Staffordshire County Council at the pre-build stage are listed below, once the programme is starting to be developed and details are confirmed, these will need to be communicated to the Traffic & Network Management Team where the appropriate area Coordination & Inspections Managers will assess the detailed proposals.

Name	Title	Teleph one	Email
Idris Roberts	Head of Digital Infrastructure	07815 701795	idris.roberts@staffordshire.gov.uk
Paul Chatwin	Digital Infrastructure Programme Manager	07964 330420	paul.chatwin@staffordshire.gov.uk
Hayley Fletcher	Traffic & Network Manager (North)	07811 024705	hayley.fletcher@staffordshire.gov.uk
Lee Barnard	Traffic & Network Manager (South)	07772 066966	lee.barnard@staffordshire.gov.uk
Traffic & Network Management			trafficandnetwork@staffordshire.gov.uk

How, What, When?



HA-Utility information/issues to cover

In addition to the information in the pre-build template agenda, Staffordshire County Council will also signpost the following:

- Political hotspots/challenging locations
- Any embargo periods and locations
- Where engagement with district/borough council planning departments is required

With regards to the utility providing evidence of past performance in Street Works, Staffordshire County Council may engage with the relevant Highway Authorities to verify this.

If the scope of works being proposed will put a significant strain on the Staffordshire County Council Traffic & Network Management Team, we would be looking to discuss the potential for additional funding to be considered by the utility.

With regards to good practice considerations Staffordshire County Council can clarify the following points:

Fee Exemptions – SCC would not be looking to apply fee exemptions as standard for lower category streets/non-traffic sensitive streets and parking bays. However, we are open to discussing requests on an individual basis on occasion.

Innovation Test Sites – This would need to be discussed with the Traffic & Network Managers and their representatives before any agreement could be made.

Mobile Works - This is not currently a working method that SCC are looking to implement but this will be taken under consideration for future schemes.

Works Inspections/Supervision – SCC would be looking to agree a sample inspection volume with the utility and any inspections would be carried out in line with the NRSWA Code of Practice for Inspections. Poor performance could result in an increased inspection regime.

Communications Strategy – This would need to be discussed with SCC before being implemented and we would require the utility to provide us with copies of any communications that are going to be sent to residents and businesses to ensure the message being delivered aligns with the Highway Authority approach and standards.

Handling of Reactive Works – We would require a permit to be submitted 'with excavation' and reflecting the accurate Traffic Management being used on site. We do not believe these would typically warrant an Immediate category permit and would require this work to be planned in with the correct lead in time and an early start request submitted via works comment if the utility would like to commence works sooner. In the rare instance that the utility believes an immediate permit is warranted, a phone call is to be placed with one of the Traffic & Network Officers for the area, to discuss the circumstances further.

Continued Engagement

Staffordshire County Council support the approach of regular communication and splitting this into 2 categories:

Strategic – To be arranged with Paul Chatwin & Idris Roberts, Lee Barnard & Hayley Fletcher.

Operational -To be arranged with the operational Traffic & Network Management Team.

'Dig Once'

This is currently being explored within Staffordshire County Council but there are no current arrangements in place to proactively install ducting.

Utility Planning

Staffordshire County Council are placing specific emphasis on the advice to approach us with honesty when things do not go to plan on site at the undertaker's earliest opportunity, so that we can work with the utility to find an agreeable and reasonable solution.

Going the extra mile

Staffordshire County Council are willing to enter into discussions regarding this matter with the individual utility companies but would stress that this is heavily dependent on the level of cooperation displayed by the utility company if deviations from the NRSWA Code of Practice are being requested.

Inspections Regime

Staffordshire County Council would be keen to discuss and agree a sample inspection target/regime with each individual promoter. This would be agreed before works commenced and would take into consideration the volume of expected permits and similar agreements that may have previously been made with other promoters to ensure parity as much as possible.

S.58 footway restrictions

In order to support the implementation and rollout of the fibre network, SCC have committed to suspending our slurry sealing programme for the next 2 years. This will ensure any potential S.58 restriction blockers are reduced & removed wherever possible. However, for any existing In Force S.58 restrictions, please contact our Traffic & Network Inspections Manager for the relevant area to discuss potential access and reinstatement requirements.

Getting permission for the installation of broadband in or near to protected nature sites in England

Staffordshire has several protected nature sites which can be identified [here](#). If your proposed work impacts any of these areas then engagement with Defra & Natural England as per [BDUK guidance](#).

Community Engagement & consultation

Staffordshire County Council will require companies to engage with the communities that will be impacted and disrupted prior to work commencing on site. The level of engagement may differ dependant on location & scope of work which will be assessed by the relevant Coordination Managers and communicated accordingly. Methods that could be required include but are not restricted to: Advance Warning Signs, letter drops (the content of which is to be reviewed by SCC before circulation) and public engagement meetings.

3. Permitting, Noticing and Traffic Management

Staffordshire County Council joined the already established West and Shires Permit Scheme on 1st April 2020.

The scheme is intended to be used as a tool to improve network management through more proactive control of roadworks. Our main request to fibre utility companies would be for open, timely and, above all, **honest** communication about programmes of works, delivery expectations and any issues encountered on site.

By complying with the above request, this will allow Staffordshire County Council to apply discretion and offer increased flexibility with regards to network access and permit management.

Applying Section 74 regulations

Works extensions are not likely to be denied or S74 overrun charges imposed as long as any site issues have been clearly communicated, at the time of identification, to our Traffic & Network Management Team along with any supporting evidence. Please do not leave extension requests until the last 1-2 days of the permit as these will likely attract S74s overrun fees and do not submit these through Street Manager without first consulting one of the Traffic & Network Officers for the relevant area.

Traffic Management Considerations

To avoid disconnects & miscommunications between the various planners, contractors, and our Traffic & Network Management Team, SCC would recommend that collaborative pre-site visit(s) are conducted before permits start to be submitted for assessment.

Issues that arise in the permitting, noticing and traffic management processes:

Variation of permit schemes across the country

The WaSP scheme complies with the HAUC (England) Operational Guidance for Permit Schemes

Fees adding up

Staffordshire County Council fees are not currently at the maximum allowable and are open to discussions with regards to applying discounted fees based on innovative approaches to ways of working that may be

presented to us and instances where collaborative working can be arranged. These must be discussed with the relevant area Traffic & Network Coordination Manager so these can be agreed and confirmed in writing.

TTROs, parking bay discounts

Again, open, timely and honest communication with regards to programmes of work and traffic management required could result in a reduction in TTROs/parking bay waivers being charged for but this must be discussed with the relevant area Traffic & Network Coordination Manager so these can be agreed and confirmed in writing.

Other Planning Issues (e.g., parked vehicles)

Arrangements to combat these issues can be made such as agreements for pre-coning to be done the day before and outside of the official permit duration dates but this must be discussed with the relevant area Traffic & Network Coordination Manager so these can be agreed and confirmed in writing.

Road Closures

Blanket road closure orders are not going to be considered within Staffordshire due to the lack of control and visibility these provide, along with the high demand for network space being realised. However, as per the point above about TTROs, some flexibility may be offered based upon discussions held with the relevant area Traffic & Network Coordination Manager.

LAs overwhelmed by number of permit applications

Staffordshire County Council plan to monitor permit volumes and may enter into discussion with the undertakers regarding this with the potential for dedicated resource being offered at the expense of the undertaker if this is deemed to be a concern.

Forward planning notices and early starts

Permits should always be submitted for a date that provides the correct legislative lead in time. If an early start is required, this will need to be requested in a separate Works Comment detailing the revised date being requested and the reason why. Our Traffic & Network Officers will provide an early start reference via a return Works Comment when granting/modifying the permit if the request is acceptable. The Permit Variation Application can then be submitted for the new dates. Failure to do this will result in the original permit application being refused for failure to provide the correct legislative lead in time.

Error corrections

A Works Comment must be sent requesting a reference before any Error Correction is put through the permitting system. Failure to do so could result in an FPN and could erode the relationship of trust between Staffordshire County Council and the utility, it could also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued.

Works starts and Stops

These must be submitted within 2 hours of the work commencing and being site cleared. Failure to do so could result in FPNs being issued.

Registrations

These must be submitted within 10 working days of the date the reinstatement was completed on site. **Please note that the reinstatement date can differ from the site clear date.** Please ensure that the permit is work stopped with or without excavation correctly, first time, to reflect the circumstances on site. Whilst Street Manager allows this field to be amended after the works stop is submitted, this can result in an FPN for Incorrect Works Stop.

All types of reinstatement must be registered individually. For example, we would expect to see 1 site for any main trench work and a separate reinstatement site for each individual property connection/property box.

Rejected permits – Outright refusal vs. Permit Modification Requests

Full refusals and Modifications Requests can be reduced, if not mostly avoided, by ensuring early and robust engagement with our Traffic & Network Management Team prior to permit submission.

Night Working

This would need to be discussed on a case-by-case basis with the relevant area Traffic & Network Coordination Manager. Whilst there will be benefits at some locations, this may not be practical in others.

4. Physical Deployment and Reinstatements

Condition of the road surface prior to works

Any concerns and agreements must be discussed with the relevant area Traffic & Network Inspections Manager so these can be agreed and confirmed in writing.

Potential use of new material/technique

Staffordshire County Council are happy to discuss and consider these prior to works commencing. Any 'real-life' examples from neighbouring authorities where these have been trialled successfully would greatly aid these considerations. These must be discussed with the relevant area Traffic & Network Inspections Manager so these can be agreed and confirmed in writing.

Interpretations of the SROH

These must always be primarily addressed to the relevant area Traffic & Network Inspector. If there is a difference of opinion this must then be taken to the relevant area Traffic & Network Inspections Manager. If this is still not resolved, then advice and input can be requested from other Highway Authorities that form part of the WaSP scheme and/or WM JAG and WM HAUC.

Parking bay suspensions

These queries can be addressed to the relevant area Traffic & Network Coordination Manager.

Parking difficulties

Any concerns can be addressed to the relevant area Traffic & Network Coordination & Inspections Managers and should, ideally, be identified in the pre-site meetings.

Site Cleanliness

The expectation is that all works sites are fully cleared of equipment and debris and fully returned to public use upon completion of work. Where sites need to be swept down, a programme of works for the sweeper machine may be appropriate and requested by the relevant Inspections and Coordination Managers.

A balanced approach to fines

Staffordshire County Council may issue FPNs and S74 overrun charges for the following reasons:

- Road Markings - Depending on the length & type of road marking missing, this could result in a S74 fine, for very small sections we would seek to reach a local resolution of this being rectified within 48 hours of notification before consideration of a S74 overrun charge being enforced.
- Permit boards - If the number itself is incorrect and makes it difficult for the permit number to be identified an FPN may be issued.
- Pedestrian facility widths – Leniency may be applied depending on whether any complaints or observations of pedestrian difficulties are identified on site
- Working times – Leniency may be applied unless there is a firm deadline for work start and stop times which is not observed, this would be location dependant.
- Unimportant administrative errors – These should be identified and corrected before the permit is granted but leniency may be applied to any further modifications made and transactions submitted, depending on the impact of any errors made.

Please note that due to legislative changes being introduced on 1st April 2023, a S74 informal overrun warning will need to be issued at the point of notification but could be withdrawn at a later date if rectified promptly and good communication and cooperation is observed.

The warning will always contain the maximum legislative amount of the overrun fine in the text, but this is a starting point and Staffordshire County Council will always encourage mitigation discussions to ensure a proportionate and fair outcome for the disruption caused, including total withdrawal of the fine in some circumstances.

5. Contractors

Staffordshire County Council would like to emphasise our support for the 'right first-time' approach that is stated in the Street Works Toolbox. We would advise and encourage that the contractors are involved in regular programme of works discussions between SCC and the fibre utility company, which will be established by our Traffic & Network Management Team.

Initially Programme of Works meetings will be held weekly, once SCC are confident that the programme is being delivered with minimal disruption and date changes etc, the frequency of these may reduce accordingly.

6. Glossary of Terms

AoNB – Area of Natural Beauty

COP – Code of Practice

DSIT – Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

DfT – Department for Transport

ES – Early Start

EToN – Electronic Transfer of Notices: The national electronic system for managing and planning street works. EToN is governed by the Department for Transport. This is in the process of being phased out and will be replaced by Street Manager, a central repository for all road and street works data

FPN – Fixed Penalty Notice

GIS – Geographic Information System

HA – Highway Authority

LA – Local Authority

NRSWA – New Roads and Street Works Act 1991

PMR – Permit Modification Request

SCC – Staffordshire County Council

SROH – The Specification of the Reinstatement of Openings in the Highway

SSSI – Site of Specific Scientific Interest

S74 – Section 74 overrun fine

S58 restriction - Protects a street from any planned street works following any major surfacing works

TMA – Traffic Management Act 2004

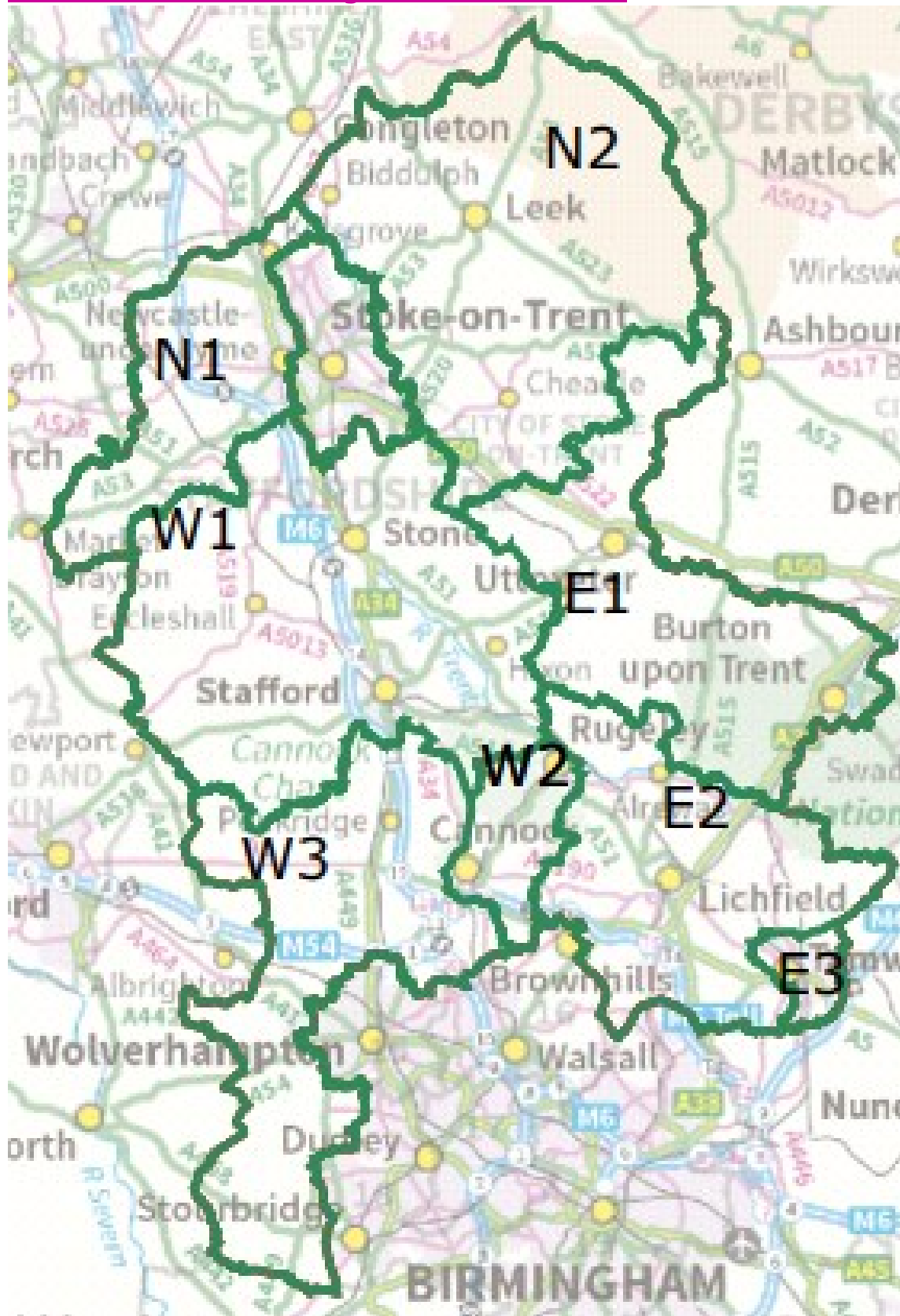
TTRO – Temporary Traffic Regulation Order

T&NM – Traffic & Network Management Team

Utility – Utility companies in the UK that deploy fibre including Openreach, Virgin Media, Gigaclear, CityFibre, TalkTalk and Hyperoptic (this is not an exhaustive list)

7. Annex A

Traffic & Network Management Contact List



Team email address to be used for ALL correspondence -
trafficandnetwork@staffordshire.gov.uk

Newcastle Under Lyme (N1) – 270 USRN prefix			
Andy Oldham (AO)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07890 402330	andy.oldham@staffordshire.gov.uk
Joe Lee (JL)	Traffic & Network Inspections Manager	07817 571424	joseph.lee@staffordshire.gov.uk
Kat Staunton (KS)	Traffic & Network Officer	07971 946070	Kathryn.staunton@staffordshire.gov.uk
Chris Rose (CR)	Traffic & Network Officer	07890 402329	chris.rose@staffordshire.gov.uk
Ella Hughes (EH)	Traffic & Network Administrator	07816 197737	ella.hughes1@staffordshire.gov.uk
Stuart Green (SG)	Traffic & Network Inspector	07976 890401	stuart.green@staffordshire.gov.uk
Kenny Banks (KB)	Traffic & Network Inspector (Roaming)	07817 813389	kenneth.banks@staffordshire.gov.uk
Hayley Fletcher (HF)	Traffic & Network Manager	07811 024705	hayley.fletcher@staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire Moorlands (N2) – 377 USRN prefix			
Kelly White (KW)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07929 015694	kelly.white@staffordshire.gov.uk
Joe Lee (JL)	Traffic & Network Inspections Manager	07817 571424	joseph.lee@staffordshire.gov.uk
Andrew Riach (AR)	Traffic & Network Officer	07971946039	Andrew.riach@staffordshire.gov.uk
Laura Buckley (LB)	Traffic & Network Officer	07977395601	Laura.buckley@staffordshire.gov.uk
Christina McKenzie (CM)	Traffic & Network Administrator	07816 197736	Christina.mckenzie@staffordshire.gov.uk
Neil Jones (NJ)	Traffic & Network Inspector	07773 791431	neil.jones1@staffordshire.gov.uk
Kenny Banks (KB)	Traffic & Network Inspector (Roaming)	07817 813389	kenneth.banks@staffordshire.gov.uk
Hayley Fletcher (HF)	Traffic & Network Manager	07811 024705	hayley.fletcher@staffordshire.gov.uk

Stafford and Stone (W1) – 376 USRN prefix			
Emily Evans (EE)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07971 551938	Emily.evans@staffordshire.gov.uk
Joe Lee (JL)	Traffic & Network Inspections Manager	07817 571424	joseph.lee@staffordshire.gov.uk
Tom Russell (TR)	Traffic & Network Officer	07890 402332	Thomas.russell@staffordshire.gov.uk
Tom Morris (TM)	Traffic & Network Officer	07977 591077	Tom.morris@staffordshire.gov.uk
Matt Weaver (MW)	Traffic & Network Administrator	07971 946045	matt.weaver@staffordshire.gov.uk
Mark Bone (MB)	Traffic & Network Inspector	07896 281260	Mark.bone@staffordshire.gov.uk
Hayley Fletcher (HF)	Traffic & Network Manager	07811 024705	hayley.fletcher@staffordshire.gov.uk

Burton and Uttoxeter (E1) – 129 USRN prefix			
Caleb Butler (CB)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07855 179868	Caleb.butler@staffordshire.gov.uk
Gill Rogers (GR)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07971 946042	Gillian.rogers@staffordshire.gov.uk
Joe Lee (JL)	Traffic & Network Inspections Manager	07817 571424	joseph.lee@staffordshire.gov.uk
Sammie Williams (SW)	Traffic & Network Officer	07971 943941	Samantha.williams@staffordshire.gov.uk
James Morgan (JM)	Traffic & Network Officer	07890 402344	James.morgan@staffordshire.gov.uk
Emma Carson (EEC)	Traffic & Network Administrator	07816197732	Emma.carson@staffordshire.gov.uk
Chris Sargent (CS)	Traffic & Network Inspector	07773 791350	Chris.sargent@staffordshire.gov.uk
Hayley Fletcher (HF)	Traffic & Network Manager	07811 024705	hayley.fletcher@staffordshire.gov.uk

Cannock (W2) – 550 USRN prefix			
Emma Crutchley (ELC)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07816 099853	Emma.crutchley@staffordshire.gov.uk
Andy Madigan (AM)	Traffic & Network Inspections Manager	07580 801965	Andrew.madigan@staffordshire.gov.uk
Gina Smith (GS)	Traffic & Network Officer	07977299060	Georgina.smith@staffordshire.gov.uk
Zoe Simmonds (ZS)	Traffic & Network Officer	07929 626226	Zoe.simmonds@staffordshire.gov.uk
Lauren Wright (LW)	Traffic & Network Administrator	tbc	Lauren.wright@stafforshire.gov.uk
Jon Cooper (JC)	Traffic & Network Inspector	07985 457599	<u>Jonathan.cooper@staffordshire.gov.uk</u>
Andrew Martin (AM)	Traffic & Network Inspector (Roaming)	07816 198607	andrew.martin@staffordshire.gov.uk
Lee Barnard (LB)	Traffic & Network Manager	07772 066966	Lee.barnard@staffordshire.gov.uk

South Staffs (W3) – 367 USRN prefix			
Caroline Floyd (CF)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07890 402338	Caroline.floyd@staffordshire.gov.uk
Andy Madigan (AM)	Traffic & Network Inspections Manager	07580 801965	Andrew.madigan@staffordshire.gov.uk
Craig Hardy (CH)	Traffic & Network Officer	07890 033856	Craig.hardy@staffordshire.gov.uk
Toni Lattaway (TL)	Traffic & Network Officer	07977 299060	Toni.Lattaway@staffordshire.gov.uk
Sandra Pepper (SP)	Traffic & Network Administrator	07977 236798	Sandra.pepper@staffordshire.gov.uk
Jon Cooper (JC)	Traffic & Network Inspector	07985 457599	Jonathan.cooper@staffordshire.gov.uk
Andrew Martin (AM)	Traffic & Network Inspector (Roaming)	07816 198607	andrew.martin@staffordshire.gov.uk
Lee Barnard (LB)	Traffic & Network Manager	07772 066966	Lee.barnard@staffordshire.gov.uk

Lichfield and Tamworth (E2 & E3) - 234 and 394 USRN prefix			
Bryan Delanchy (BD)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07973 679723	Bryan.delanchy@staffordshire.gov.uk
Andy Madigan (AM)	Traffic & Network Inspections Manager	07580 801965	Andrew.madigan@staffordshire.gov.uk
Claire Collins (CC)	Traffic & Network Officer	07971 944084	Claire.collins@staffordshire.gov.uk
Robert Smith (RS)	Traffic & Network Officer	07977 591074	Robert.smith@staffordshire.gov.uk
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Sarah Morris (SM)	Traffic & Network Inspector	07890 890730	Sarah.morris6@staffordshire.gov.uk
Andrew Martin (AM)	Traffic & Network Inspector (Roaming)	07816 198607	andrew.martin@staffordshire.gov.uk
Lee Barnard (LB)	Traffic & Network Manager	07772 066966	Lee.barnard@staffordshire.gov.uk

Finance – County-wide			
Gillian Rogers (GR)	Traffic & Network Coordination Manager	07971 946042	Gillian.rogers@staffordshire.gov.uk
Claire Hasprey (CLH)	Traffic & Network Officer	07977 591092	Claire.hasprey@staffordshire.gov.uk
Adam Hickman (AH)	Traffic & Network Administrator	07890 896848	Adam.hickman@staffordshire.gov.uk

Works Comment Initials

Identifier	Name
AH	Adam Hickman
AM	Andrew Madigan
APM	Andrew Martin
AO	Andy Oldham
AR	Andrew Riach
BD	Bryan Delanchy
CB	Caleb Butler
CF	Caroline Floyd
CR	Chris Rose
CS	Chris Sargent
CM	Christina McKenzie
CC	Claire Collins
CLH	Claire Hasprey
CH	Craig Hardy
EH	Ella Hughes
EE	Emily Evans
EEC	Emma Carson
ELC	Emma Crutchley
GR	Gillian Rogers
GS	Gina Smith
HF	Hayley Fletcher
JM	James Morgan
JC	Jonathan Cooper
JL	Joe Lee
KS	Kat Staunton
KW	Kelly White
KB	Kenny Banks
LB	Laura Buckley
LW	Lauren Wright
LCB	Lee Barnard
MB	Mark Bone
MW	Matt Weaver
MFW	Meloney Foster-Whiteley
NJ	Neil Jones
RS	Robert Smith
SW	Sammie Williams
SP	Sandra Pepper
SM	Sarah Morris
SG	Stuart Green
TM	Tom Morris
TR	Tom Russell
ZS	Zoe Simmonds

Work Programme

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2023/2024

This document sets out the work programme for Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023/2024.

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).

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Friday 2 June 2023 at 10.00 am (Informal meeting)	Work Programme Planning	Annual consideration of potential areas of scrutiny focus during 2023/24. Resolved to be considered at informal meeting at 27 April Committee meeting.	
Wednesday 7 June 2023 at 10.00 am	1. Work Programme Planning	Annual consideration of potential areas of scrutiny focus during 2023/24.	
	2. Residential Overnight Education Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Bhardwaja/Paris Wood	Requested by Cabinet Member 17 March 2023 (email from Paris Wood) Programmed at 22 March 2023 Committee meeting. Postponed to July at 27 April Committee meeting.	
	3. Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Scheduled at request of Chairman at 2 November 2022 Triangulation meeting. Previous update given 22 March 2023.	
	4. Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation six-monthly Progress Report Cabinet Member: Philip White	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 22 September 2022 Committee meeting.	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Hodge		
	5. Digital Infrastructure – Update Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Clive Thomson	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation meeting. Considered at 10 November 2022 Committee meeting and six-monthly update requested.	
Page 61	6. Traffic and Network Management Plan Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: James Bailey/Hayley Fletcher	Requested by Cabinet Member 3 March 2023 (email from Hayley Fletcher) Programmed at 22 March 2023 Committee meeting. Postponed to June at 27 April Committee meeting. Further postponement requested by Cabinet Member 3 May 2023 (email from Hayley Fletcher/Business Support).	
Thurs 6 July 2023 at 10.00 am	1. Residential Overnight Education Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Bhardwaja/Paris Wood	Requested by Cabinet Member 17 March 2023 (email from Paris Wood). Programmed at 22 March 2023 Committee meeting. Postponed to July at 27 April Committee meeting. Removal requested by Cabinet Member 30 May 2023 (email from Paris Wood) pending clarification from Senior Leadership Team.	
	2. Traffic and Network Management Plan	Requested by Cabinet Member 3 March 2023 (email from Hayley Fletcher) Programmed at 22 March	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p>Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: James Bailey/Hayley Fletcher</p>	<p>2023 Committee meeting. Postponed to June 2023 at 27 April Committee meeting. Further postponements requested by Cabinet Member 3 May and 11 May 2023 (emails from Hayley Fletcher/Business Support).</p>	
	<p>3. Staffordshire Bus Strategy Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Richard Rea</p>	<p>Requested by Cabinet Member 12 May 2023 (Teams message from Richard Rea).</p>	
<p>Page 62 Thurs 28 September 2023 at 10.00 am</p>	<p>1. Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey</p>	<p>Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 2 June 2023 Committee meeting.</p>	
	<p>2. HS2 six-monthly update – Impact on and Opportunities for Staffordshire (focusing on Economy, Training and Skills) Cabinet Members: David Williams/Phillip White</p>	<p>Requested at 26 February 2021 Committee meeting, amended at 23 July 2021 Committee meeting.</p>	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Sarah Mallen		
	<p>3. Staffordshire Employment and Skills Strategy Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Darren Farmer</p>	Requested by Cabinet Member 11 May 2023 (email from Darren Farmer).	
<p>Thurs 9 November 2023 at 10.00 am</p>	<p>Tree Planting Net Zero by Nature Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Clive Thomson</p>	<p>Proposed by Cabinet Member at 18 August 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed for 10 November 2022 Committee meeting at 29 September Committee meeting. Postponed until April 2023 (indicative) Committee meeting at request of Cabinet Member (email from Sarah Bentley 18 October 2022) owing to national delays in funding settlement. Further postponed at request of Cabinet Member (email Sarah Bentley 14 March 2023) owing to delay in publication of commissioned report</p>	
<p>Thurs 21 Dec 2023 at 10.00 am</p>	<p>1. Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update Cabinet Member: David Williams</p>	<p>Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 28 September 2023 Committee meeting.</p>	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey		
	2. Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation six-monthly Progress Report Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Hodge	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 2 June 2023 Committee meeting.	
Page 64	3. Digital Infrastructure – Update Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Clive Thomson	Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation meeting. Considered at 10 November 2022 Committee meeting and six-monthly update requested.	
Friday 2 Feb 2024 at 10.00 am			
Thurs 28 March 2024 10.00 am	1. Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 28 September 2023 Committee meeting.	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	2. HS2 six-monthly update – Impact on and Opportunities for Staffordshire (focusing on Economy, Training and Skills)	Requested at 26 February 2021 Committee meeting, amended at 23 July 2021 Committee meeting.	

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

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting
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 (including school attendance (request by County Councillor Paul Snape Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Bhardwaja/Tim Moss	Identified at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting	To be advised.
Traffic and Network Management Plan Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: James Bailey/Hayley Fletcher	Requested by Cabinet Member 3 March 2023 (email from Hayley Fletcher) Programmed at 22 March 2023 Committee meeting. Postponed to June 2023 at 27 April Committee meeting. Further postponements requested by Cabinet Member 3 May and 11 May 2023 (emails from Hayley Fletcher/Business Support).	To be advised

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting
Avanti West Coast (West Coast Mainline train operator) Cabinet Members: Philip White and David Williams	Identified at 22 March 2023 Committee meeting.	To be programmed

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/February 2023.	See above
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 April/May 2023 Committee meeting.	See above
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). Considered at 16 December 2023 Committee Meeting. Next Update due June 2023.	See above

Standing Items 2022/2023

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Digital Infrastructure Plan Progress Update. Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Baines	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee Meeting. Considered at 10 November 2022 Committee Meeting. Next six-monthly update due May/June 2023 Committee meeting.	See above

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

Briefing Notes / Updates / Visits 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome

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Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Civil Parking Enforcement	Requested by Cabinet Member on 10 August 2022.	

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



Membership – County Councillors 2023-2024	Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2023-2024 (All meetings to be held at County Buildings, Stafford unless otherwise stated)
<p>Tina Clements (Chairman) Ross Ward (Vice-Chairman – Scrutiny) Peter Kruskonjic (Vice-Chairman – Overview) Charlotte Atkins Philippa Hadden Philip Hudson Graham Hutton David Smith Samantha Thompson Bernard Williams Hannah Gallimore (Co-optee) Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf (Co-optee)</p>	Friday 2 June 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 6 July 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 28 September 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 9 November 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 21 December 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Friday 2 February 2024 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 28 March 2024 at 10.00 am.

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 June 2023

Proposed Scrutiny Review - Civil Parking Enforcement

Recommendation(s)

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Decide how they want the Key Lines of Enquiry identified at the Inquiry Day held on 17 April 2023 to be taken forward by giving further consideration to the scope, configuration and timing of a proposed Scrutiny Working Group.
- b. Decide which Members of the Committee should be appointed to serve on the above-mentioned Working Group.

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of Scrutiny and Support Manager

Report

Background

1. The Committee held an Inquiry Day on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) on 17 April 2023 with the aim of:- (i) understanding how the current CPE arrangements in Staffordshire were working; (ii) learning of key performance data for the existing CPE service and; (iii) informing the scope of work by a proposed Civil Parking Enforcement Working Group. This was in response to a request made by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport on 10 August 2022, "...if Scrutiny would be prepared implement a sub-committee to look into Staffordshire's parking enforcement teams and policy and review whether it is now fit for purpose...".
2. Further clarification was given by the Cabinet Member on 15 September 2022, "to look at the current parking enforcement arrangements in Staffordshire, evaluate the need and current effectiveness of the service and current service provider and make recommendations based on this evidence".

3. During the Day, Members heard from David Walters (Head of Network and Asset Management; Lee Barnard (Traffic and Network Manager) and; Hayley Fletcher (Traffic and Network Manager) from the County Council's Economy Infrastructure and Skills Directorate who explained:- (i) what CPE entailed; (ii) how it was currently being delivered and; (iii) how Staffordshire were performing in relation to agreed performance metrics and Shire comparators.
4. In the wide-ranging discussion which ensued, Members raised various issues/points of concern and identified key lines of enquiry including:- (i) additional powers were needed by Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Officers to address dangerous parking; (ii) a greater use of yellow lines was required to restrict parking in dangerous locations; (iii) the current approach to enforcement appeared to be inconsistent across the County owing to a lack of staff resources; (iv) Members' Divisional Highways Budgets were insufficient to implement new Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for the management of parking; (v) partnership working with Parish Councils and other Partners might identify additional funds for new TROs; (vi) public satisfaction with the current service could be improved; (vii) the cost of Parking Fines and Penalty Charge Notices had not increased since 2008 whereas the cost of enforcement had risen in-line with Inflation; (viii) communication with District and Borough Councils could be improved in respect of off-street parking charges, new development etc and their implications for on-street parking provision; (ix) parking outside schools remained a problem locally and; (xi) previous approaches to Staffordshire Police for Community Support Officers to undertake parking enforcement duties had been unsuccessful.
5. In addition to the above, the Committee have previously expressed interest in exploring how the approach to parking in Staffordshire could be improved to support both climate change ambitions and economic growth.

Next Steps

6. The Enquiry Day highlighted various potential areas of focus and the Committee now need to consider how they want to configure the working group to undertake their assignment. The Group could be established on a time limited basis with a request to report back to Committee by a specified date eg six months or they could be established with a task and finish remit which would be more open ended. Depending on how the Committee wish to proceed will

influence the extent and depth to which the above issues/points of concern and Key Lines of Enquiry are investigated. It should be noted though that Staffordshire's current Parking Strategy runs until 2026 so the timing of any recommendations from the Group (and potentially the Committee) may need to be aligned with Cabinet's timeline for approval of their new Strategy.

7. Also, as parking strategy and enforcement affects communities in all County Councillors' Divisions and taking into consideration the comments made at the Enquiry Day regarding a perceived lack of enforcement consistency across districts, the Committee might wish to constitute the Group so that it includes Members from as wider geographical/economically diverse area as possible. However, care should be taken so as that its size does not hamper their ability to reach consensus and make recommendations.
8. The Chairman of the Committee has asked the Vice-Chairman (Overview), Peter Kruskonjic, the County Councillor for Brereton and Ravenhill (Cannock Chase) County Electoral Division to lead in the work of the Group.

Link to Strategic Plan

9. The County Council's Strategic Plan sets out their ambitions and priorities for the years ahead. It outlines what they want to achieve and how they intend to achieve it over the next three years (2023 to 2026). The Plan's Vision is that Staffordshire is an innovative, ambitious and sustainable county, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.
10. As a result of this vision the Plan outlines three priority outcomes which the Authority will keep at the heart of what they do and how they aim to achieve them.
11. The County Council's first priority outcome is:- "have access to more good jobs and share the benefit of economic growth" and the second priority outcome is:- "Staffordshire people will live in thriving and sustainable communities". Parking strategy and enforcement have direct influences on both these outcomes and scrutiny of the Authority in balancing the need to ensure prosperity and safety of local communities, falls under the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

12. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee constituted a Climate Change Working Group in 2021/22. Their scope is to:- "(i) scrutinise/offer challenge to the Climate Change Action Plan and any revisions; (ii) scrutinise any plans/strategies that are developed as a result of an action in the plan; (iii) scrutinise SCC departments to see whether their strategies are aligned with SCC climate change strategy and; (iv) scrutinise other external bodies including public and private sector".
13. The Climate Change Working Group have not yet reported their findings to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will be continuing their investigations during 2023/24. Depending on what the CPE Working Group decide to include in their review, some co-ordination with Corporate will be required in respect of supporting the Authority's climate change ambitions.
14. The Chairman of Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a Member of Corporate and serves on the Climate Change Working Group.

Community Impact

None from consideration of the report and constitution of a Civil Parking Enforcement Working Group.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

- Powerpoint presentation slides to Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 January 2023 and minutes of meeting;
- Powerpoint presentation slides to Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee 27 April 2023 and minutes of meeting.

Contact Details

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