

Annual Business Rates Consultation Meeting

Wednesday 17 January 2024

13:00

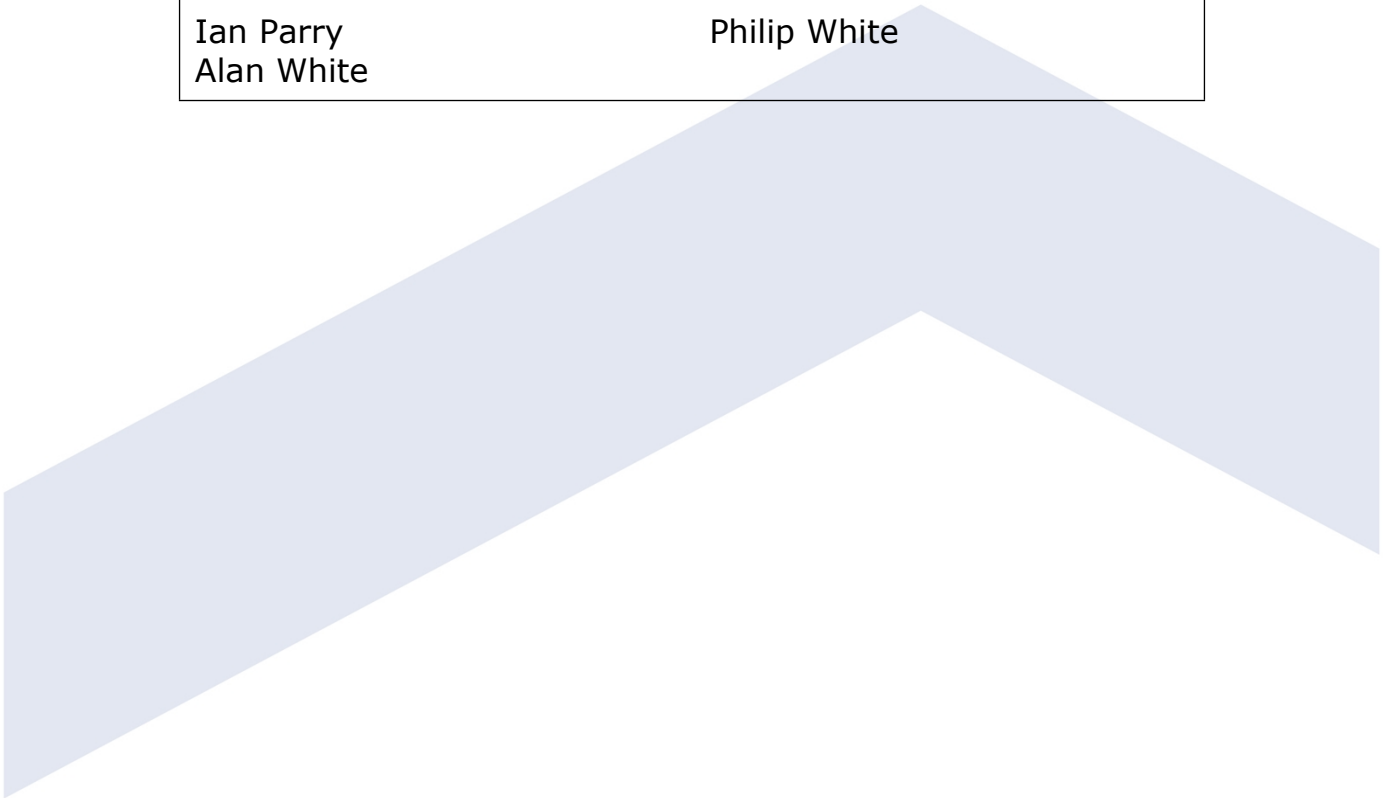
Meeting to be conducted using Microsoft Teams

John Tradewell
Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services
10 January 2024

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **MTFS Update** (Pages 3 - 8)
3. **Economic Growth Update** (Pages 9 - 18)
4. **Skills Update** (Pages 19 - 24)

Membership	
Ian Parry Alan White	Philip White



Medium Term Financial Strategy

Update – January 2024

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Rachel Spain
Chief Accountant

Agenda Item 2

Local Government Finance Settlement

- **Core Spending Power (CSP) for Staffordshire – increase of 6.9% – £727.2m from £680.5m (6.5% increase nationally).**
- **Council Tax is 63% of the total Core Spending Power, government assumes maximum increase (4.99%).**
- **Council Tax Limits = 3% for core Council Tax + 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept.**
- **Small increase in grants for social care.**
- **Small increases in some of the other general grants**
- **Business rates (billing authority responsibility but includes: revaluation, multipliers, transitional relief scheme, Supporting Small Business Scheme, improvement relief)**

Spending Pressures

- **Inflationary pressures – additional £22m per year**
- **Children’s care placements - £8.7m in 24/25**
- **Care market pressures – additional grants for adult social care committed**
- **Transport costs – partly inflation on fuel and increases in demand**

MTFS Planning Assumptions

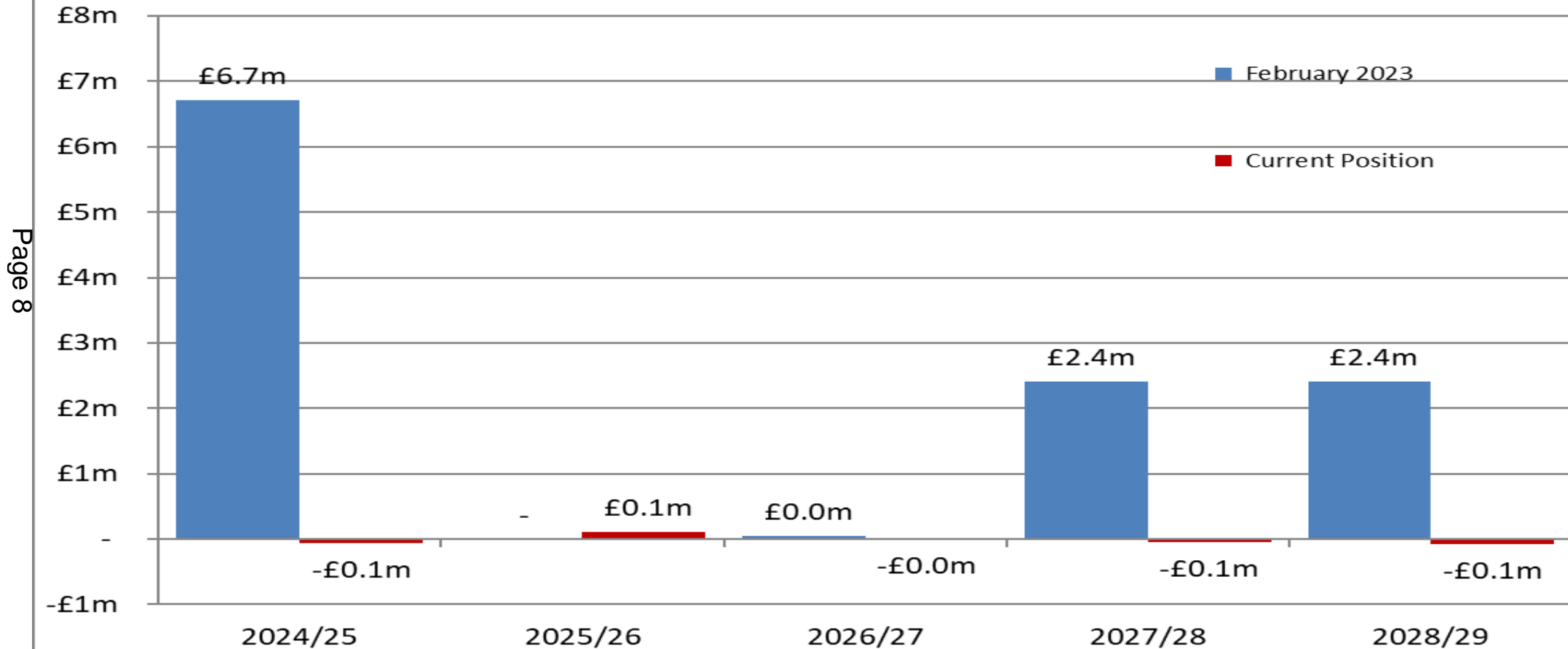
- Existing MTFS savings programmes must be delivered
- Sustain transformation in Highways
- Assumes LAC (currently 1271 excluding UASC) will reduce to circa 979 by 28/29
- SEND Transformation Programme & Transport Review delivered
- Inflation assumed to fall back to 2% from 25/26 in line with external forecasts
- Council Tax at 2.99% (general) + 2.0% (adult social care) for next year only then dropping back to 2% and 1%
- Use of reserves to balance budget on a short term basis only

Risks

- **Funding Reviews**
- **Spending Review 2025 – particularly re: Social Care Grants continuing**
- **Social Care Reform**
- **Our Children in Care – numbers and cost of children in care**
- **SEND Transport**
- **High Needs Block spending exceeding funding**
- **Inflation**
- **Use of reserves to balance the budget is not sustainable beyond the current MTFS period**
- **Therefore, consideration of savings and transformation of current service delivery is essential**

Position as at January 2024

MTFS Current Position



Supporting Economic Growth

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Anthony Hodge
Assistant Director for Business & Enterprise

Agenda Item 3

Economic Context

- Home to around 33,000 businesses and over 4,500 businesses now in the county compared with 2010
- Around 42,000 additional new jobs created in Staffordshire since 2010
- Continued cost-of-living challenges but disposable household income increasing faster than national and regional averages
- Unemployment rates below regional and national averages but number of claimants increasing in recent months shows challenging business conditions

A CONNECTED COUNTY

TRAIN



Stafford to Manchester
50 MINUTES

Burton to Birmingham
23 MINUTES

Lichfield to London
1 HOUR 7 MINUTES



OVER 7M PEOPLE
including 4m
working age adults



We're investing
£100M in
our Highway
Infrastructure during
2022 - 2023

AIR



Four airports
**WITHIN AN
HOUR'S DRIVE**
(Manchester,
Birmingham,
East Midlands,
Liverpool)

15 UNIVERSITIES
with three world class
research-intensive
institutions



**40% OF THE UK
POPULATION**
live within a 2-hour
drive time of
Staffordshire

ROAD

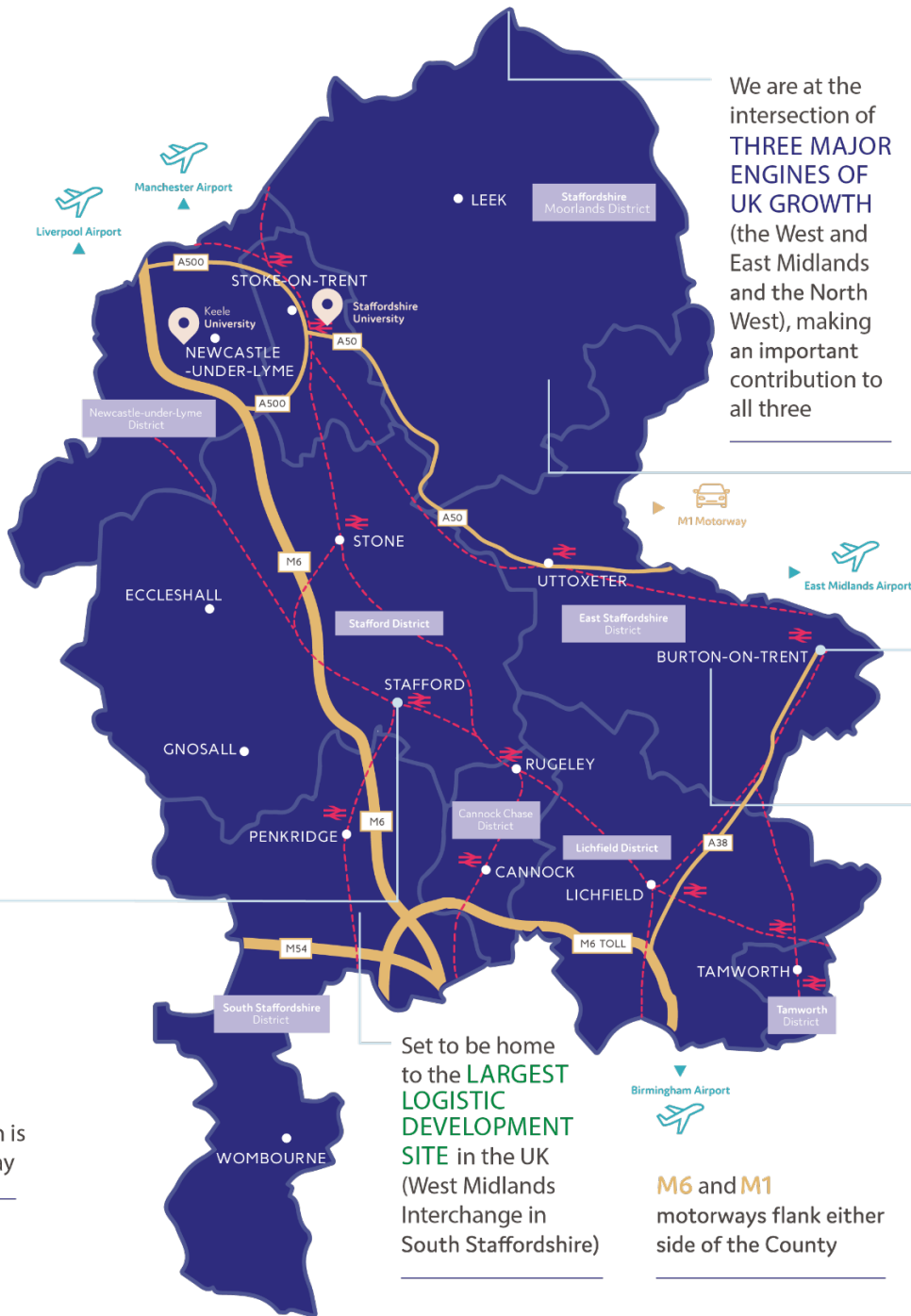


**M6, M54,
A50, A500,
A38, M6 TOLL**

Over a
**QUARTER OF
A MILLION**
businesses



Our County Town
of Stafford will be a
**MAJOR HIGH
SPEED 2 RAIL HUB**,
meaning that London is
less than an hour away



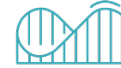
We are at the
intersection of
**THREE MAJOR
ENGINES OF
UK GROWTH**
(the West and
East Midlands
and the North
West), making
an important
contribution to
all three

Set to be home
to the **LARGEST
LOGISTIC
DEVELOPMENT
SITE** in the UK
(West Midlands
Interchange in
South Staffordshire)

M6 and M1
motorways flank either
side of the County



A cost effective place to live, learn
and thrive, we offer **POTENTIAL
SALARY SAVINGS OF 11.3%**
against the national average



Home to the **UK'S BIGGEST
THEME PARK** (Alton Towers)



Home to the **BREWING CAPITAL
OF THE WORLD** (Burton-on-Trent)



Home to the
**NATIONAL
FOOTBALL
TEAM** (St
Georges Park,
Burton on Trent)



96.4%
superfast
broadband
coverage



HOME TO GLOBAL BRANDS,
such as Michelin, JCB, BET365, JLR,
Lucideon, Bass, Portmeirion, Hitachi

Economic Strategy

2023-30

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business



By 2030, the people of Staffordshire will be able to benefit from more and better paid jobs, with the county being one of the primary locations for sustainable growth and investment in the UK, creating places that we can all be proud of, driven by innovation, new technologies and supporting the move towards carbon neutrality.

Our Economic Ambitions



Work with our partners to regenerate our town centres.



Enable people to benefit from better paid, local jobs.



Support people to start and grow their business.



Encourage greater levels of innovation activity.



Develop those investment-ready projects that will be vital to the future of the county.



Develop our strategic corridors to enable businesses in Staffordshire to innovate and grow

National Funding

District	Funding (£m)
Newcastle-under-Lyme	58.37
East Staffordshire	33.02
Stafford	32.54
Cannock Chase	25.71
Tamworth	24.03
Staffordshire Moorlands	20.94
South Staffordshire	4.31
Lichfield	3.68
Total	202.6

Key Projects (1)

- **Driving forward the A50 / A500 corridor programme which presents some of the most significant opportunities in the country, particularly around energy and hydrogen technologies**
- **Procurement for a development partner for the Eastgate Regeneration Scheme underway**
- **Continuing to promote the county as the place to live, work and invest through our We Are Staffordshire activity**
- **Supporting the delivery of the West Midlands Interchange scheme which will create around 8,500 jobs**

Key Projects (2)

- **Delivery and management of high-quality business premises, including our Enterprise Centres and Shire Hall**
- **Supporting businesses to start, survive and thrive through the direct delivery of numerous business support schemes including Get Started & Grow, peer networks and My Own Boss**
- **Delivery of our £20m Levelling Up Fund programme, including highways improvements in Branston to support growth**
- **Delivery of Chatterley Valley West, unlocking a site which will create 1,700 jobs and generate £67m of GVA**

Key Projects (3)

- **Supporting business to adapt to climate change requirements through our sben service and supporting programmes**
- **Promoting our visitor economy and working to maximise the opportunities presented by our recently announced Local Visitor Economy Partnership**
- **Continuing to consider how we can take full advantage of Government programmes including Network North**



A Place with the right skills

Tony Baines, Assistant Director for Skills & Employability

STAFFORDSHIRE JOBS & CAREERS BROKERAGE

Your tomorrow, here today.
Jobs, training and opportunities all in one place.

- A website with everything you need in one place: staffsjobsandcareers.com
- Over 12,000 jobs, training, and work experience opportunities in one powerful search, 36,000 website page views.
- 230 businesses engaged, 130+ individuals receiving support, 42 individuals to date into paid work
- A team of experts to help individuals and businesses every step of the way.
- Contact the SJC Employment Brokers by emailing: StaffsJobsandCareers@staffordshire.gov.uk



#wearestaffordshire

Staffordshire Skills Prospectus

Stakeholders from across the county have come together to create our Employment and Skills Strategy, putting in place the vision and priorities to deliver a united economic vision for Staffordshire

A Staffordshire Skills prospectus in development to outline our skills vision & the support on offer to businesses,

£100m of exciting capital projects coming forward throughout Stoke and Staffordshire.

- £22m Stoke & Staffs Institute of Technology to deliver high level technical education
- NSCG £30m Skills Innovation Centre, new facility for digital, construction, engineering and hybrid vehicle technology
- South Staffs College £30m new Tamworth campus & £1.8m Green Village

Apprenticeships

- A great way to ensure the residents of Staffordshire have the right skills and minimise skills shortages.
- 200+ Apprentices across Staffs CC and schools
- Supporting Staffordshire Apprenticeship graduation ceremony , now in its 10th year, 1,000+ Apprentices graduated
- Support the Ladder for Staffordshire working with employers and Training Providers to promote the Apprenticeship brand
- Support the West Midlands Ambassador network - a group of employers that are passionate about apprenticeships and want to promote apprenticeships to bridge the skills gap. Includes JCB, HSBC, NHS Trust, KMF

Stoke & Staffs Careers Hubs

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A direct link to a coalition of schools and colleges with access to funding opportunities, bursaries and expert knowledge.

The Hub network currently consists of 83 schools and colleges, and 92 Enterprise Advisers (Senior-Middle Leader Business Volunteers from around 78 unique employers

Developed a framework that provides a universal language of key employability skills that local businesses want and need to help their business to thrive and grow



Staffordshire

