

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet meeting - 18 December 2013

Present: Philip Atkins (Chairman), Ben Adams, Mike Lawrence, Robert Marshall, Ian Parry, Mark Winnington and Alan White


Also in attendance - Gill Heath, Mark Sutton, Simon Tagg, Chris Cooke and John Taylor

PART ONE

53. Decision notices of the meetings held on 20 November 2013


Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013 be approved.

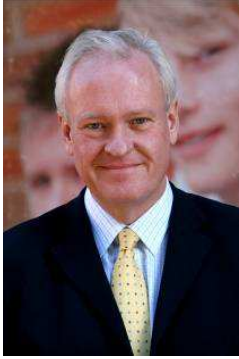
54. Leaders' Update

	<p>“Today’s Cabinet agenda once again reflects the progress and direction the county council is making in responding to the needs of our communities. The agenda shows how we will focus on what matters to people in Staffordshire, driving for more efficient and effective ways of working.”</p> <p>Philip Atkins, Leader of the County Council.</p>
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Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the County Council giving an update on a range of issues and an overview of the major achievements in Staffordshire during 2013 including the creation of Entrust and the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Partnership Trust; JCBs announcement of further expansion plans in the county; and securing government funding for improvements to the A50, be noted.

55. Achieving Excellence Quarterly Performance Report

	<p>“This report reflects the progress we are making in responding to our communities and creating a connected Staffordshire where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and be happy.</p> <p>Throughout the report are examples of how through our own work and by joining forces with partner organisations across Staffordshire we provide crucial leadership on key issues that matter to local people. They include delivering jobs and growth, promoting healthier lifestyles by addressing problems caused by alcohol and obesity, and making Staffordshire safer.”</p> <p>Philip Atkins, Leader of the Council</p>
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“Through continuing innovation and stronger links with our partners we aim to deliver a more prosperous, healthier and happier Staffordshire. This report shows the progress we have made so far, and the challenges we must overcome to deliver our ambitions for Staffordshire and local people.”

Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation.

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the progress being made against the County Council’s three priority outcomes of:

- The people of Staffordshire will be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth.
- The people of Staffordshire will be healthier and more independent.
- The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

Alternative Options Considered – None

Decision – That the Achieving Excellence Quarterly Performance Report be received and noted.

56. Strategic Plan 2014/15 to 2018/19 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy

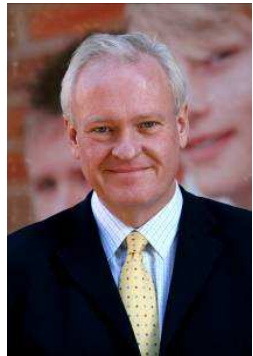


“By focusing on what matters most to people in Staffordshire and finding new, more efficient and more effective ways of working, we have made a good start on the transformation of Staffordshire County Council and the county’s public sector to meet the needs of local people today and tomorrow.

However we know the job is nowhere near done. New challenges demand new thinking. We are working with residents, voluntary groups, partners and the private sector to find new ways to improve lives.

Our approach is about listening, creating the right conditions for Staffordshire’s people to flourish, and allowing people to get on with achieving their goals and aspirations.”

Philip Atkins, Leader of the Council



“Over the last 5 years we have made over £130m of savings whilst freezing council tax, invested in our economy to create more jobs, and worked closer with partners such as the NHS to make every pound of taxpayers’ money we spend have the most impact on our communities.

	<p>Further reductions in resources mean this work has to continue and we need to explore all opportunities. This will allow us to focus our efforts and limited resources on those who need us the most.”</p> <p>Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation.</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To update Cabinet on the work to date in preparing the Strategic Plan (which will cover the period 2014 to 2018) and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (which provides details of how the Council’s operations will be funded over the period 2014 to 2019).

Alternative Options Considered – None

Decision – (a) That the progress made in developing the Strategic Plan 2014-18 be noted;



(b) That the financial outlook facing the county council be noted;

(c) That the work of the Innovation and Efficiency Board be noted;

(d) That the Innovation and Efficiency Board be requested to continue to work with services to identify additional savings needed to address the funding gap in 2014/15 and future years;

(e) That the Corporate Review Committee be requested to scrutinise the proposed pressures and savings against the principles of a good and balanced budget.

57. Achieving Excellence for Young People

 	<p>“The lives and aspirations of young people in Staffordshire have changed out of all recognition in recent times. They are demanding that we change and adapt the way we help them to shape the lives they want, get the most out of school and find a good job.</p> <p>We need to make sure we are getting real value for money for every pound of public money we spend for young people in Staffordshire, while continuing to support and advise those individuals who really need our help.”</p> <p>Robbie Marshall, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>“Four out of every five young people in Staffordshire never use a county council funded youth facility or take part in an activity we pay for. We need to make sure they get more out of what they enjoy already and have what they need to move successfully from school into work and into the good life they want.</p>
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	<p>For us that means looking at new ways of working, better working with partners, and recognising that other organisations, for instance in the voluntary or community sector, are better placed and more able to do the things that young people need.</p> <p>To young people our message is simple: we have listened and we are taking action. And where you need some help, we will be there for you.”</p> <p>Mark Sutton, Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Community Safety</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider a proposal for a new approach for Staffordshire County Council to achieving excellence for young people which represents a significant departure from the traditional model of investment and is in line with the County Council’s commissioning principles for a connected Staffordshire.


Alternative Options Considered – None

Decision – (a) That the content of the report and the proposed new approach to commissioning for excellence for young people be endorsed

(b) That a seven week public consultation be agreed in relation to the proposals which represent a significant change to the Council’s traditional approach to youth provision.

(c) That a further report be brought back to Cabinet in setting out a detailed appraisal of the proposal and the findings of both the public consultation and in-depth Community Impact Assessment (CIA).

58. High Speed Rail 2 (HS2): Response to the Phase Two Route Consultation

	<p>“From the very outset we have been opposed to HS2 due to the unacceptable impact it will have on Staffordshire, our communities and on our countryside and the fact it will bring no tangible economic benefits to the county.</p> <p>We have continued to champion the cause of residents in Phase One to mitigate the effect of the scheme and win timely compensation and will draw on our experience in putting together a robust response to the consultation on Phase Two.</p> <p>While the decision on the future of HS2 is one for Westminster, we will continue to work closely with local partners, communities and HS2 Ltd itself to get the best possible deal for Staffordshire. This means not only influencing the route and winning meaningful compensation, but exploring any further options for economic benefits and</p>
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	<p>improvements to the existing network, should this scheme be imposed on us.”</p> <p>Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the County Council’s response to the consultation on the proposed route for Phase 2 of the High Speed Rail (HS2) project.


Alternative Options Considered - None

Decision – (a) That, in noting the County Council’s opposition to Governments High Speed Rail proposals, the Cabinet responds to the consultation questions as set out in the supporting documentation to the report.

(b) That the submission of the County Council’s formal response to the route consultation be endorsed.

(c) That the Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Place, be given delegated authority to take decisions around the scope of the County Council’s consultation response, should any changes be required, prior to it being submitted to HS2 Ltd.

59. Draft Staffordshire Care Quality Compact and Draft Staffordshire County Council Care Quality Strategy 2013-2016

	<p>“The way we care for the elderly and more vulnerable members of our communities is undoubtedly a mark of a society which we would all want to be part of. National scandals on care have prompted much debate, but here in Staffordshire we have recognised the time for talk is over.</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council’s Quality Green Paper on the Revolution of Care sets out ambitions to ensure residents and their families are at the heart of change and as a county we adopt a “zero tolerance” approach on poor standards.</p> <p>We have listened to what people have said and our Staffordshire Care Quality Strategy and partner-wide commitment responds to what people have told us and underpins our drive to improve the quality of life for residents of all ages in Staffordshire.”</p> <p>Alan White, Cabinet Member for Care.</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals to improve the quality of care services in Staffordshire through the publication and implementation of the Staffordshire County Council Care Quality Strategy.


Alternative Options Considered – None

Decision – (a) That the report and the corresponding consultation outcome report produced by Engaging Communities Staffordshire be received and noted.

(b) That the draft Staffordshire Care Quality Compact and draft Staffordshire County Council Care Quality Strategy be endorsed for publication and implementation.

(c) That the overall approach to improving care quality in Staffordshire and embedding a zero tolerance approach to poor quality be endorsed.

60. Outcome of statutory consultation on proposal to enlarge Rykneld Primary School

	<p>“The enlargement of Rykneld Primary School is part of our long-term vision for education in Burton. We have already invested over £20m in schools in Burton to ensure they are well placed to cope with increasing demand for school places, and this latest measure will ensure parents in the area have as much choice as possible when it comes to their child’s education.</p> <p>This latest measure is part of our ambition to create a prosperous Staffordshire where young people can learn, grow and make a significant contribution to the success of the area. By acting now, we can ensure we are ready to meet future pressures on pupil places in the area.”</p> <p>Ben Adams, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills.</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the outcome of the consultation on a proposal to enlarge Rykneld Primary School in Burton to provide sufficient additional school places to meet the anticipated demand.

Alternative Options Considered – None

Decision – That the publication of a statutory proposal to enlarge Rykneld Primary School in Burton be approved.

61. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 15 January to 15 May 2014, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Strategic Plan 2014/15 to 2018/19 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy	Name: Andy Burns Tel: (01785) 276300
Approval of Revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme	Name: Ian Benson Tel: (01785) 276550

Determination of Statutory Proposal to alter the Upper Age Range of Coppice Special School	Name: Andrew Marsden Tel: (01785) 278787
Modernisation of Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities	Name: Anu Singh Tel: (01785) 277110
Treasury Management, Annual Investment and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategies 2014/15	Name: Chris Gibbs Tel: (01785) 276331
Achieving Excellence: Libraries in a Connected Staffordshire	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2007 - 2020)	Name: Ian Benson Tel: (01785) 276550
Decision on School Funding Formula for 2014-15	Name: Anna Halliday Tel: (01785) 278774
Achieving Excellence for Older People	Name: Martin Samuels Tel: (01785) 895760
Approval of Revised Statement of Community Involvement	Name: Ian Benson Tel: (01785) 276550
Third Quarter Budget Monitoring Report	Name: Andy Burns Tel: (01785) 276300
Infrastructure+	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Kingswood Lakeside – Financial/Delivery Update	Name: Steve Burrows Tel: (01785) 277204
Achieving Excellence in Mental Health and Wellbeing	Name: Dawn Jennens Tel: (01785) 277079

Philip Atkins
Leader of the County Council