

**Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee**

Friday, 25 July 2014

**10.00 am**

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

John Tradewell  
Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation  
17 July 2014

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**A G E N D A**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 12 May 2014** (Pages 1 - 6)
4. **Petition re Bradwell Lane** (Pages 7 - 12)  
Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager
5. **Executive Response to the Working Group Report on the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Arrangements** (Pages 13 - 20)  
Report of the Cabinet Member, Learning and Skills
6. **Work Programme Planning** (Pages 21 - 44)  
Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager
7. **Exclusion of the Public**



The Chairman to move:-

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

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**Part Two**

(All reports in this section are exempt)

nil

**Committee Membership**

George Adamson	Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
Ann Beech	Geoff Morrison
Len Bloomer	Martyn Tittley (Vice-Chairman)
Maureen Compton	Diane Todd
Tim Corbett	Paul Woodhead
Brian Edwards (Chairman)	Ellen Wright
Geoff Martin	Candice Yeomans

**Scrutiny and Support Manager:** Tina Randall Tel: (01785) 276148

## **Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2014**

Present: Brian Edwards (Chairman)

George Adamson  
Ann Beech  
Len Bloomer  
Maureen Compton  
Geoff Martin

Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf  
Geoff Morrison  
Martyn Tittley (Vice-Chairman)  
Diane Todd

**Also in attendance:** Ben Adams and Mike Lawrence

**Apologies:** Mark Deaville

### **PART ONE**

#### **57. Declarations of Interest**

There were none on this occasion.

#### **58. Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 24 April 2014**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee meeting held on 24 April 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **59. Achieving Excellence: Libraries in a Connected Staffordshire (part 2)**

The Cabinet Member, Children, Communities and Localism, explained to Members that the work being undertaken was to future proof the library service in Staffordshire. There was a need to make the library offer more relevant to the different communities it served.

Members received a presentation on the methodology being used to assess the library offer.

The Library Service had been designated a statutory service following the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. Since then the Library Service had significantly changed the way it operated to take account of differences in the way people access information and learning. It had also successfully delivered £1.1m savings over a 5 year period without any building closures or reductions in opening hours. However there was now a need to find a further £1.325m saving by 2016/17 as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). There was therefore a need to remodel the Service to reflect changing needs, meet the County Council's outcomes and give communities a voice in the future of their service.

On 15 January 2014 Cabinet had agreed the tiered model for Staffordshire's library offer which included: a virtual (online) offer; a physical offer at a locality/town level; and a

physical offer at a community level. A first engagement phase was held during February 2014 and Members heard that there had been immediate and positive feedback from this initial phase. In response to the feedback received the offer levels were clarified, with the following levels being recommended:

- Virtually – Library Plus
- Physically at a locality level – Library Extra
- Physically at a town level – Library
- Physically at a community/village level – Library Local

Members received details of the approach being taken to review the Library offer, with the project currently at assessment stage, evaluating each individual library against agreed critical success factors.

Members felt that the importance of reading in promoting self discovery should be included in the critical success factors. There was also a concern that there had been a reduction in new book and DV/CD stocks. The importance of reading was implicit in the critical success factors, however this could be amended to be more explicit. A strategic decision had been taken to reduce the DVD/CD stocks resulting from a reduction in need, as people were now accessing films and music differently, through downloads. The new book stock fund had been maintained and Officers were surprised at the perception that there were less new books on the shelves. The savings had been gained from reducing back office staff rather than any reduction in new book purchasing.

The online offer had increased with the provision of e-books and emagazines which could be accessed from a residents own home. One of the commitments of the Service was to enhance the virtual online offer, giving greater access to e-books and magazines.

Libraries were a vital part of the community, contributing positively to the mental and physical health of Staffordshire residents and helping to combat loneliness. Whilst accepting that the provision of on-line books was necessary for the changing needs and wishes of some parts of the population, it was important not to lose sight of the social aspects of a library.

Members asked where the £1.3m of savings would be found and asked if there was an intention to use volunteers to run local libraries. The Cabinet Member agreed that libraries were a vibrant part of a community with lots of activities taking place within the library space. However it was hoped that this review would help ensure that the service was still in place into the longer term. Communities would be asked what type of service they wanted and some savings could be found through the use of volunteers. Where communities were unresponsive further work would be done to help identify possible ways forward.

There was an aspiration that libraries would remain a focal point within their communities. Who would be running those libraries was a conversation that needed to be had with the communities themselves. It could be that volunteers would be best placed to run these services. There was also a need to look at making best use of the spaces, looking at partnership working and sharing building spaces. Presently a large income was received from organisations renting part of the library space and this was an area of business that they hoped to increase. There was also a need to consider

whether each library was in the right place, possibly looking at co-location and making the space work harder to help generate savings.

Members shared concerns around the number of volunteers available, the time they would be able to give, their reliability, how knowledgeable they might be in terms of supporting library users and their reliability. Finding enough volunteers of the right calibre and with the right spirit over a long term would be a challenge. There was a finite number of volunteers and many of these were already volunteering for other organisations. Where volunteers were found there was no guarantee that they would stay.

The Cabinet Member acknowledged that it would be easier to choose to close a number of libraries, however his aspiration was to increase rather than reduce the library offer. There was a need to get the balance right but also to invest in what people want for the future of the Service. Any volunteers working within the libraries would be supported by professional staff.

The use of volunteers would reduce the number of paid staff and Members asked if there were likely to be redundancies. The Cabinet Member said there would be some redundancies, although the precise number would not be known until after the review process had been completed. There was a risk of library closures if there was not sufficient reasons given from the local communities for the service to be maintained.

Members asked who would be undertaking the review and how consistency of decisions would be guaranteed. Initially the District Teams would be asked to complete a SWOT analysis, identifying strengths and weaknesses for each of the library offers within their District. The same small team of three officers would consider this analysis against the critical success factors and score provision against these. This work would then be double checked by the project board.

**RESOLVED** – That the methodology being used to assess the library offer be agreed.

## **60. Learning and Skills Strategy**

The Cabinet Member, Learning and Skills, introduced the Learning and Skills Strategy 2014-16. The Strategy set out the Council's expectations and gave a plan for providing a good education which was far wider than simply being able to deliver under exam conditions. Education had changed significantly, with more schools being independent in some way, and continuing to work within financial constraints. It was important to adapt to this changing environment.

The Cabinet Member said he was very proud of the Strategy and the immense amount of work that had gone into this. He thanked Anna Halliday, Commissioner for Education and Wellbeing, and her team for this work and felt it gave a good foundation over the next five years.

The Commissioner for Education and Wellbeing told the Select Committee that this Strategy helped identify the main pillars for a good start in life. A good education underpinned the ability for an individual to fulfil their future potential.

There were seven key components to the learning and skills system in Staffordshire, each of which was critical to delivering the Council's aims. Throughout January and February 2014 meetings had been held with head teachers and chairs of governors considering the strategy.

Staffordshire had a great variation in school type and this diversity of schools could be a strength if the whole system worked together. It was essential that every education provider was the best they could be.

The role of Governors was critical in ensuring self-supporting and sustainable school governance. It would be necessary to work differently with governing bodies and work would be done to consider carefully how the commissioning strategy could be used to help support governors. Members shared examples of where Governors worked with teachers to challenge and improve performance. It was important that Governors were equipped to ask the challenging questions. A self help network had been set up following one of the January meetings. This network gave an opportunity to share good practice, with the local authority supporting these meetings.

Members indicated that head teachers seemed to be positive about this document. However they felt there was a long way to go and gave examples of a number of schools in the Stafford area whose Ofsted judgement had fallen. Concern was expressed at the ability of Entrust to support Staffordshire schools effectively in their improvement.

Between 75/76 percent of Staffordshire schools were judged as good or outstanding, however there was a target set for 90% of Staffordshire schools to be within these top two Ofsted judgements and the challenge this presented was recognised. The offer provided by Entrust would need to be relevant and high quality and schools had the autonomy to choose alternative providers if they were not happy with the Entrust offer. Staffordshire had a good track record in supporting failing schools to improve. However this was an ever increasingly raised bar, being incrementally more difficult to reach the good or outstanding thresholds.

The recent investigations by the working group on the Ofsted inspection of school improvement arrangements had been satisfied with the support systems in place. Members were reminded of the dashboard data base and its ability to show trend information across pyramid groups and districts. This was a very effective tool that enabled issues to be identified early and appropriate support put in place to address issues.

This improvement in communication would help in school improvement, and in particular with pupil transition between schools. Select Committee Members shared examples of where supportive transition work had been particularly successful in the Newcastle area.

Members felt that individuals only really had one chance at education, feeling that if the individual had a bad experience they were unlikely to return to education later in life. They had concerns that the local authority had less influence than ever before and therefore less opportunity to make a difference to school improvement. However Members were pleased to note the principle "straight As" for Staffordshire and the new approach that put Staffordshire's people in greater control of where and how they learn.

Raising aspirations was acknowledged as one of the most difficult areas to achieve but there was a need to be ambitious.

There was also a need to ensure that young people had the right skills to meet the needs of the skill shortage and Members asked how this would be achieved. In some instances schools with sixth forms may be too keen for their students to stay into their sixth form rather than enabling the young person to have impartial information about the range of options open to them. Ensuring young people were flexible and have the right attitude made them more employable and these skills should be fostered. Members were reminded of the work of the Education Trust and the work undertaken to improve communication between schools, young people and employers.

The recent £2m investment by Entrust on the four Outdoor Education Centres was raised as an example of how the new joint venture worked well. The Cabinet Member informed the Select Committee of the benefits this investment had made and the sense of achievement gained by those young people who attended activities at these centres.

**RESOLVED** – That a) the existing achievements of education partners be recognised; and  
b) the progress being made to bring about improvements in learning and skills in Staffordshire be endorsed.

## **61. Work Programme**

The Scrutiny and Support Manager updated Members on their work programme, as follows:

- Mr Tittley had met with Mary Ann Raftery in connection with the Freight Policy. It was anticipated this policy would be developed further and come back to the Select Committee following amendments;
- there were a number of carry-over items for the Select Committee to consider including on their work programme in the new municipal year;
- a briefing note had been offered on Higher Level Education, this could be circulated in July;
- the Minerals Local Plan Working Group had met on Friday 9 May and produced a report on their findings. This would be circulated after the Select Committee and forwarded to the Cabinet Member, Economy and Infrastructure;
- in light of the comments made by the Cabinet Member, Learning and Skills, Members requested a briefing note updating them on the outdoor education centres.

**RESOLVED** – That the amendments to the work programme be agreed.

**Chairman**

Documents referred to in these minutes as Schedules are not appended, but will be attached to the signed copy of the Minutes of the meeting. Copies, or specific information contained in them, may be available on request.



Local Members' Interest
Sandra Hambleton Bradwell, Porthill and Wolstanton

**Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee  
25 July 2014**

**Petition – Request for Traffic Calming Measures – Bradwell Lane,  
Newcastle**

**Recommendation**

1. That the Committee considers the evidence given by the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive in response to the Petition regarding a request for traffic calming measures at Bradwell Lane, Newcastle, and decides what, if any, action to take in response.

**Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager**

**Summary**

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

1. Under the Council's Petition Scheme (in Section 4 of the Council's Constitution), named Senior Officers are required to attend Scrutiny Committee meetings to give evidence about the issues raised by petitions with over 2,500 signatures. A petition with 2,707 signatures has been received requesting traffic calming measures at Bradwell Lane, Newcastle.
2. The Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive is the Senior Officer named in the Petitions scheme who is responsible for the issues outlined in the petition and she has been invited to attend the meeting to respond to the issues it raises. Members have an opportunity to ask questions and will then have to decide what, if any, action to take in response.
3. The Committee may decide to make recommendations to Cabinet or Cabinet Members, conduct further scrutiny enquiries or take no action if no action is required. A copy of the Committee's findings will be sent to the petitions organiser following the meeting.

## Report

### Background

4. Chapter 2 of The Local Democracy, Economy Development and Construction Act 2009<sup>1</sup> required the County Council to adopt a petitions scheme setting out how it deals with petitions from local residents. Section 16 of the Act requires the Council to make provision within the scheme for named Senior Officers to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committees to give evidence in response to petitions with a specified number of signatures agreed by the Council
5. The County Council agreed its petition scheme at its meeting on 20 May 2010 and specified that the threshold for petitions requiring a Senior Officer to give evidence would be 2,500 signatures. The Petitions Scheme can be found attached to Section 4 – Citizens Rights of the Council's Constitution.
6. Ms Emma Meadon submitted a petition with 2,707 signatures to the full Council meeting. The petition was organised by Ms Meadon and requested the following traffic calming measures around Bradwell Lane, Newcastle: traffic lights installed at the Arnold Grove/Clare Avenue junction; speed cameras installed along Bradwell Lane; and, speed signs and weight limit restriction signs. As this petition met the criteria for a Senior Officer to attend a Select Committee meeting, once the number of signatures had been verified Ms Meadon was advised that arrangements would be made for the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive to attend a meeting in due course.
7. A timetable for dealing with the debate on the petition is attached (Appendix 1) giving the opportunity for the petition organiser and local Members to address the Committee and answer questions as well as the Director's own evidence.
8. When the Committee has concluded its discussions on the petition a copy of its deliberations and findings will be sent to Ms Needham as the petition organisation setting out what further action, if any, will be taken.
9. **Link to Strategic Plan** – Responding to petitions and giving members of the public the opportunity to attend meetings to hold senior officers to account contributes to the priority of ensuring **Staffordshire's people are involved in shaping their quality of life**. The specific issues raised by the petition relate to the priority that **Staffordshire communities can access, enjoy and benefit from a range of learning, recreational and cultural activities**.
10. **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity** – The Committee may decide to undertake further scrutiny work on the issues raised by the petition.
11. **Equalities and Legal Implications** – The Committee will need to have regard to any equalities issues in deciding what action to take. Any action the Committee takes will have to be within their powers set out in the Council's constitution

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/20/contents>

12. **Resource and Value for Money Implications** – The Committee should have regard to the resource and value for money implications of any action they propose to take.
13. **Risk Implications** – The Committee should have regard to the risk implications of any action they propose to take.
14. **Climate Change Implications** – The Committee should have regard to the climate changes implications of any action they propose to take.
15. **Health Impact Assessment screening** – N/a

#### **Contact Officer**

Name and Job Title: Tina Randall, Scrutiny and Support Manager  
Telephone No.: 01785 276140  
Address/e-mail: [tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Appendices/Background papers**

County Council's Petition Scheme (Section 4 of the Constitution)

**Timetable for dealing with petition for Senior Officers giving evidence at Select Committees**

Process	People	Timings
Lead Petitioner to address the Committee on the content of the petition	<i>Ms Meadon</i>	<i>10 minutes (+ questions)</i>
Local Member to address the Committee on the content of the petition  NB Mrs Hambleton is unable to attend due to civic duties. She will be sending her comments in writing and these will be shared with the Select Committee	<i>Sandra Hambleton, County Councillor for Bradwell, Porthill and Wolstanton</i>	<i>10 minutes (+ questions)</i>
Senior Officer to give evidence and respond to questions from Committee Members	<i>Richard Harris, Community Infrastructure Manager on behalf of Helen Riley, Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive</i>	<i>10 minutes (+ questions)</i>
Committee deliberation and outcome (i.e. do they wish to make any recommendations to the Officer or to Cabinet)	Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Members	

**NB** The Chairman may direct questions from Committee members to individual speakers during this process.



**BRADWELL LANE/CLARE AVENUE/ARNOLD GROVE  
PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS RECORDED  
THREE YEAR PERIOD FROM 1/4/11 TO 31/3/14**

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SCALE	1 : 1000
DATE	03/07/2014
DRAWING No.	
DRAWN BY	



Local Members' Interest
N/a

## **Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 25 July 2014**

### **Executive Response to the Final Report and Recommendations of the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Arrangements Working Group**

#### **Recommendations**

1. That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee receives the formal response of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills, to the recommendations of the working group on the Ofsted Inspection of school improvement arrangements.
2. That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee considers the content of the accompanying action plan.
3. That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee monitors the action plan and implementation of the agreed recommendations on a six monthly exception basis, until all recommendations have been fully implemented.

#### **Report of Cabinet Member, Learning and Skills**

##### **Summary**

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

4. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee are asked to receive the formal response to the final report and recommendations of the working group on the Ofsted Inspection of School Improvement Arrangements and to make arrangements to monitor the plan for implementing the agreed recommendations – to make sure that action is taken and delivers the intended outcome.

##### **Report**

##### **Background**

5. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee undertook a review into the Ofsted Inspection of school improvement arrangements following discussions at their meeting of 6 September 2013. At that meeting Members received details of the new Ofsted inspection regime and considered the inspection process, the authority's self evaluation and Members role in this process. As a result of this they agreed to set up a working group to consider the existing intervention and improvement arrangements, acting as a critical friend in assessing the readiness for inspection.
6. The findings and recommendations of the working group were endorsed by the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee at their meeting on 24 January 2014. The

report was then submitted to the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills with a request for their formal response. All of the recommendations were agreed.

7. Attached as an Appendix to this report is a table setting out:

- each of the agreed recommendations;
- the organisation/lead Member or officer;
- the action proposed (or already taken) in response to the agreed recommendations; and
- a deadline for completion.

#### **Contact Officer/s**

Name: Tina Randall  
Telephone No.: 01785276148  
Address/e-mail: tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk

#### **List of Appendices/Background papers**

- Executive Response Action Plan (appended)
- Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee meeting held on 24 January 2014
- Report of the Working Group on the Ofsted Inspection of LA School Improvement Arrangements



## Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Arrangements Scrutiny Review – Executive Response Action Plan

Date:

	Recommendation	Proposed action (or action already taken)	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
1.	The Working Group were impressed with the Data Dashboard and felt this was an excellent resource and monitoring tool, one that was easy to use and that helped accurate analysis of a schools progress across a number of areas. The working group therefore recommended that Staffordshire school governors be given access to this database and are made fully aware of the opportunity this resource offers	The Dashboard has continued to be developed and in particular there are discussions underway to find an effective mechanism for better sharing of key intelligence with schools, including governors. One option being explored is through Nexus – a shared platform that is already available and used for data collection and reporting purposes. Meanwhile, data is shared via Core Groups in schools – and through the key relationship schools have with County Managers for Education and their Commissioning Manager for School Improvement.	Tim Moss/Anne Newton	
2.	There are over 400 education settings within Staffordshire and work is ongoing to share the new school improvement approach and documentation with them. The working group felt It was essential that these settings understand how the new system operates. Schools have been invited to district briefings	Details of the district briefings were shared with Members via the Members Bulletin  District meetings ran as planned and over half of schools attended. Further communications have reinforced and reiterated the publication of the Framework for	Lynn Coates  Anna Halliday/Anne Newton	Completed 17/01/2014

**Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Arrangements Scrutiny Review –  
Executive Response Action Plan**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed action (or action already taken)</b>	<b>Lead Member/Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
	<p>throughout January and the beginning of February and the working group felt that there was a role for local members to play in ensuring their local schools attend these briefing sessions, recommending that local members be given details of the district briefings via the Members Bulletin and contact their local schools to ensure they are attending</p>	<p>School Improvement which describes the new system end to end.</p> <p>Further work is needed to strengthen and embed awareness and understanding, as recent Focused Inspection Survey by Ofsted reported some confusion in schools about the new approach.</p> <p>Briefing sessions with members have been offered and with limited attendance. Updates through members bulletin have also been utilised.</p>		
3.	<p>There have been a number of changes to the structure, roles and responsibilities of those within education and skills and this should be reflected in the web pages, both intranet and internet. We understand that these changes have been made and that “cold call” checks are also being made to ensure the detail is up to date and easily accessible. However on further inspection the</p>	<p>The structure diagram was updated and issued out to schools and further work has been undertaken to update the web pages. Recent changes to the Staffordshire Learning Network (SLN) means that further work is ongoing to update and redesign the internet/intranet pages in order to make key documents and information readily accessible. This work is being monitored through the</p>		

**Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Arrangements Scrutiny Review –  
Executive Response Action Plan**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed action (or action already taken)</b>	<b>Lead Member/Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
	People Service leadership structure remains out of date. The internet and intranet pages, as well as the Staffordshire Learning Net, are a useful source of information for inspectors and as such we the working group recommended that they should be kept up-to-date.	Ofsted Programme Board which meets monthly.		
4.	Whilst being impressed by the dedication and work undertaken by key officers throughout this process the working group had concerns that during the preparation for the Entrust joint venture with Capita, and indeed as a result of the transition of staff through this process, key expertise was lost. The working group were aware that Staffordshire was currently in the process of undertaking further commissioning opportunities and wished to highlight the difficulties in the loss of expertise and in the uncertainty created during the transition process. The working group recommended that the	Cabinet member responded to this point.  Further work has been done to strengthen the Client side function, including contract monitoring arrangements. Reporting processes have been redesigned and formats refined to make reporting more effective. The governance structures have continued to strengthen as they establish, including a “commissioners” group that brings the range of internal commissioners together to review contract arrangements and delivery.	Ben Adams  Matt Prisk	

**Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Arrangements Scrutiny Review –  
Executive Response Action Plan**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed action (or action already taken)</b>	<b>Lead Member/Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
	Cabinet Member share their views on lessons learnt from the Entrust commissioning process for any future commissioning venture the County Council may enter into, with other Cabinet Members, and specifically in avoiding the loss of key personnel.	<p>The small team in the county council has stabilised and strengthened through some recruitment activity – notably the secondment of a primary headteacher to the Senior Commissioning Lead role with effect from end April 2013.</p> <p>In addition HR and OD are supporting a piece of work to secure the right team expertise abd skills going forward.</p>	<p>Anna Halliday/Anne Newton</p> <p>Lisa Cartwright</p>	
5.	The working group congratulated the Ofsted Inspection Programme Board on the action plan they produced to address the priorities for development. Following the recent publication of the Ofsted report “Pupils Missing out on Education” they noted the Board identified a further piece of work to create a co-ordinated data base that allowed easy identification of the work Staffordshire does to address, track and monitor this issue. They valued this work in ensuring all young people in Staffordshire were able to	<p>Select Committee working group set up to look at the issue of pupils missing out on education</p> <p>The Select Committee working group has offered the vehicle for this further update.</p>	Tina Randall/Lynda Mitchell	Working Group initial meeting on 20 March 2014

**Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority School Improvement Arrangements Scrutiny Review –  
Executive Response Action Plan**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed action (or action already taken)</b>	<b>Lead Member/Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td>receive the education they were entitled to and wished to be updated on progress with this</td> </tr> </table>		receive the education they were entitled to and wished to be updated on progress with this			
	receive the education they were entitled to and wished to be updated on progress with this				



Local Members' Interest
N/a

## Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 25 July 2014

### Work Programme Planning 2014-15

#### Recommendation

1. That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee consider and agree an initial list of priorities to form the basis of the work programme for 2014-15.

#### Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager

#### Summary

2. The committee structures for this Committee remain unchanged for 2014-15. We welcome to our Committee Councillor Tim Corbett, who replaces Mark Deaville, who has been promoted to the post of Cabinet Support Member for Transport and the Connected County, and Paul Woodhead and Candice Yeomans, our new Parent Governor representatives replacing Neil Taylor and Debbie Kay. We have one vacancy for a co-opted Member. The structures are designed to ensure effective accountability for the delivery against the Council's strategic priorities and commissioning priorities set out in Staffordshire County Council's Strategic Plan 2014-2018. In August 2013 the County Council agreed a new vision and three interconnected priority outcomes:

*Vision: A connected Staffordshire, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.*

Our three priority outcomes are what are most important to our residents: The people of Staffordshire will:

- Be able to access more jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth
  - Be healthier and more independent
  - Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.
3. The Council has agreed a set of values and behaviours that will guide how we will think and work together on a day-to-day basis to help deliver the vision and a set of operating principles that will guide our thinking and choices over the next four years.
  4. The Council's Business Plan 2014-2017 transforms the three priority outcomes into more detailed plans that describe what we need to do to achieve our vision and how we will go about it. The Council believes that by refocusing on seven key areas of activity we will make the biggest impact on residents' lives and be able to deliver the savings required over the next three years. These areas have been developed into commissioning plans and will

drive the work of the Council over the next three years. These interlinked areas are:

- Great Place to Live
- Living Well
- Resilient Communities
- Best Start
- Ready for Life
- Right for Business
- Enjoying Life

5. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee is responsible for scrutiny of:

- Economic growth and prosperity
- Education, learning and skills
- Connectivity and physical infrastructure

The Committee's work is closely aligned to the Right for Business (economic growth and prosperity), Great Place to Live (connectivity and physical infrastructure) and Ready for Life (education, learning and skills) priorities.

6. In developing a work programme the Committee is encouraged to identify issues that are a current priority for local people and communities and/or are a priority for the Council and partners. If a matter is a recurring issue for the people you collectively as Councillors represent then the likelihood is that it is something the Committee should spend time on. The more relevant the issue is to local communities then the greater the likelihood of engaging those communities in the scrutiny process and of producing outcomes that will be visible to those communities. Members are encouraged to raise and discuss issues that should form the basis of the work programme and review these periodically throughout the year to ensure they remain relevant and will add value to what the Council and partners are doing.
7. Members may choose to request a Briefing Note from a Cabinet Member on an issue prior to discussion as to whether they would wish an item to feature as a main Work Programme item. Briefing Notes will be circulated to Members prior to discussion under the Work Programme. Members attention is drawn to the Higher Level Education briefing note that has circulated to Members. At the time of writing, a briefing note on Outdoor Education Centres had been requested. Briefing notes on Staffordshire Local Nature Partnership and Eco system services and Country Parks Review are being requested.
8. The Committee may be asked to consider a petition at its meeting. If a petition has more than 2,500 signatures the relevant scrutiny (Select) committee will be requested to ask the relevant officer to attend to respond to the petition. The local Member for the area and the petitioner will be invited to attend. The scrutiny (Select) committee will make a report on its findings



which may make recommendations for action. The petition scheme is under review but the current scheme is detailed below:

**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

9. There may be occasions when an issue is under consideration that impacts on another Select Committee. On such occasions the Committee may consider working jointly with another Committee.

## **Report**

### **Remit of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee**

10. The Committee will lead on ensuring that there is effective scrutiny of the Council's strategic ambitions for promoting prosperity and economic growth, scrutiny of the commissioning and monitoring arrangements in regard to highways infrastructure and connectivity, education, learning and skills.

### **Developing the Work Programme**

11. Your work programme has been rewritten to link the work of the Committee with the Council's commissioning priorities described above.
12. When agreeing matters for your work programme you are encouraged to ask the following questions:
  - Is the matter of particular concern to local people? You may wish to reflect on topics raised with you by local residents.
  - Is the issue an identified priority outcome for the County Council or partners?
  - Does the issue relate to an area of service with a trend in weak performance? For example has this issue been identified by external auditors or inspectors?
  - What difference could scrutiny make?
  - What would happen if you did not look at this issue?

### **Matters from Last Year's Work Programme**

13. In order to manage the Work Programme last year Members asked for Briefing Notes on some items. These were circulated to Members and at the following Committee meeting I asked Members if they wished the topic to be put onto the Work Programme as a substantive item. With Members agreement this practice will be continued this year.
14. The Working Group on Children Missing from Education has not completed its work but will report its findings to the Committee in due course.

The Committee has previously considered Achieving Excellence: Libraries in a Connected Staffordshire 1 by scrutinising the vision on 19 December 2013 and the methodology to used to assess the library offer on 12 May 2014.

Members may wish to consider responding to the consultation on Achieving Excellence in a Connected Staffordshire 2.

This meeting is an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the work of the previous year (details attached) and to begin to identify and prioritise what it wishes to scrutinise during the current municipal year. There is a draft Work Programme attached as Appendix 1.

### **Matters arising on Forward Plan**

15. The Forward Plan is published on a monthly basis and summarises Key Decisions to be taken by Council over the coming months. The Plan can be used to identify items that could be considered by the Select Committee prior to a final decision being made.

### **Recurring Work Programme Items**

16. **Strategic Economic Plan** - At our triangulation meeting on 24 April it was proposed by the Director of Place that we have a regular six monthly update on this matter.

**Roll out of Broadband** - Following consideration of this item on 24 April Members requested a further update in six month's time.

**Entrust** - following consideration of the Ofsted inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement Members formed a Working Group to consider the existing process. This Working Group reported to the January 2014 meeting. Members requested a meeting to assess what impact the relationship with Entrust had made on school improvement.

**Infrastructure+** - the committee will continue to monitor the quality of work delivered through the contract with Amey plc.

**Outcomes from inspections.** Education, children's services and skills are subject to a programme of announced/unannounced inspections by Ofsted throughout the year. The Committee will be updated on the outcomes from inspections and Members may be required to contribute to them.

**Flood risk management.** Members have requested an annual update on this matter.

### **Training and Development**

17. Member and Democratic Services ran a number of member development activities last year. The member self appraisal process will provide members with the opportunity to identify any training needs. Members are invited to make any suggestions for development with the Chair, Scrutiny and Support Manager or Julie Roberts, Member Development Officer.

## Method of Scrutiny

18. Once Members have identified the matters they wish to scrutinise, consideration needs to be given to the most appropriate timing and method of scrutiny for that issue (proposals for some items may be suggested by the Scrutiny and Support team). Members may wish to:
- consider an item at a single meeting;
  - consider an item over a series of meetings;
  - allocate the work to a small group of Members to look at over a period of 2-3 months; or undertake an inquiry day;
  - joint scrutiny with members of another Select Committee;
  - visits using semi-structured questionnaires;
  - seek the views of experts in the field of inquiry.
19. The choice of method will depend in part on the scope of the matter, capacity and the opportunity for locality working and community engagement in the review. Experience suggests that single issue meetings and small task groups tend to deliver better quality recommendations and outcomes than heavy agenda at scheduled committee meetings. Members are encouraged to suggest new ways of working e.g. Call for Evidence.

## All Party Member Groups

20. Last year the County Council has agreed to establish All Party Member Groups. These groups will be tasked with supporting the Council's long term policy ambitions putting forward proposals of how public services in Staffordshire could address community issues that will arise over the medium to long term. All Party Member Groups will be chaired by the Cabinet Members or Cabinet Support Members.

## Reviewing the Work Programme

21. There will be an opportunity to review the work programme at every Committee meeting. Members are encouraged to raise issues at any point during the year and this can be done by:
- completing the proposal form for work programme items (on line or in hard copy);
  - talking to the Chair/Vice Chair and Scrutiny and Support Team;
  - raising items under the 'Work Programme' item on meeting agenda; or Councillor Call for Action.
22. The simplest method is to discuss the issue at the work programme item on meeting agenda. In developing a work programme, Members do not need to set in stone the work programme for a full year. To prepare reports and for officers/ witnesses to attend meetings it is important to plan items for the next two to three meetings. Beyond that it is possible that new issues may

have arisen that will take precedence; hence it is advisable to review the work programme quarterly and treat it as a dynamic document. This way the Committee will be better able to respond to community concerns as and when they arise.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

23. The remits of the Council's Select Committees link to the strategic priorities set out in the County Council's Strategic Plan 2014-2018 and commissioning plans set out in the Business Plan 2014-17. Work programmes should link to community priorities or strategic outcomes if they are to deliver noticeable outcomes for local communities and the organisation.

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

24. Select Committees are encouraged to identify whether any of the issues for their work programmes are 'cross cutting' and would benefit from joint working.

### **Equalities and Legal Implications**

25. The County Council has a responsibility to undertake adequate Equality Impact Assessments to ensure services do not have a negative impact on any one section of the community and the Select committees have a role in ensuring that this responsibility is fulfilled, particularly in regard to health impact. Scrutiny as a function must also comply with the relevant legislation. When considering work programme items, especially when undertaking reviews of policy, the Select committees must always consider whether their recommendations may impact differently on various individuals/sections of the community.
26. The Select Committees will be updated as necessary on any matters affecting their operation that relate to legislation, regulations, and the County Council's Constitution.

### **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

27. Work programmes which are effectively prioritised will ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit.

### **Risk Implications**

28. The key aspects of risk management to scrutiny work programmes are:
  - Ensuring that there are clear outcomes from the scrutiny process that impact positively upon the people and communities of Staffordshire and link to corporate priorities: and

- That there is adequate capacity for the select committees to complete the work that has been agreed.

## **Climate Change Implications**

29. The Committee will need to consider the implications for climate change of any recommendations it makes in relation to those issues included on the work programme. The Committee should also consider the implications of the scrutiny methods it decides to utilise – for example, travelling for best practice visits.

### **Contact Officer:**

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### **Appendices/Background papers**

Appendix 1 - Draft Work Programme 2014-15

Strategic Plan 2014-18:

<http://www.intra.staffordshire.gov.uk/ppp/planning/stratplan/Strategic-Plan-2014-18.pdf>

Business Plan 2014-17:

[http://www.intra.staffordshire.gov.uk/ppp/planning/74633-connected-county-plan-2014-17-\(FINAL\).pdf](http://www.intra.staffordshire.gov.uk/ppp/planning/74633-connected-county-plan-2014-17-(FINAL).pdf)





## **Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Work Programme 2014/15**

This document sets out the work programme for the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee for 2014/15. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee is responsible for scrutiny of highways infrastructure and connectivity, education, learning and skills. As such the statutory education co-optees will sit on this committee. The Council has three priority outcomes. This Committee is aligned to the outcome: The people of Staffordshire will be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth.

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.

### **County Councillor Brian Edwards**

Chairman of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme, please get in touch with Tina Randall, Scrutiny and Support Manager, 01785 276148 or by emailing [tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tina.randall@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
Rail Strategy Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Clive Thomson/Clare Horton	tbc	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology.	Monitoring progress with delivery	
Strategic Economic Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Darryl Eyers	tbc	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Create the right conditions to attract and grow business in Staffordshire.	Members to scrutinise progress on the European Growth Deal submission	
Staffordshire Local Nature Partnership and Eco System Services  Lead Officer: Ian Wykes	It is proposed that a briefing note be circulated to update Members on this issue.	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Use and maintain our built and natural environment to improve health and wellbeing and strengthen community assets.	Informing Members of the work of the Staffordshire Local Nature Partnership	
Entrust Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead officer: Ian H Benson	5 September 2014	<b>Ready for Life</b> Focus on school improvement and providing access to a good education.	Monitoring progress of contract with Entrust to ensure that it is delivering intended outcomes.	
Update on progress with LA Schools Improvement Arrangements Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead Officer: Anna Halliday	5 September 2014	<b>Ready for Life</b> Focus on school improvement and providing access to a good education.	Members to be updated on progress with school improvement arrangements following the report of the Working Group to the Committee on 24 January 2014	
Roll out of Broadband Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Steve Burrows	16 October 2014 (following the update request on 24 April 2014)	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology. And	Monitoring progress with delivery	



Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
		Create the right conditions to attract and grow business in Staffordshire.		
Improving Connectivity in Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Clive Thomson	16 October 2014	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology.	Members to be updated on the transport review (to include concessionary travel arrangements)	
W2R Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Ian Benson	16 October 2014	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology.	Members requested a briefing note updating them on progress	
Flood Risk Management – progress update Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Ian Benson	18 December 2014	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology.	Update on progress of Staffordshire's flood risk management.	
Country Parks Review Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Ian Wykes	December 2014 or January 2015  (a briefing note will be available in July/August 2014 on this issue in preparation for the main discussion later in the year)	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Use and maintain our built and natural environment to improve health and wellbeing and strengthen community assets. <b>Enjoying Life</b> Strengthen public confidence in the county as a great place to live with lots of opportunities to enjoy life.	To update Members on the production of a management plan for the county council owned countryside estate. This could be considered in a briefing note initially.	
Tourism – Destination Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington		<b>Enjoying Life</b> Encourage people to participate in social and	This was subject to a delegated decision to extend the strategy and	

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
Lead Officer: Graeme Whitehead		leisure activities that they enjoy by promoting the attractiveness of the County to tourists, businesses and residents.	therefore Members may wish to receive a copy of the strategy rather than a report.	
Infrastructure + Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Ian Turner	6 March 2015	<b>Great Place to Live</b> Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology.	The Select will continue to monitor the quality of the work delivered through the contract (including Shugborough and Cannock Chase)	
<b>Working Groups</b>				
Children Missing out on Education (CME) Working Group	March 2014 -	<b>Ready for Life</b> Focus on school improvement and providing access to a good education	This working group was actioned as a result of a recommendation from the Select Committee Working Group on the Ofsted inspection of school improvement arrangements which suggested further investigation into CME following the issues highlighted in the Ofsted report "Pupils missing out on Education".	
<b>Briefing notes/updates and referrals</b>				
Higher level education Lead Officer: Tony Baines		<b>Ready for Life</b> Support the improved supply of skills to employers and the	Looking at higher level education provision in Staffordshire in light of	

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
		employability of residents. and Enhance access to high quality family, community and life-long learning.	the changes to Staffordshire University.	
Outdoor Education Centres Lead Officer:		<b>Great Place to Live</b> Use and maintain our built and natural environment to improve health and wellbeing and strengthen community assets. and <b>Ready for Life</b> Focus on school improvement and providing access to a good education.	Following the £2m investment by Entrust into the Staffordshire Outdoor Education Centres Members wished to see how this investment had been used and the intended outcome from this.	

<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>Brian Edwards (Chairman)  Martyn Tittley (Vice-Chairman)  George Adamson  Ann Beech  Len Bloomer  Maureen Compton  Tim Corbett  Geoff Martin  Geoff Morrison  Diane Todd  Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf (Co-optee)  Paul Woodhead (Co-optee)  Ellen Wright (Co-optee)</p>	<p><b>Calendar of Committee Meetings</b>  (at 10.00 am and at County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford ST16 2LH unless otherwise stated)</p> <p>25 July 2014, 10.00 am  5 September 2014, 10.00 am  16 October 2014, 10.00 am  18 December 2014, 10.00 am  23 January 2015, 10.00 am  6 March 2015, 2.00 pm</p>
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**Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee  
Completed Work Programme 2013/14**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action/Outcome</b>
Infrastructure+ (formerly known as the Place Delivery Models contract)  Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Helen Riley/Ian Turner	3 June 2013	To consider and comment on the Outline Business Case in advance of Cabinet consideration on 19 June.	To reconsider when a more detailed business case is available – 19 December 2013 (proposed).
Work Programme Planning	26 July 2013	To receive presentations on behalf of the Cabinet Members for Economy and Infrastructure, Learning and Skills and Communities and Localism to help inform work programme planning	To update the work programme and bring a draft for approval to the September Select Committee.
County Council's response to HS2 Project to date and potential future engagement.  Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Clive Thomson/Dean Sargeant	6 September 2013	To keep Members informed of progress on HS2 Phase 1, including mitigation planning	The Select Committee acknowledged the work already undertaken and supported the proposed next steps.
Ofsted inspection of Local Authority arrangements for supporting school improvement. Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead officer: Anne Birch and Anne Newton	6 September 2013	It is proposed that Members are made aware of the detail of the inspection process, the authority's self evaluation, and Members' responsibilities and role prior to, during and post the inspection. The discussion on pupils' attainment and progress outcomes for the academic year 2012/13 will be later in the year.  The Select Committee will also receive a progress report on this item later in the year	A working group be set up to consider the existing process for reviewing school intervention and improvement, helping to support the inspection preparation, acting as a critical friend.

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
Civil Parking Enforcement Cabinet Member: Mike Lawrence Lead Officer: James Bailey	6 September 2013	Consultation on proposed changes	The Select Committee welcomed consultation at a district parking board level on the review options. They noted and requested sight of the breakdown by district/borough of the CPE deficit figures. The Chairman will also raise the Committee's concerns over the poor police attendance at the Joint Staffordshire Parking Board with the PCC
Highway Permit Scheme	6 September	To consider a new highway works permit scheme for managing utility operations (prior to Cabinet consideration on this issue)	The Select Committee supported the introduction of a permit scheme that provided greater control of activities on Staffordshire's highway network.
Improving Staffordshire's Public Transport Network Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Clive Thomson	17 October 2013	To consider an update on the strategy for improving the County's public transport network.	The Select Committee welcomed the vision and principles to the approach to transport and asked that they receive an update in 12 months showing how the proposed developments had progressed
Economic prosperity: LEP and the Staffordshire Economic Strategy  Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Darryl Evers	17 October 2013	Scrutinising strategies of the LEP, possibly jointly with Stoke.	The Select Committee received details setting out the key strategies that were fundamental to securing economic growth across Staffordshire, giving

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
			background in readiness for their 18 November meeting.
LEP and European Funding Strategies  Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Darryl Eyers	20 November 2013	Scrutiny of these two strategies that effect future Council funding	The Select Committee gave their views on these two key strategies being developed through the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP
Education Trust Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead officer: Tony Baines	19 December	Considering looking at their terms of reference, intentions, membership and governance. Members had also requested details on how well schools are delivering careers advice and guidance	The urgency of the work to address the skills gap was acknowledged, with the work of the Trust in co-ordinating and developing links between schools, colleges, post 16 providers and businesses was supported.
Achieving Excellence: Libraries in a Connected Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mike Lawrence Lead officer: Janene Cox/Catherine Mann	19 December 2013	Members to be consulted on the vision prior to Cabinet consideration.	The Select Committee accepted the proposals to adapt and reposition Staffordshire's library offer and wish to scrutinise this further as the proposals progress.
Analysis of the YPLA (Education Funding Agency) figures on post-16 take up and the effect of the end of the Education Maintenance Allowance  Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead officer: Anthony Baines	19 December 2013	Resolved at previous Select Committee on 21 January 2013 to propose carrying forward into 2014 an analysis of participation trends post 16 in the light of the Raising the Participation Age changes that would oblige young people to stay on in education or training to 17 years in 2013 and to 18 by 2015. Several national evaluations have now taken	The Committee noted the positive trends in participation of young people since the introduction of the Bursary Fund. The Committee also noted the continued lack of data for Staffordshire from the EFA.

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
Infrastructure+ (formerly known as the Place Delivery Models contract)  Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Helen Riley/Ian Turner	19 December 2013 (Verbal update) (an extra meeting will be arranged to consider the contract prior to Cabinet decision in February)	place.  At their 3 June meeting Members resolved that: <i>the Select Committee are kept informed on the project progress and specifically that they receive a report at the end of the year and prior to Cabinet decision on the chosen bidder</i>	The update was welcomed and Members look forward to consideration of the proposed bidder's submission in February.
Pupil Attainment in Staffordshire (early years, 0-18 years and post 18 years)  Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead officer: Anne Newton	24 January 2014	To consider a briefing on the attainment outcomes for 2012/13 and review the work undertaken to address any issues and sustain improvement  To include progress of schools in an Ofsted category to improve	The Select Committee considered the achievement of Staffordshire pupils and an analysis of the data. In particular they supported the use of district level data in driving school improvement.
Flood Risk Management – Progress Update Cabinet Member Mark Winnington Lead officer: Ian Benson	24 January 2014	Update on progress of Staffordshire's flood risk management.	Progress on the development of the new responsibilities for the Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority in respect of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 were given consideration. Members remain concerned at the low levels of funding for this area and will raise their concerns with the Cabinet Member and Defra.
Entrust Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead officer: Ian H Benson	24 January 2014	Monitoring progress of contract with Entrust to ensure that it is delivering intended outcomes	The presentation on Entrust, outlined the relationship between the County Council



Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
			and Entrust and progress to date. The Select Committee intend to monitor progress of Entrust in September when a robust set of data should be available.
Report of the Select Committee Working Group on the Ofsted Inspection of LA Schools Improvement Arrangements	24 January 2014	To consider the final report and recommendations of the Working Group.	The Select Committee endorsed the report and recommendation for submission to the cabinet Member, Learning and Skills.
Infrastructure+ (formerly known as the Place Delivery Models contract)  Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Helen Riley/Ian Turner	12 February	To highlight critical success factors that could feed into the final contract terms and any concerns that need to be taken into account as the negotiations continue and prior to Cabinet decision	The Select Committee endorsed the Cabinet recommendations in principle whilst requesting that Cabinet consider including a role for Scrutiny in the contract monitoring arrangements for Infrastructure+.
Petition – Proposed removal of the Library, Gallery and other facilities from the Shire Hall and sale of the building	7 March 2014	Under the Council’s petition scheme petitions with over 2,500 signatures must be considered by the appropriate select/scrutiny committee,.	The Select Committee will consider this issue at their May/June meeting, prior to Cabinet decision, where the detailed proposals will be available.
A50 Growth Corridor Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Steve Burrows	7 March 2014	To update and consult the Committee on proposals to undertake a major improvement to the A50 in Uttoxeter.	The Select Committee supported the proposals to improve the A50 in Uttoxeter, congratulating officers on the speed and efficiency of this project.

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
Highways and the Built County Capital Programme Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: James Bailey	7 March 2014	Consideration of how to evaluate Highways and the Built County Capital Programme to ensure best value	The Select Committee noted the information given.
Quality of road maintenance Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: James Bailey	7 March 2014	To consider the quality of road maintenance and specifically winter road maintenance	The Select Committee received a very thorough and detailed presentation which identified the key issues for road maintenance within the county.
Minerals Local Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Ian Benson	24 April 2014	Consulting on the developing Minerals Local Plan	A Working Group has been set up to develop a response to the consultation.
Rural Forum Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Cabinet Support Member: Gill Heath Lead officer: Ian Wykes	24 April 2014	To consider the work of the Rural Forum	Members were pleased with the progress of the Rural Forum and development of the Rural Declaration
Chasewater Country Park Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Ian Wykes	24 April 2014	To update Members on progress of the transfer and development of the Chasewater Country Park	Members were pleased with the progress made and the exciting opportunities for the future of Chasewater Country Park.
Achieving Excellence: Libraries in a Connected Staffordshire (part2) Cabinet Member: Mike Lawrence Lead Officer: Janene Cox	12 May 2014	To consider the methodology being used to assess the library offer.	Members considered in detail the proposed methodology and accepted this process for assessing the library offer.
Learning and Skills Strategy Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead Officer: Anna Halliday	12 May 2014	To consider the Strategy that set out the Council's expectations and gave a plan for providing a good education in the changing educational	The Select Committee recognised the existing achievements of education partners and endorsed the

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
		environment.	progress being made to improve learning and skills in Staffordshire.
<b>Briefing Notes, Updates and Referrals</b>			
2012 Olympics and development of the Sportshire Strategy	Quarterly updates (possibly via the Members Bulletin)	Whilst accepting the rationale behind this item being referred to Corporate Review Members requested that they be kept updated of progress on a quarterly basis.	Members had agreed to review the cultural and sporting legacy of the 2012 Olympics in 2013. Given the cross cutting nature of this item (impacting on health, prosperity and learning and skills) the item has been referred to Corporate Review Committee for their consideration.
Centralisation of public access to Archive Services and the William Salt Library Collections Lead officer: Janene Cox/Catherine Mann	It is proposed that a briefing note be circulated to update Members on this issue.	To inform Members of the proposals to centralise public access to these services/collections.	Briefing note received and accepted.
Carbon Reduction Targets Lead Officer: Ian Benson	It is proposed that a briefing note be circulated to update Members on this issue.	To update Members on progress in reaching the Council's carbon reduction targets	Briefing note received and accepted.
Contract Performance re. HWRCs, W2R, Hanford and closed landfills	It is proposed that a briefing note be circulated to update Members on this issue.	To update Members on contract performance re. HWRCs, W2R, Hanford and closed landfills	Briefing note received and accepted.

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
Higher Level Education		Ensuring higher level education better fits local business skill requirements to help address the skills gaps	This issue was covered in discussions around the Education Trust on 19 December 2013. However Members have requested a further update on higher education developments in Staffordshire
Freight Policy Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: James Bailey		Update of monitoring of actions and priorities against Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011	Initially, face to face discussion to be arranged between officers and Cllr Tittley who raised the matter.
<b>Working Groups</b>			
Ofsted Inspection of the Local Authority's School Improvement Arrangements	Reported to the Select Committee in January 2014	Following a report to the Select Committee on 6 September highlighting the new Ofsted inspection of school improvement arrangements Members established a working group to review the existing process for school intervention and improvement, acting as a critical friend to consider Staffordshire's readiness for this new inspection.	The Working group report was considered by the Select Committee on 24 January 2014.
Minerals Local Plan	The Working group's response was circulated on 12 May 2014	At their meeting of 24 April 2014 the Select Committee received a report on the new Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015-2030) Draft for consultation. Owing to the detailed nature of the Plan the Working Group was established to consider a response.	The Working group's response was circulated on 12 May 2014



