

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

Thursday, 18 December 2014

10.00 am

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

John Tradewell
Interim Chief Executive
10 December 2014

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 16 October 2014** (Pages 1 - 4)
4. **Children Missing Out on Education** (Pages 5 - 28)
Report of the Select Committee Working Group
5. **Improving Connectivity in Staffordshire** (Pages 29 - 36)
Report of the Cabinet Member, Economy, Environment and Transport
6. **High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) Update** (Pages 37 - 46)
Report of the Cabinet Member, Economy, Environment and Transport
7. **Countryside Estate Management Review** (Pages 47 - 56)
Report of the Cabinet Member, Economy, Environment and Transport
8. **Flood Risk Management - Progress update** (Pages 57 - 68)



9. **Work Programme** (Pages 69 - 76)

10. **Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman to move:-

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

Part Two

(All reports in this section are exempt)

11. **Public Services Network Service Level Agreement in Staffordshire Schools** (Pages 77 - 78)

Report of the Cabinet Member, Learning and Skills

Committee Membership

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

Note for Members of the Press and Public

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Recording (including by the use of social media) by the Press and Public is permitted from the public seating area provided it does not, in the opinion of the chairman, disrupt the meeting.

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

Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2014

Present: Brian Edwards (Chairman)

George Adamson	Diane Todd
Ann Beech	Mark Winnington (Cabinet Member)
Maureen Compton	Paul Woodhead
Tim Corbett	Candice Yeomans
Martyn Tittley (Vice-Chairman)	

Apologies: Len Bloomer, Geoff Martin, Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf and Geoff Morrison

PART ONE

12. Declarations of Interest

There were none on this occasion.

13. Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 5 September 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 5 September 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

14. Progress Report: Superfast Staffordshire

The Committee received an update on Superfast Staffordshire (broadband).

The Council has now completed the first phase of the delivery project to deliver superfast broadband across Staffordshire in conjunction with BT and Broadband Delivery UK. Approximately 19,000 premises now have access to superfast services. All eight phases are due to be completed by June 2016. Residents and businesses are being encouraged to sign up for the service. There are take up assumptions, that have been made to justify the level of grant assistance, but if our uptake exceeds this threshold, the additional revenue generated will be reinvested to extend the network further.

Members were encouraged to look at the website for further information on which areas have access to Superfast broadband:

<http://www.superfaststaffordshire.co.uk/>

Once the local cabinets have been upgraded and declared live, the general public can order the service by signing up with service providers such as BT, Sky, Talk Talk and many others.

Members asked about progress in obtaining the service for the small percentage of households and businesses not covered by the network. All areas will get at least a 2Mbps service. In some of these areas it may not be financially viable to obtain

complete cover. However, other technical solutions may be available and these are being explored. A full list of areas covered is available on the website or by contacting Paul Chatwin, Project Manager, Superfast Broadband. Members were advised to look at the website to find out how digital broadband champions were being identified and trained and to find out more about the Optimising Business broadband project, set up to assist small and medium sized businesses to get the most out of superfast broadband :

<http://www.superfaststaffordshire.co.uk/digital-champions/>

Work is also ongoing to support women in rural enterprises.

The priority is to deliver of the current project by 2016.

A suggestion was made that the Council make contact with Severn Trent Water to explore the possibility of resolving coverage to those households/premises that will not be covered by Superfast broadband.

Members asked that consideration be given to sharing this information with Borough and District Councils in Staffordshire. Mr Chatwin explained that he produced a Newsletter and had visited some local councils to give an update but would give consideration as to how he might keep local councils up-to-date on current developments.

RESOLVED: That a) The Vice Chairman share details of contacts at Severn Trent Water with the Cabinet Member and Superfast Broadband Manager, and that they explore working with Severn Trent Water to extend the superfast broadband coverage in Staffordshire b) the Superfast Broadband Manager consider how best to share progress on the implementation of Superfast broadband with the Borough and District Councils in Staffordshire c) the Committee receive a further update in 6 month's time.

15. Progress Report Project W2R

Members were pleased to receive a presentation from the Cabinet Member and Ian Benson on the W2R project at Four Ashes which has now been operating for 12 months. Members watched a short promotional video. The project has been very successful and Ian Benson reported that of all similar PFI waste management projects in the country, Staffordshire County Council's had been the fastest to start and finish.

The Council will save up to £400m over the life of the project compared to landfill cost, and, in addition, a saving of 49,000 tonnes of carbon will be saved compared to a landfill based alternative. The plant employs 36 full time staff, most of whom live locally. The plant will be accepting waste from Telford and Wrekin from 2016 and is in discussion with the Ministry of Justice (Featherstone Prison) and private developers at Bericote Industrial Estate regarding a combined heat and power network to utilise waste heat from the plant. Veolia UK have plans to increase the capacity of the plant, within current planning and environmental limits. Members thanked Mr Benson for his report and asked that the Planning Committee be provided with copies of the report that had been given to Members in preparation for their visit to W2R.

RESOLVED: A copy of the report given to the Committee be forwarded to Mike Grundy, Planning and Development Control Manager, in preparation for the Planning Committee's visit.

16. Work Programme

Members reviewed and agreed their work programme. Mr Paul Woodhead (parent governor representative) proposed that a matter, that he has raised with the Chairman, in regard to changes to the e-safety contract in schools, be added to the Work Programme. The Chairman explained that he had sought advice from the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills on this matter and would report back to the next meeting. Mr Adamson explained that he had written to Anna Halliday on this matter.

The Scrutiny and Support Manager asked that any members of the Committee should contact her if they had any training and development needs.

RESOLVED: That an update on the changes to the e-safety contract in schools be obtained for the next meeting.

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

**Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee
18 December 2014**

**Working Group on Children Missing Out On Education
Final Report**

Recommendation of the Working Group

That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee consider the final report of their Working Group on Children Missing out on Education, with a view to endorsing the recommendation and agreeing its submission to the Cabinet Members for Learning and Skills and for Children and Community Safety for their endorsement and information.

Report of Scrutiny and Support Manager

Reason for recommendation

The investigation by the Working Group into the issue of children missing out on education is now complete and the Working Group has produced a final report and recommendations. The Select Committee are asked to consider the report and determine whether they endorse the recommendations. They are also asked to agree its submission to the Cabinet for information.

Report

Background

At its meeting of 19 December 2013 the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee received the final report of the working group on the Ofsted inspection of local authority school improvement arrangements. A recommendation of that review was for further investigation into the issue of pupils missing out on education following a recent Ofsted report.

Summary

The Working Group considered the range of factors that contributed towards children missing out on education and the size and scope of the issue within Staffordshire. They were encouraged that the infrastructure was in place to address this issue and were impressed with the work of those officers involved, particularly the Children Missing Education Officer and his team.

The review did, however, highlight concerns around information sharing with agencies that held information that would help identify children not in education and “unknown” within the

County. They also had concerns around potential safeguarding issues of there being no requirement for parents/carers to register their school aged child with the local authority in which they live. This also has the potential to create a barrier for the local authority in discharging its statutory duty to ensure that all children resident within their borders receive a satisfactory education.

Next Steps

Subject to the endorsement of the Committee, the final report, together with any accompanying submission that the Committee may wish to make, will be submitted to Cabinet for their information and endorsement.

Link to the Strategic Plan

Ensuring that Staffordshire's children and young people can get the best start in life and receive a good education so that they can make a positive contribution to their communities is a priority for the County Council.

Implications

The equalities and legal; resource and value for money; and risk implications are set out in the attached report.

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Appendices/Background papers

- Final Report of the Working Group

**Working Group
of the
Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee**

**Children Missing out on Education
(CMOOE)**

Final Report



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Chairman's Foreword / Summary

Children in Staffordshire are at potential risk because of the lack of agreed processes for sharing information between government departments. While the systems which trace Children Missing out on Education (CMOOE) inside Staffordshire County Council are robust and working well some of the vital partnership relationships are missing which limits our effectiveness in resolving the problem.

There are two probable outcomes for children who remain CMOOE, firstly they may become education underachievers more likely to become NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). The second outcome is that these children become more vulnerable and more easily the target for abuse, as evidenced in the recent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) reviews in both Rotherham and Stoke on Trent.

While the number of children missing out on education in Staffordshire is small we have a duty to ensure that all children are safe. I remain concerned that we "don't know what we don't know", meaning that there may be a child in Staffordshire at risk, of whom we have no knowledge. Failing one child because we are unaware of their whereabouts is one too many. The responsibility to ensure that all Staffordshire school aged children are receiving a satisfactory education lies with the County Council, made explicit in the Education and Inspection Act 2006. We must therefore continue to strive to solve these issues, particularly in light of the responses we received from some agencies, some of which in my mind were staggeringly weak in their lack of commitment to solving this matter urgently. We will need to lobby hard to highlight the system deficiencies and gain the changes necessary to overcome the problem.



**Mr Martyn Tittley,
Working Group
Chairman**



1. Conclusions and Recommendations

This review was undertaken following the concerns raised by Ofsted on children missing out on education across the country. During our investigation we have been encouraged by the infrastructure in place to address this issue in Staffordshire, both in terms of the partnership working with Local Support Teams and District Inclusion Partnerships, the work of the Virtual Headteacher and the Virtual School, and in particular the work of the Children Missing Education Officer (CMEO) and his team.

We note the work the CMEO has undertaken to foster effective partnership working and good communications with other local authorities as well as through regional CME networks and his efforts to create effective information sharing protocols with those agencies who hold information that may help identify children not in education and “unknown” within the County, specifically the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC). We feel strongly that effective partnership working and good communications are key in enabling the work of the CMEO to be effective and productive. In an attempt to move this issue forward we met with and spoke to representatives from the DWP. Staffordshire has recently developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the DWP to help address issues of Post 16 young people becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). We hoped to create a similar MoU to help identify children missing education, however on further investigation it became apparent that the information needed, ie that which links the child to the parent, is held by HMRC. A draft MoU was drawn up by the CMEO and discussed with representatives of HMRC. Unfortunately our understanding is that the HMRC data guardian has blocked this MoU from being signed, and therefore regrettably has prevented this information sharing.

Alongside this we have concerns about the number of children who may be resident in Staffordshire but of whom the Council is unaware. There is no requirement on a parent to register their child with the local authority. Should parents elect to educate their child at home, or indeed to educate them through the private school system, the local authority could easily be unaware of that child’s existence within the County, yet they are still legally responsible for ensuring **all** children resident within their borders are receiving a satisfactory education. They also have a duty to identify children not receiving an appropriate education and to address this. This presents a dichotomy for the local authority, on the one hand they respect the right of parents to choose how their child is educated whilst on the other they need to ensure all children are safe and receiving appropriate education provision and be able to evidence this.

The Graham Badman report on elective home education in England recommended the establishment of a compulsory national registration scheme, administered locally, for all children of statutory school age who are, or become, electively home educated. We have sympathy with this



recommendation and feel that there are potential safeguarding issues for **any** unregistered child within a county, not just those who are home educated.

We wrote to the Children's Commissioner, HMRC Child Benefits Office, and the Secretary of State for Education raising our concerns over non registered pupils and seeking support for the proposed information sharing with HMRC. The Children's Commissioner's response acknowledged that our letter raised important issues, shared our concerns, recommended that all children were made aware of their right to protection under Article 34 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and wished us well with our review. She indicated that teachers were very well placed to identify the signs of sexual abuse and exploitation and that schools therefore gave an extra layer of protection.

HMRC's response indicated that they were considering how best to work with local authorities on this issue and referenced their recent information sharing pilot with Sheffield, Haringey, Greenwich and Sunderland. However they went on to say that they were not clear what legal basis existed for information sharing with local authorities but were actively looking at how they could provide disclosure whilst remaining compliant with The Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act (CRCA) 2005.

We also received a reply from a representative of the Independent Education and Boarding Team of the Department for Education indicating there were no plans to revive the registration scheme proposal and explaining that the government believed the current arrangements struck the correct balance between the rights of parents and the role of local authorities. However we remain concerned that having no requirement for registering your child with the local authority effectively creates a barrier to the authority's ability to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. There are also potential safeguarding issues to the local authority being unaware of children resident in its county. The recent reports on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) from both Rotherham and Stoke-on-Trent clearly show the link between CSE and children missing education. In Rotherham CMOOE were recorded in 63% of cases of those children who were sexually exploited. In Stoke-on-Trent, of the sexually exploited children who were interviewed during the review, 65% were not attending school.

We therefore **Recommend** that:

1. the Working Group Chairman, on behalf of the Select Committee, persist in making representations to HMRC over our continued concerns around information sharing protocols and how to overcome these barriers, inviting their representatives to meet us to identify ways forward;
2. the Working Group Chairman, on behalf of the Select Committee, write again to the Department for Education asking them to reconsider making it a requirement for parents/carers to register their school aged child with the local authority in which they live. The current statutory responsibility for local authorities to ensure all children resident within their borders are receiving a satisfactory education is made more



- difficult where there is no such requirement, and raises concerns over potential safeguarding issues for vulnerable children;
3. a copy of this report be forwarded to the Children's Commissioner asking her to act to reduce the safeguarding risks to children not in education by championing the requirement for parents/carers of school aged children to register their child with the local authority in which they live. Such a register does not preclude educational choice but enables the local authority to discharge its responsibilities in identifying CME and targeting its resources more effectively;
 4. a copy of this report be forwarded to the Chair of the local Safeguarding Board to highlight our concerns.

The role of the Virtual School is key in supporting looked after children's education and preventing them becoming CMOOE. We had some concerns early on in our investigations that the list of individual school designated teachers for looked after children was out of date. However work is ongoing to address this and we have been pleased to note a number of developments around the governance of the Virtual School, including linking their governance arrangements with the Corporate Parenting Panel. Further developments included the launch of a Pupil Premium Plus Policy which asks schools to give termly account of how the funding is used, to confirm the name of their designated teacher, identify any dual registered pupils showing their hourly education provision and setting up robust tracking systems to support this. The introduction of the Looked After Quality Mark for Staffordshire schools is also a positive, and whilst we understand that it is not possible to insist schools follow these guidelines, it is anticipated that Ofsted will expect to see clear evidence of good practice in this area.

We therefore **Recommend** that:

5. after a twelve month period the Virtual Headteacher give an account to the Select Committee of how effective the mechanisms have been in operating the Pupil Premium Plus Policy.

2. Setting the Scene

At its meeting on 24 January 2014 the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee received the final report of the Working Group on the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority (LA) School Improvement Arrangements. A recommendation of that review was for further investigation into the issue of pupils missing out on education following a recent Ofsted report.

The Ofsted report had looked at children missing **out on** education, therefore broadening the issue to include all those not receiving a full education time table.

The Ofsted report examined the experiences of children and young people who were not in full-time education at school. Inspectors visited 15 local authorities and 37 schools and services, undertook 97 case studies of children



and young people, and interviewed leaders in a further 41 secondary schools. Inspectors found poor quality and insufficient provision for many of these young people as well as incomplete information at a local level.

Under Section 436A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 a local authority must make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as they are able to do so) the identities of children in their area who are of compulsory school age but: a) are not registered pupils at a school, and b) are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. In Staffordshire the Ofsted Inspection Programme Board had identified that a co-ordinated database should be created that would allow the Council to address, track and monitor such pupils.

Mindful of the educational and safeguarding implications of children missing out on education, the Select Committee agreed the recommendation that a further piece of work be undertaken to consider children missing out on education in Staffordshire. It was proposed and agreed that a Member of the Safe and Strong Select Committee be asked to join the Working Group.

3. Scope of the Work / Terms of Reference

The Working Group sought to identify the systems and practices in place to make sure that the Council fulfils its statutory duty to ensure that all children and young people of school age are accessing full-time education, and what systems and practices are in place to ensure that the LA has information about children and young people not accessing education and that safeguards are in place. The main groups of children and young people are as follows:

- permanently excluded;
- have particular social and behavioural difficulties and have personalised learning plans;
- have mental health needs and access child and adolescent mental health services;
- have medical needs other mental health needs;
- rarely attend school and have personalised learning plans as part of attempts to integrate them into full-time education;
- are pregnant or are young mothers of compulsory school age;
- have complex needs and no suitable school place is available.

In addition, there may be small numbers of children who are returning from custody and a school place has not been found for them; are new to the country and are awaiting a school place; are from Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background and alternative provision has been made and/or have moved from another area and a school place has not been secured (this may include looked after children).

The Working Group sought to:

- establish the size and scope of this issue in Staffordshire



- find out what arrangements are in place to educate children and young people who fall into these categories
- find out what systems and practices we have in place in Staffordshire at school and local authority level to monitor pupils missing from education.
- understand who is accountable for monitoring and reviewing pupils missing from education in Staffordshire
- identify what impact pupils missing from education has on educational attainment.
- find out what safeguards are in place to monitor pupils missing from education.

4. Membership

The following Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee members participated in this Working Group:

Mr Martyn Tittley (Working Group Chairman)
Mrs Maureen Compton
Mr Mark Deaville **
Rev Preb Michael Metcalf
Mr Stephen Sweeney

Mr Stephen Sweeney represented the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee on the Working Group.

[** Following the 15 May 2014 Annual Council meeting Mr Mark Deaville became a Cabinet Support Member and therefore took no further part in this review.]

5. Methods of Investigation

We met six times between March and November 2014 to consider the issue of children missing out on education in Staffordshire, produce our report and agree our recommendations.

During our investigation we met with the following officers:

Lynda Mitchell	Deputy Commissioner for Education
Steve Hewitt	Children Missing Education (CME) Officer
Sue Coleman	Interim Strategic Lead – Targeted Services
Paul Wilkie	Education Coordinator, Looked After Children
Sarah Rivers	District Lead, Targeted Services and appointed as the new Virtual Headteacher from June 2014
Andrew Marsden	County Commissioner for Access for Learning
Tina Evans	Partnership Officer, Midlands Shires District, Department for Work and Pensions



6. Findings

Size and scope of the issue in Staffordshire

During the twelve months between 8 August 2013 to 7 August 2014, 1313 children had been, or were in the process of being investigated by the Children Missing Education (CME) team. Children are investigated where they have ceased to attend their school or education provider and their location is unknown. Of these 1313 children only three of the total completed investigations were termed “untraceable”. This term refers to where all reasonable lines of enquiry have been exhausted and the child’s whereabouts remain unknown.

Of a Staffordshire school population of 117,575 pupils the number of CME is small. On 25 June 2014 there were 197 CME cases, 0.17% of the school aged population. On 17 September 2014 there were 102 CME, 0.09% of the school aged population. 1192 investigations were completed between 8 August 2013 and 7 August 2014, with 1189 children located and a successful outcome established, giving a 99.75% success rate.

It is difficult to compare the number of CME with statistical neighbouring authorities as each authority classifies its CME slightly differently. In Staffordshire the definition of “Known” refers to where the authority knows a child is resident in Staffordshire but they do not have a school place whereas an “Unknown” is where a child’s whereabouts is unknown and therefore so is their educational provision. The table below gives figures shared at a termly Midlands CME Regional Meeting, with Stoke-on-Trent City Council’s figures included for the same period.

LA	Total no. of pupils not on a school roll & whose whereabouts are...				Date 25.6.14
	Known			Unknown	
Birmingham	41			261	
Derbyshire*	19			57	
Dudley	78			89	
Gloucestershire	3			0	
Herefordshire	5			2	
Leicestershire*	11			76	
Northamptonshire*	11			178	
Sandwell	104 (64 > 21 days)			4	
Solihull	12			4	
Staffordshire	7			190	
Stoke-on-Trent	42			90	
Telford & Wrekin	18			5	
Walsall	79			27	
Worcestershire*	47			26	

*refers to Staffordshire’s local authority statistical neighbours



The Staffordshire CME Team is proactive in seeking to identify those children who are not receiving education and whose whereabouts is categorised as “known” or “unknown”. The 197 Staffordshire children shown above are actively investigated until their whereabouts have been established and/or if they remain resident in Staffordshire, an appropriate education provision is in place. It is a surprise to us to see that some authorities have such low recorded numbers of CME, however this is likely to be due to recording processes rather than because there are fewer CME.

When we started our investigations in March 2014 there were 274 pupils off roll in Staffordshire. Of those, 97 were considered a priority due to vulnerability factors. No child is taken off the CME list until there is confirmation that they are receiving education, either attending an out of County placement, alternative educational provision or is known to and being worked with by education professionals in another LA.

Those vulnerable of missing education in Staffordshire include:

- a) Unaccompanied asylum seekers: these children can be difficult to place in education as schools are reluctant to take them when they have little or no English and are unlikely to be in a position to take any examinations. Work with short stay schools is undertaken to help support English tuition and help in accessing examinations where possible. There are usually up to 20 unaccompanied asylum seekers in Staffordshire at any one time, supported through the Entrust Ethnic Minority Achievement Service.
- b) Gypsy/Roma/Traveller (GRT) children generally have good school attendance to the end of KS2 but this drops off significantly. GRT families tend to be wary of the mixed sexes in secondary schools which they feel allows the opportunity for “lax morals”. Significant work is being done to address these concerns, for example with initiatives such as the Kushti club and alternative vocational educational provision.
- c) Electively Home Educated (EHE) pupils: Whilst the LA has a statutory duty to ensure every child receives a satisfactory education there is no such requirement on parents, the responsibility remains with the LA. There is no agreed definition of “satisfactory” in this context and therefore it is difficult to challenge educational provision given to EHE children. There is also no requirement for parents to co-operate with the LA or to register their child as being home educated. Where a child has been registered as being home educated the LA makes efforts to engage with parents and children, sending a welcome pack of useful educational resource information, informing them of the EHE resource website and seeking to visit the child to build a relationship with those involved and to assess the education provided. Annual visits are then made to those children where the LA has no concerns, with more frequent visits where concerns exist. However there is a very active



national home educating lobby that can discourage co-operative working with LAs and this presents a challenge. In cases where provision is either not in place or is deemed to be unsatisfactory a School Attendance Order can be made by the LA requiring a parent to register their child in school.

- d) Teenage pregnancy: Staffordshire is above the national average for its number of teenage pregnancies. Where possible pregnant teenagers are now supported to stay in mainstream education rather than an automatic referral to short stay provision.
- e) Other causes for CMOOE can be through poor attendance, exclusion, behaviour, mental health or medical needs. Pupils are regularly tracked by the CME Officer, with checks made every six weeks to identify pupils who drop off school rolls. 100% of permanently excluded pupils received education provision from the 6th day of their exclusion, normally through Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Other reasons for pupil non-attendance can be that the child is school phobic, a school refuser, or that they have complex medical needs. Where children are missing education through poor attendance, schools and Families First Local Support Teams (LSTs) work in partnership to address this, including intervention where a pupil's attendance falls below 85%.
- f) Excluded pupils: there are six Short Stay Schools in Staffordshire (also known as PRUs) who take excluded pupils, or those at risk of exclusion. These schools offer small teaching groups, often with more vocational learning and with a focus on standards of behaviour. At March 2014 there were 55 pupils in Staffordshire short stay schools on part-time timetables. Ideally pupils return to mainstream schooling after a short stay. If this is not possible it is likely that the pupil will be referred to Loxley Hall, the County's secondary school for children with emotional, behavioural or social difficulties (EBSD). Primary provision for EBSD pupils is through Cicely Haughton and Chasetown primary schools with Cicely Haughton and Loxley Hall being run as a federation
- g) The Youth Offending Service has education workers within their service to work in re-engagement with education for those young people leaving custody. This progress is tracked through the District Inclusion Partnership for the young person's home area. Numbers of young people leaving custody and CMOOE are small, with one young person out of 15 leaving custody not being in education as at March 2014.
- h) Looked After Children remain in their original school where ever possible. The Virtual School has responsibility for overseeing the educational provision for all looked after children. It focuses on improving attainment and achievement of these children, as well as improving attendance and reducing exclusions. The Virtual School tracks and monitors individual outcomes and targets and can provide



staff support and training, particularly around Personal Education Plans (PEPs).

- i) The unknown unknowns: we are concerned that children may be resident in Staffordshire that the LA have no knowledge of because they have never been registered at a school, either because they attend a private school, are unregistered EHE or move into the County without registering with the LA. Whilst this is likely to be a small number of children there remains the potential for significant safeguarding issues and a need to be able to identify this group and ensure they are safe and receiving a satisfactory education.

Who is accountable for monitoring and reviewing CME and the systems and practices at school and local authority level

Local authorities have a duty to identify children not receiving a suitable education, as set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the 2009 Revised Statutory Guidance. The duty of local authorities to monitor and track CME is set out in the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2010) which states that:

“There is a Children Missing Education (CME) named point of contact in every Local Authority. Every practitioner working with a child has a responsibility to inform their CME contact if they know or suspect that a child is not receiving education.”

The DfE defines CME as:

“All children of compulsory age who are not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise (eg privately or in an alternative provision) and who have been out of any education provision for a substantial period of time (usually four week or more).”

In 2010 the role of Children Missing Education Officer (CMEO) was created within Staffordshire County Council as the “named point of contact”.

An independent review of Staffordshire’s CME was undertaken in 2012 by Anne Hayward Consortium. The Review found that the CMEO, working with partners, had made significant progress and put in place more effective mechanisms and partnerships to support the identification of CME and facilitate their return to education. The Review found that the service presented an improving picture and gave recommendations that should serve as “signposts” to areas for further development. In particular it suggested fostering greater integration with the Local Support Teams (LSTs) to facilitate a more effective strategic and collaborative approach to supporting CME.

We looked in detail at the role of the Families First Local Support Teams and at the work of Staffordshire’s Virtual School for Looked After Children. Following the Ofsted inspection in January 2014 and the new policy for



Children Missing Out On Education (CMOOE) (to include CME, children in public care, excluded pupils and children with attendance issues) work was undertaken to ensure that Staffordshire had the correct processes in place to address this broader definition. An action plan has been produced to support this process, identifying responsible officers for specific activity, progression and development, and having the agreement of all partners involved in CMOOE.

What arrangements are in place for those vulnerable to being CME

In Staffordshire the CME Officer investigates the whereabouts of children who may be missing from education. The Officer works with schools to ensure children return to education as soon as possible, working with early help and specialist safeguarding providers where there are concerns for children's vulnerability.

In Staffordshire reports on those children who have been removed from school rolls, and where no new school appears to be identified, are produced half-terminally (i.e. six times per year), with the CME Officer investigating and establishing their current educational provision. There is a duty on Local Authorities under the Education Act 1996 (Section 434A) to ensure integration of arrangements for joint working and information sharing with other local authorities and relevant partner agencies that come into contact with children and families and Staffordshire has a number of information sharing agreements with local authorities. CME officer involvement ceases once an unregistered pupil has been identified as being on the roll of a school or in other appropriate education provision.

The authority regularly encourages schools to provide immediate and detailed notification when children are de-registered (and no later than within 10 days) to ensure that their whereabouts are not simply recorded as "unknown" or that, where this is the case, an early request can be made to Families First LSTs to visit the home. The priority for an LST visit is to ensure that the child is safe and well, and that the family have the information and support needed to get their child into full-time education at the earliest opportunity.

Schools, Entrust and Families First meet on a regular basis in District Inclusion Partnerships (DIPs) which cover the eight districts in Staffordshire. The Partnerships discuss each young person missing out on full-time education either for reasons of exclusion or through being placed on modified timetables, and agree a plan to ensure that they are returned to full-time education as soon as possible. In the majority of cases, children are already known and are receiving specialist or targeted services, with those services discussed in terms of facilitating the child's return to full-time education at the earliest opportunity.

The additional early help interventions delivered by LSTs through their work with maintained schools are also available for academy schools to purchase. The LSTs deliver interventions that include: identifying actions to combat issues; assess and act on the child's unmet needs; deliver interventions and



consultation; case work; preparation work for Court (where necessary); group and family based work; and whole school intervention. The LST will also assist the school to work closely with universal and specialist services to provide a continuum, avoid duplication and multiple assessments and enhance communication to ensure a child's needs are met. Should academy schools choose not to purchase this offer from the LST there would still, on occasion, be circumstances where the LST may provide specific "early help" support for those individual children as part of their agreed plan initiated and led by the schools' own pastoral team.

Short Stay Schools (Pupil Referral Units)

Young people in receipt of part time education at a Short Stay School are the responsibility of the local authority as single registered students on roll at the Short Stay School. These young people are managed carefully, each with an individual plan with an offer of a full-timetable being the objective. Part time timetables are acceptable when engagement with education is an issue and there is evidence that this is a useful strategy to re-engage students with poor attendance. All Short Stay Schools carefully monitor attendance and are held to account for it in the same way as a mainstream school.

There are some students who are dual registered on the roll at both their mainstream school and the Short Stay School. In these instances the mainstream school retains the responsibility for the pupil's education when not on the Short Stay site. This has the potential to be difficult to monitor and requires both schools to communicate effectively about students, with timetables adjusted when appropriate. DIPs also contribute to this process and provision is reviewed at termly meetings.

There is a central roll that contains names of pupils for whom the Short Stay School is not a suitable placement and who are not on a school roll. The numbers vary but rarely reach double figures. Of the current cohort, all were known, with provision being sought either through SEN assessment or via tuition as an interim whilst a school place is being agreed.

Children Looked After in residential homes have access to education immediately via the Short Stay Schools, should this be necessary.

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and help to close the gap between them and their peers. In the financial year 2014-15 schools will receive £1,300 for primary and £935 for secondary aged pupils registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years. Evidence of how the pupil premium has been successful will need to be shown and will be a consideration in any Ofsted inspection.

For looked after children an allocation of £1900 per pupil will be made by the DfE. This is more than double the amount received in 2013-14. The cohort of looked after children who attract the pupil premium is bigger and includes



children looked after from their first day of care rather than, as previously, only those who had been looked after for six months or more. The grant allocation must now be managed by the Virtual School Headteacher in the authority that looks after them. There is now no requirement for an authority to pass the funding onto the school where the child is on roll, although the presumption is that it will be used to help support meeting the needs identified in the child's PEP. In Staffordshire £500 per looked after pupil will go directly to schools to help with school planning. The remainder will be held centrally and used for additional support to help address the needs of the child as set out in their Personal Education Plan (PEP).

Data Sharing

Staffordshire has information-sharing protocols with 6 neighbouring authorities which facilitates tracking outside of the county but within the West Midlands' area, and work is underway to establish 7 further such agreements with other nearby authorities. The CME Officer uses the national network to pursue enquiries where intelligence suggests that a family may have left the region.

Staffordshire has good data sharing with health colleagues and has good mechanisms in place for solving problems on an individual basis for those with complex needs, involving parents and carers.

There remains an issue around the identification of children resident in Staffordshire whom the LA is unaware of, ie those who have never registered at a maintained school or who have moved into the County without informing the LA. Data sharing with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) would help the identification of such children, specifically through child benefit claimants. Efforts are being made to engage HMRC in the replication of a protocol they have agreed with authorities in the North West which facilitates the sharing of information about benefit claims. This would further improve capacity to locate those children and families whose whereabouts are no longer known.

The impact of CMOOE on attainment and achievement

There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. Of pupils who miss more than 50 per cent of school only 3% manage to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including Maths and English. 73% of pupils who have over 95 per cent attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. The evidence also shows that children with poor attendance are more likely to be NEET when they leave school.

Community Impact

Resources and Value for Money

Whilst there would be an administrative cost to the registration of children living within the County, this would be balanced by the gain from being able to target the CMEO's time more effectively. The numbers of children not applying for a school place with the local authority is small, and therefore most school aged children would already be registered.



Equalities and Legal

Under Section 436A of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 a local authority must make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children in their area who are of compulsory school age but – a) are not registered pupils at a school, and b) are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.

Risk

There is a risk to the Authority that they will be unable to meet their statutory obligations in ensuring that each child resident in the county receives a suitable education, if they are not able to identify all children living within their borders. There are risks for those children who miss out on education, being less likely to achieve five or more GCSEs and more likely to become NEET. There are also potential safeguarding risks for children not in education.

Climate Change

There are no climate change implications.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following officers who supported the Working Group:

Lynda Mitchell	Deputy Commissioner for Education
Steve Hewitt	Children Missing Education Officer
Sue Coleman	Interim Strategic Lead – Targeted Services
Paul Wilkie	Education Coordinator, Looked After Children
Sarah Rivers	District Lead, Targeted Services and appointed as the new Virtual Headteacher from June 2014
Andrew Marsden	County Commissioner for Access for Learning
Tina Randall	Scrutiny and Support Manager
Helen Phillips	Scrutiny and Support Officer

**County Councillor Martyn Tittley
Working Group Chairman
November 2014**



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List of Appendices/Background Papers

Appendices

- Organogram showing those involved in Staffordshire CMOOE

Background papers

- Final Report of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on the Ofsted Inspection of School Improvement Arrangements
<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/documents/s45813/Scrutiny%20Review%20Final%20Report%20-24%20January%202014.pdf>
- Minutes of the 24 January 2014 Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee
<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=868&MId=4458&Ver=4>
- Alternative provision (100233) Ofsted 2011
www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/100233
<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/documents/s45593/WG%20Covering%20report.pdf>
- Pupils missing out on education – low aspirations, little access, limited achievement – Ofsted November 2013
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupils-missing-out-education>
- School attendance – Departmental advice for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities –Department of Education November 2014
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>
- Improving attendance at school – Charlie Taylor, Government’s expert adviser on behaviour 2012
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180772/DFE-00036-2012_improving_attendance_at_school.pdf
- Report to the Secretary of State on the Review of Elective Home Education in England, Graham Badman, June 2009
<https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/PDF%20FINAL%20HOME%20ED.pdf>
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997-2913 Alexis Jay OBE



http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent_inquiry_cse_in_rotherham

- The Child Sexual Exploitation Service and Missing Children Service for young people in Stoke-on-Trent: A Review July 2014, Christine Christie <http://www.moderngov.stoke.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=67986>
- Letter dated 11 August 2014 to Mr Tittley from S Bishop, Independent Education and Boarding Team
- Letter dated 12 August 2014 sent by email to Mr Brian Edwards from the Children's Commissioner
- Letter dated 19 August 2014 to Mr Tittley from Tim Cox, Complaints Investigator, HMRC



Glossary	
CME	Children Missing Education
CMEO	Children Missing Education Officer
CMOOE	Children Missing Out on Education
DfE	Department for Education (previously DCSF/DES/DfES)
DIPs	District Inclusion Partnership
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EBSD	Emotional, Behavioural or Social Difficulties
EHE	Elective Home Education
GRT	Gypsy, Roma, Traveller
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
LA	Local Authority
LST	Local Support Team
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
SEN	Special Educational Needs
YOS	Youth Offending Service



Young People Leaving Custody YOS

Entrust Head of SENIS

CMOOE Co-ordinator Deputy Commissioner for Education

Lead for Targeted Services

GRT West Midlands

Entrust SENIS Excluded Elective Home Education Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Children of Families in Services

Responsibility for providing a full time education Schools and Settings

LST Attendance Domestic Violence Young Parents Buildings Resilient Families and Communities Children of Families in Armed Forces

Line Manager CME Staffs

Primary Partnerships Primary Schools

Secondary Schools DIPs

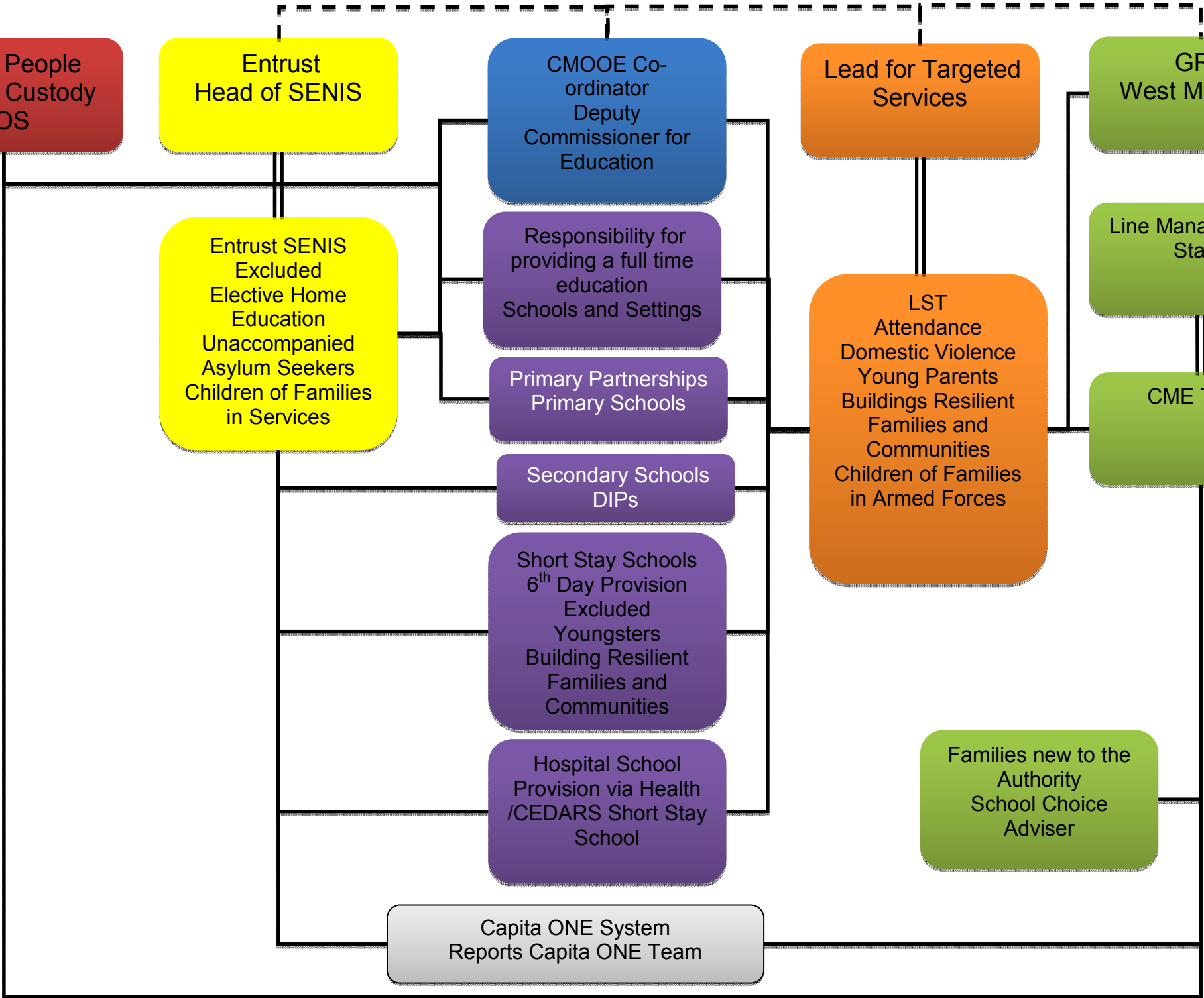
Short Stay Schools 6th Day Provision Excluded Youngsters Building Resilient Families and Communities

Hospital School Provision via Health /CEDARS Short Stay School

CME Team

Families new to the Authority School Choice Adviser

Capita ONE System Reports Capita ONE Team



Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 18 December 2014

Improving Connectivity in Staffordshire

Recommendations

1. The Committee notes the progress that has been made on reviewing our transport commissioning activity over the last 15 months.
2. The Committee considers the effectiveness of the workstreams currently underway to improve the public transport network in Staffordshire
3. The Committee considers the potential future direction of the authority's transport offer to eligible persons.

Report of Mark Winnington Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure

Summary

Improving connectivity in Staffordshire is a key element to ensure that the County Council's ambitions of a prosperous County are realised. The authority currently spends some £27.4m each year (excluding bespoke adult transport) either on public or bespoke transport networks connecting people to businesses, key public services, retail, leisure and education opportunities.

Over the last 15 months a considerable amount of work has been undertaken, working with public transport operators, to review and shape our transport commissioning activity in line with our agreed vision and principles.

This report outlines the progress that is being made to grow a sustainable and commercially viable public bus network which will help to maintain and improve connectivity in the County.

Report

Background

In 2012 the authority embarked on a comprehensive 'one council' review of transport procurement. The purpose of the review was to ensure that strategic commissioning in this area helped create a Connected Staffordshire and that a focus was given to the County Council's three priority outcomes for local people, namely:

- Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth
- Be healthier and more independent
- Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community

At the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on the 17 October 2013, Members learnt and welcomed the County Council's new vision and approach for the commissioning of transport solutions to connect people to businesses, key public services, retail and education opportunities.

Members also learnt that two major workstreams had commenced namely: Network Redesign and Independent Travel Training.

Progress on Transport Commissioning Activity over the last 15 months

Network Redesign

The majority (some 80%) of the bus network in Staffordshire is provided by public transport operators on a commercial basis. The authority provides funding for a bus network which cannot be provided on a commercial basis and this mainly provides connectivity in the rural areas but also in some of the urban areas in the evenings and weekends.

Working closely with public transport operators, the following 'whole area' reviews of the commercial and supported public transport have taken place during the last 15 months:

- September 2013 – Staffordshire Moorlands Network
- September 2013 - Cannock
- April 2014 – Stone, Uttoxeter, Burton upon Trent (rural) Network
- September 2014 – Tamworth Network

These reviews have coincided with the end date of the existing supported service public transport contracts and routes and patronage numbers on supported routes have been analysed to ensure value for money for the public purse.

As part of the Stone, Uttoxeter and Burton on Trent review, an additional demand responsive public transport service was introduced in April 2014 to provide new and enhanced connectivity to East Staffordshire rural communities not on the core public transport network. This service known as the Needwood Forest Connect complements the existing South Staffordshire and Moorland Connects demand responsive services. After 8 months of operation patronage figures indicate that there is currently a subsidy of around £14 per trip. This is higher than our other demand responsive services but patronage figures are still growing so it is expected that the subsidy per trip will reduce.

Other network changes in each area have been introduced following consultation with users, parish councils and local members. It should be recognised that it is not always possible to satisfy each individual travel demand. The success of the supported bus network should be judged on usage and to this end regular monitoring of passenger data takes place; all contracts are kept under review to ensure that subsidy costs per passenger and total contract costs are sustainable.

In addition to changes made in the areas noted above other changes have taken place to draw down Section 106 monies (developer funding) to improve connectivity for specific communities. Wherever possible this funding has been used to pump prime new bus services, e.g. the recently introduced service 34 between Cannock and Hednesford via Lakeside, with the aim that they will be commercially viable at the end of the funding period.

As part of the whole area bus network reviews, some 1400 pupils who are entitled to free transport, have been transferred from bespoke transport to the public transport network. This transfer commenced at the start of the 2013 autumn term and has been managed in phases at the start of subsequent school terms. A further transfer is envisaged in January 2015 bringing total numbers of entitled pupils on the public transport network to over 1500. Additional transfers will occur when the opportunity arises although these are now likely to be low in number.

It is important to note that this change, which is in line with the long established home to school transport policy, has taken place in dialogue with the public transport operators who have in some cases had to alter routes, timetables and capacity. These changes have brought the following benefits:

- Public Transport Network adjusted to improve connectivity to education opportunities resulting in more flexible travel opportunities for entitled pupils.
- Non entitled pupils benefit from the improved public transport connectivity using the Young Person Staffordshire Card and at a lower cost than the purchase of a vacant seat on a bespoke coach
- Increased independence and individual responsibility.
- Improved health benefits.
- Additional free travel opportunities included in pupils' passes purchased by the authority.
- Greater visibility on public transport punctuality and reliability
- Increased capacity on some routes to allow for additional passenger numbers.
- Reduced numbers of vehicles resulting in less congestion at the school gate and less carbon emissions
- Strengthening of viability of commercial routes.
- Reduced subsidy per passenger on some supported public transport routes
- Cost savings to the authority

Before any changes took place, discussions were held with school staff to advise of changes to the transport provision. In most cases transfers were relatively smooth although at a number of sites adjustments and initial close monitoring were required to ensure that the new arrangements operated and delivered as planned. In no cases have travel offers reverted to bespoke coaches which accords with one of the agreed six principles which states that public transport is now established as our core transport offer.

Independent Travel Training

As part of the 'one council' transport review it was recognised that the existing transport commissioning activity was not promoting and enabling independence. This was true for a number of user groups including those with special educational needs (SEN). Over the last 15 months independent travel training (ITT) has taken place on a voluntary basis with some 30 pupils trained with extended training plans in place. There have been a number of successes with SEN pupils transferring to public transport on a voluntary basis, often making use of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS). The training has provided life long skills and in many cases improved confidence and independence of individuals.

In addition to ITT work continues in parallel to expand the usage of Personal Travel Budgets, (PTBs), which enables mileage payments to be made to parents/guardians to transport their children to school who otherwise would be travelling on bespoke contracted services.

Further work now needs to be under taken to consider whether ITT and PTBs should form the authority's core travel assistance offer when considering travel requirements of individuals and the views of members on this matter would be welcomed.

Partnership Working and Future Planned Activity

As stated some 80% of the bus network in Staffordshire is provided on a commercial basis. Close dialogue with all public transport operators is essential and regular meetings take place to discuss matters of mutual interest. It is pleasing to note that the main operator in Staffordshire, Arriva, has invested some £6m in new buses over the last 15 months. This includes the introduction of Sapphire Services on their commercial routes from Tamworth to Birmingham and Cannock to Walsall. Together with investment recently made by First in the north the County it has proved possible for operators to cascade vehicles to other Staffordshire routes thereby reducing the average age of the bus fleet in Staffordshire. This has obvious benefits for service reliability by reducing breakdowns, improving service punctuality and overall improved service delivery for customers.

As well as continuing to monitor and if necessary adjust all supported bus routes, during 2015 whole area reviews of the supported bus network are planned for:

Burton on Trent (Urban) – September 2015
Stafford – September 2015

These reviews will seek the views of the relevant local members and users and aim to ensure that all services commissioned are sustainable in the long term.

In addition new bus services to serve the I54 site will commence, subject to agreement, in April 2015 to provide connectivity between Stafford, Cannock and surrounding areas to the main I54 employment site and onwards to Wolverhampton. Attempts have been made to utilise joint I54 and Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust resources to improve services from Cannock to Wolverhampton. Unfortunately the Trust's timeframes and commitments did not allow delivery of joint funding opportunities. Discussions will however continue with the Royal Wolverhampton and other Trusts to explore joint working and funding opportunities.

As part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) monies were secured to introduce wifi on buses and real-time bus information in the Stafford and the Newcastle areas. Information screens at key bus stops have been installed over the last 6 months in these urban areas showing scheduled timetable information and the live information will be introduced shortly. This live bus information will also be available on the web and via mobile devices providing greater certainty for existing users and an incentive to encourage modal shift. Real time information has increased public transport patronage where it has been introduced and this should help to sustain both commercial and supported bus services.

As part of the greater dialogue taking place with bus operators discussions have been held on the possibility of introducing a Voluntary Quality Network Partnership (VQNP) in the urban areas of Staffordshire. The core aim of the partnership will be to increase patronage on the bus network, helping to maintain existing bus services and reducing traffic congestion through facilitated joint operator and Authority working. Such discussions between operators, unless facilitated by the Authority, would not be feasible within the current Competition Act.

It is hoped that a VQNP will be launched in the Burton on Trent area early in 2015. Bus services in the urban area are mainly provided on a commercial basis by three bus operators. By working together it is planned to market the bus services in Burton as a network rather than 3 independent operator networks. Initially it is planned to provide a multi operator hospital ticket, real-time bus information and improved roadside information at key bus stops. Service standards will be monitored by the authority and bus punctuality improvement plans will be in place with the aim of ensuring that bus reliability is improved. A further VQNP may be introduced in Stafford in 2015 to coincide with the opening of the Riverside retail site. It is hoped that this will see a new two way bus corridor introduced through the centre of Stafford via Earl Street which will allow an increase in bus frequency on a number of the routes. This is currently being discussed with the main operator and will be subject to public consultation if the proposals proceed.

Link to Strategic Plan

The work over the last 15 months to review our transport commissioning activity links to two of the three priority outcomes, namely;

- Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth
- Be healthier and more independent

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Appendices/Background papers

Improving Staffordshire's Public Transport Network - Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - 17 October 2013

Community Impact Assessment - Full Assessment

Name of Policy/Project/Proposal
Staffordshire Transport Review
Responsible officer
Clive Thomson, Commissioner for Transport and the Connected County
Commencement date & expected duration
September 2013 ongoing

1. What is the starting point for this proposal?

To review current transport policies, processes and procurement so that the current 'as is' position is fully understood.

To confirm and clarify that our current strategic commissioning activity is aligned with our priority outcomes.

2. What was the insight behind the proposal?

Insight has been obtained from members, partners and the public via meetings and formal surveys.

Meetings with bus operators have taken place to establish views and confirm that our strategy is aligned with potential delivery partners.

3. Finding out what people need

Transport planning is a complex area and the transport review needs to be seen in the context of all travel movements in Staffordshire. Currently only approximately 7% of travel is by public bus. The review has considered opportunities to provide enhanced connectivity to allow for new travel connections and assist with more sustainable travel opportunities.

Detailed consultation has taken place with communities prior to the introduction of new supported bus services.

4. Responding to issues identified

The review has aimed to align future strategic transport commissioning with our three priority outcomes. It is recognised that as work on the network redesign progresses we need to be flexible to accommodate issues as they arise.

5. What is the final proposal and what is it to achieve

The aim of the Transport Review is to achieve our vision for transport namely:

A sustainable and commercially viable public transport system that enables people to access services and activities, including learning and work, at a time and place convenient to them. Empowering people to live independently, improving outcomes for individuals and communities, and driving economic prosperity and innovation through improved connections.

6. How will we know we have been successful?

The success of the project will be measured via an increase in bus patronage on an enhanced Staffordshire public bus network, an increase in enabling travel independence via appropriate training and improved consultation and communication feedback.

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 18 December 2014

HS2 Phase One Project Update

Recommendations

1. The Committee acknowledge the Cabinet Member's actions, decisions and progress to date
2. The Committee acknowledges the assurances provided to the County Council from HS2 Ltd in respect of the Phase One Hybrid Bill.
3. The Committee considers the County Council's position and next steps for both Phases of HS2

Report of Mark Winnington Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport

Summary

The Government intends that High Speed 2 (HS2) will provide a significant expansion to the UK's high speed rail network. The proposed new network will link London and the West Midlands (Phase One) and will expand in the future to connect Manchester and Leeds (Phase Two) with Birmingham, London and Heathrow Airport. High Speed 2 Limited (HS2 Ltd) is a company established by the Government to undertake the detailed work required to prepare the Hybrid Bill.

This paper provides an update of HS2 in Staffordshire. It outlines what the County Council has been doing in respect of the HS2 Phase One, with particular emphasis on petitioning the Phase One Hybrid Bill.

It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the County Council's approach and work completed to-date. In considering this report, it is recommended the Committee takes into account the authority's position while drawing on the knowledge gained from Phase One which can be taken forward into engagement with the HS2 Phase Two team.

Report

Background

In January 2012, the Secretary of State for Transport announced the route of Phase One linking London to Birmingham. This route meets the West Coast Main Line just south of Handsacre in Lichfield. Phase One is wholly within Lichfield District which will see approximately 19km of new railway and associated equipment built.

HS2 Phase One will be constructed through powers granted to the Secretary of State by Parliament via a Hybrid Bill. The High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill is currently passing through the House of Commons Select Committee and residents, businesses and land owners can petition against the Hybrid Bill if they are specially and directly affected by the Bill and its supporting information. It is important to note that petitioning cannot be against the principle of HS2 Phase One (i.e. against high speed rail as a whole) but the detail contained within the Bill, Environmental Statement and plans/drawings/sections.

The preferred proposal for the line of route from West Midlands to Leeds and Manchester (Phase Two) was announced by the Transport Secretary in January 2013.

From the Phase One route in Lichfield the proposed Phase Two route continues through the county from Lichfield District passing through the areas of Stafford and Newcastle Borough. The length of the Phase Two route is 53km long and there is also approximately 50 metres of new railway at the southern tip of Tamworth for the Leeds section of route.

The Secretary of State for Transport launched the consultation on the Government's preferred route for Phase Two of the HS2 project, to Leeds and Manchester in July 2013. The consultation ended on 31 January 2014 and the County Council, together with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Lichfield District Council, prepared a response to the consultation. A Ministerial response to the route consultation is expected mid-2015.

What is the County Council's position?

The County Council has formally raised objection to the scheme as it will have a huge impact on the environment and many communities. However, the principle of HS2 Phase One was established and debated in the House of Commons at its Second Reading on 28 April 2014 where 453 MP's voted in favour to 41 against. This is a clear message of the Government's intention to press on with the project.

While opposing the proposals, but recognising HS2 has cross party political support in Westminster, the County Council will continue to ensure that Staffordshire gets the best deal from the project while ensuring those affected by the project receive fair and timely compensation.

As the only democratic countywide organisation, we will continue to work with partners to achieve one voice so that we co-ordinate the 'Voice of Staffordshire' to ensure we champion the case for Staffordshire's people to secure mitigation and meaningful compensation for communities affected by the HS2 Project.

What has the County Council done to date?

In supporting the communities affected by HS2 the County Council has appointed a full time project manager who has engaged with HS2 Ltd, local stakeholders and affected communities along the route.

In addition to supporting communities and businesses directly affected by the project, the County Council has prepared responses to approximately nine different HS2 consultations including the Phase One Hybrid Bill and accompanying Environmental Statement (circa 50,000 sheets of paper).

The majority of work, since the last update report to Committee in September 2013, has been focused on petitioning the Hybrid Bill.

In addition to the above, each County Councillor whose division is impacted by the HS2 route has been allocated a sum of £5,000. The HS2 Community Support Fund provides financial support to affected parish councils and community groups to facilitate mitigation and promote/create awareness. To-date, this fund has supported more than £5,500 of grants with additional applications over £1,000 currently being processed.

What is the HS2 Phase one Hybrid Bill?

In making its decision on the Phase One element of HS2, Government did not approve any formal development, but agreed to progress the proposals via a Hybrid Bill. A Hybrid Bill comprises elements of both Private and Public Bills and is a common process to deliver projects of national importance such as key infrastructure projects e.g. High Speed 1 (HS1) and Crossrail (London), and where Parliamentary approval is considered necessary.

The Government deposited the Hybrid Bill to Parliament in November 2013 and following its Second Reading in April 2014, it is now in the House of Commons Select Committee. The Bill will pass through both Houses of Parliament before receiving Royal Assent.

Once the Bill receives Royal Assent it becomes an Act of Parliament and gives powers to:

- Construct and maintain Phase One of the HS2 line
- Acquire land (and limited rights in land) necessary for the works to be carried out
- Grant planning permission for the works
- Deregulate of works on HS2 (the disapplication of certain powers contained in other legislation, such as the Highways Act)
- Facilitate works on conventional lines, such as the West Coast Main Line, to integrate them with HS2.

What is a petition and petitioning?

A petition is a summary of objections to particular aspect of the Bill. Essentially, a petition is a request to the House of Commons for the petitioner (in this case the County Council) to present a case before the Select Committee on the HS2 Hybrid Bill.

The petition itself follows a prescribed format but outlines why the Bill affects the County Council and what it is the authority would like the select committee to do about it. The County Council had approximately 70 petitioning points contained within its petition which ranged from major changes to the vertical alignment of the railway to points of technical detail concerning the Environmental Statement.

To petition the Bill and prepare the petition itself, the County Council appointed a Parliamentary Agent (solicitor) to provide advice and guidance. In addition, the County Council appointed Legal Counsel to represent the authority at Select Committee. Members may recall a motion being passed at December 2013 Full Council where Council voted in favour to petition against the Bill and allocate a sum of £200,000 to the budget.

What did the County Council petition for?

As outlined above, the County Council's petition contained approximately 70 separate petitioning points.

In April 2014, the County Council organised a petition management workshop with local stakeholders, residents and businesses to discuss the main elements of potential petitioning items while trying to co-ordinate the 'voice of Staffordshire'. The outcome of this workshop was to provide common petitioning items within petitioner's petitions to ensure collective voice provided the maximum impact.

Following the deposit of the County Council's petition in May 2014, detailed discussions took place with representatives of HS2 Ltd. A list of four key items was established to focus dialogue with HS2 Ltd; the key item list was created in discussion with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport and local stakeholders and comprised:

- Securing the construction of the Handsacre junction with the West Coast Main Line – to provide Stafford and potentially Stoke on Trent with access to the new high speed rail network
- Lowering the route in the vicinity of the Trent & Mersey Canal. The Canal and River Trust promoted a horizontal shift of the railway to avoid the need to cross the canal, this in turn lowers the route to near ground compared to embankments up to 9m high
- Lowering of the route to pass underneath the A38, South Staffordshire Railway Line and West Coast Main Line at the east of Streethay. The route would be lowered from 15m high embankments to ground level or in cutting
- A 810m cut and cover tunnel at Hints to reduce the impact of the railway on two ancient woodlands and the village while providing provision for Brockhurst Lane to pass over the railway. This would remove a height restriction of 2.7m as planned by HS2 Ltd.

How did the County Council petition?

In a parallel work stream, evidence was collated to support the justification for what was being asked while outlining what benefits each would bring. The County Council prepared evidence to support the 'ask' for the Handsacre Link to be constructed as proposed.

The Canal and River Trust instructed, at their own expense, a consultant to review the alignment of the railway at the point at which it crosses over the Trent & Mersey Canal. This work revealed that a horizontal shift of the railway could avoid the need to cross the canal while presenting a lower alignment.

The County Council, with assistance from HS2 Ltd, undertook detailed ground investigation work to determine hydrology and geology at the east of Streethay. This evidence would be used to support the claim that a lower alignment can be achieved. In addition, the County Council instructed its infrastructure delivery partner to undertake a technical review of geological and hydrological conditions of the area and outline potential engineering solutions to overcome such conditions. In addition, environmental evidence was prepared to outline the environmental benefits of a lower alignment.

At Hints, evidence was prepared to justify the need for a cut and cover tunnel. However, legal advice suggested that this 'ask' was significant and that it is highly likely that it would not be taken forward by HS2 Ltd due to the significant additional cost – circa £45m.

Community engagement

In addition to the County Council's petition, members of the local community and Parish Councils submitted their own petitions against the Hybrid Bill. Many of the petitions contained similar concerns to that of the County Council, potentially as an outcome of the petition management workshop, but perhaps more importantly contained items of local matters. In many cases, community representatives have championed their community/Parish 'asks' and have been an asset to those communities they represent; petitioning is a difficult process and many representatives have had to learn, in their own time, very quickly.

Going forward, the County Council will try to harness the experience of the Phase One community champions to assist and support those along the Phase Two route.

What were the outcomes?

It was clear from negotiation discussions with HS2 Ltd that the County Council faced a significant challenge in securing assurances from the project so that the key items could be delivered. Officers from the County Council made it clear that if these items could not be achieved, it would present a case before the Select Committee. However, if agreement could be reached then it would withdraw its appearance but continue to work through the remaining petitioning items.

On October 1 Patrick McLoughlin announced that following the work with Staffordshire County Council modifications to the proposed route would be made to reduce the impact on Lichfield. The County Council received the following assurances from HS2 Ltd:

Handsacre link

If the Bill is enacted including powers to construct the Handsacre Junction, the Promoter will require the nominated undertaker, if it constructs any part of the railway authorised by the Bill to complete the construction of the Handsacre Junction linking to the West Coast Main Line. This is subject to any amendment of the Bill by subsequent legislation to remove the requirement to construct the Handsacre Junction.

Modification to the link onto the West Coast Main Line

The Promoter will promote and, subject to the approval of Parliament, will require the nominated undertaker to implement, an additional provision to provide a revised alignment of the railway connecting to the Handsacre junction which incorporates a horizontal shift of the railway avoiding the need for two separate crossings of the Trent and Mersey Canal.

In developing the horizontal shift of the railway, this assurance lowers the route to near ground level.

Lowering of the railway beneath the A38, South Staffordshire Railway and West Coast Main Line Crossing

Linked into the above, the Promoter will promote and, subject to the approval of Parliament, will require the nominated undertaker to implement, an additional provision which will provide for the lowering of the railway so as to cross beneath the A38, the South Staffordshire Railway and West Coast Main Line.

Lowering of the vertical alignment at Hints

The Promoter will promote and, subject to the approval of Parliament, will require the nominated undertaker to implement, an additional provision to lower the alignment of the railway near Hints by 3m and divert Brockhurst Lane over the railway.

The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker, in connection with the implementation of this additional provision, and so far as is reasonably practicable and in the light of the results of geotechnical site investigations, to implement mitigation so as to limit the impact of the scheme on Roundhill Wood's ancient woodland.

This additional provision, while not the original request, does offer improved mitigation than the scheme outlined in the Hybrid Bill.

What Happens Next?

Lowering of the route in the vicinity of the Trent & Mersey Canal and under the A38/West Coast Main Line entails a change of approximately 7km of the route when compared to the original Hybrid Bill scheme in Staffordshire. The final decision to bring forward these significant changes was made by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Three of the four assurances given to the County Council by HS2 Ltd will be brought forward by an additional provision. This requires HS2 Ltd to amend the Hybrid Bill and accompanying documents (such as the Environmental Statement) and resubmit the Parliament. This will be the subject of further consultation and petitioning albeit a condensed process when compared to the on-going process. Due to the size and scale of the changes, the additional provision is expected during the summer of 2015.

The County Council will continue to engage with HS2 Ltd to ensure the additional provision has the least impact on the communities and environment. As the County Council's petition has not been withdrawn, officers will remain in dialogue to resolve concerns on the remaining petitioning items and if agreement cannot be reached the authority can then make representation at the House of Lords. It is likely that some of the County Council's remaining concerns become addressed as further detail is better understood as the design of HS2 Phase One

develops. Officers attend regular route wide HS2 Forums where topic based meetings such as planning, noise, highways and cultural heritage are discussed and views presented. In addition, the County Council will become a member of the Local Authority Noise Consortium (LANC).

LANC is consists of local authorities along the route who have pooled resources to present a route wide case on noise related concerns. If the outcome of the LANC petitioning is successful, it could see additional properties fall within the intervention levels for enhanced mitigation; in addition to the increased number of properties this could benefit on Phase One; lower base line intervention levels would set precedent for properties along the Phase Two route.

Valuable lessons have been learnt from the Phase One petitioning process and the experience gained can be taken forward into the Phase Two engagement. The County Council will continue to champion the cause of residents and business impacted by the project while trying to maximise mitigation and any economic benefits from the scheme.

Following the release of the second report by HS2 Ltd's Chairman, Sir David Higgins, recommendations have been put forward to Government to bring forward the delivery of the Phase Two route between Lichfield and Crewe by 6 years. Sir David has also recommended that the possibility of running classic compatible service to Stoke-on-Trent, Macclesfield and Stockport be investigated. Following the release of this report, titled 'Rebalancing Britain' Government have launched a consultation on safeguarding the route between Lichfield and Crewe. The County Council will be preparing a response to the consultation which closes in the New Year.

Contact Officer

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Appendices/Background papers

Staffordshire County Council [Petition](#)

High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill [Parliamentary web pages](#)

Sir David Higgins (2014): [Rebalancing Britain, From HS2 towards a national transport strategy.](#)

Community Impact Assessment - Full Assessment

Name of Policy/Project/Proposal
HS2 Phase One Project Update
Responsible officer
Helen Riley, Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive
Commencement date & expected duration
N/A

1. What is the starting point for this proposal?

Petitioning the Hybrid Bill followed as a result of HS2 Ltd depositing the Hybrid Bill to Parliament. The County Council has repeatedly raise concern regarding the height of the route in Lichfield District and petitioning was the prescribed way in which to secure changes to the proposals as set out in the Hybrid Bill and accompanying information.

2. What was the insight behind the proposal?

The petition draws on the County Council's response to the Environmental Statement and the Phase One Mitigation and Enhancement Plan.

The above is in additional to regular meetings with Phase One community representatives and other interested parties.

3. Finding out what people need

A stakeholder petition management meeting took place in April 2014; officers from the County Council presented the key petitioning items that would be contained within its petition. A feedback questionnaire was circulated and feedback used where appropriate. Other petitioning items were developed as part of the County Council's statutory role.

Some local stakeholders have differing views on the content of the petition and the assurances provided but those who are directly and specially affected by the project can make their own representations to the Select Committee.

4. Responding to issues identified

The petition tried to incorporate local stakeholder views where possible but the authority has taken a holistic view of the project in Lichfield to develop the mitigation secured.

The authority has tried to co-ordinate the voice of Staffordshire but there are some local stakeholders with differing views. As previously outlined, individuals can make their own representations to the committee

5. What is the final proposal and what is it to achieve

As a result of petitioning the Hybrid Bill, the County Council has secured key modifications to the route which will reduce the impact of HS2 on our communities and environment.

The involvement in the Phase One petitioning will prove invaluable should the similar need arise for Phase Two.

6. How will we know we have been successful?

As a result of petition, key changes to the project in Lichfield have been secured. On-going dialogue will resolve outstanding petitioning items but if agreement cannot be reached, the authority has the option to continue petitioning the House of Lords.

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 18 December 2014

Countryside Estate Management Review

Recommendation/s

1. That the Committee debates the proposed approach for reviewing the management arrangements for the countryside estate.
2. That the Committee agrees the adoption of the proposed critical success factors.

Report of Mark Winnington Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport

Summary

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

3. The county council is reviewing its existing arrangements for managing the countryside estate. The Review is part of the wider vision to create a connected Staffordshire where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy. The Project is still at an early stage of development and this is an opportunity for Members to discuss the proposals and to influence and shape the Project.
4. The Select Committee's comments will be reported to Cabinet so that they can be taken into account in their consideration of any proposed new delivery options for managing the countryside estate.

Background

Overview

5. The county council owns a large diverse countryside estate. This helps to make a significant contribution to many of its priorities, including enabling people to lead a healthy lifestyle benefitting both their physical and mental well-being and providing opportunities to enhance their skills, and in some cases employment potential, through volunteering opportunities. Alongside the main country parks, the estate also comprises a number of smaller sites. While the main country parks are very popular and make a significant contribution to the county council's wider priorities, the smaller sites tend to be more of a local recreational asset. As such, these smaller sites have more limited potential to support the county council's wider priorities but they still have to be managed to meet legal liabilities and obligations.

6. The Project aims to identify and establish a range of alternative delivery models for managing the estate, ensuring its long-term sustainability and ensuring that it delivers a range of important health, social and economic outcomes for Staffordshire's residents.

The Existing Management Arrangements

7. The county council owns and manages a large countryside estate totalling about 6000 acres. This estate comprises six large country parks, nine picnic areas, a number of smaller sites and 3 disused railway lines. All of the country parks have protected habitats and sites. Cannock Chase Country Park is the largest country park and is designated a Special Area of Conservation, lying within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Please see the attached map showing the principal sites (Appendix A).

8. Most of the sites are located on the fringe of urban development and provide a significant resource for outdoor recreation. Also many sites have had a previous industrial use and considerable investment has been made to transform them and return them to the community as the valued assets that they are today.

9. Owning and managing countryside sites are discretionary. However, having assumed ownership of the sites, the county council is responsible for a wide range of statutory duties and obligations. In many cases the county council was bequeathed sites on the basis that they are held in trust on behalf of and for the use of the people of Staffordshire.

10. The management of the countryside estate is mostly delivered in-house by the Ranger Service and the Countryside Works Unit. Most of the maintenance work on the estate is carried out by the in-house Works Unit with a significant contribution from local communities and volunteers. External contractors are only employed for large-scale woodland management and engineering works.

11. The Ranger Service and Works Unit are supported by the Environmental Advice team as and when required. Their support is crucial to the successful management of some sites particularly those with protected habitats and features. Their active management of these protected sites generates about £185,000 per annum of external funding through Higher Level Stewardship schemes, helping to offset some of the estate's operating costs.

12. In light of the close working relationship between the Countryside Estate team and the Environmental Advice team any impact of any changes to the delivery of country parks on the environmental specialists will also need to be carefully considered.

13. Both activities are within the scope of the Infrastructure+ project. It is essential therefore that any decisions about the future delivery of these activities are not made in isolation and are also considered in conjunction with this Review.

Why not continue with our existing management arrangements?

14. The business drivers for reviewing our existing management arrangements are detailed below.

15. **Financial:** The funding available for managing the countryside estate has been reduced over the last few years but further savings still need to be achieved. Although every effort is made to offset some of the operating costs by income generation, the net

cost is still estimated to be in the region of £1.2m per annum. So far, the financial savings targets have been met through a range of approaches, such as re-structures, a streamlining of processes and procedures and an increasing use of volunteers. However, the ability to meet future financial pressures through equivalent changes is limited. Without a fundamental reshape of the management of the estate, future savings can only be achieved by a reduction in service quality.

16. Changing Demands and Needs: Changing visitor demands and expectations are also adding to financial pressures. Over the last few years, there has been a sustained rise in the number, and also profile, of visitors, particularly to the six main country parks. Visits are no longer seasonal. This increased all-year round use is increasing site maintenance and cleaning costs. Also because of demographic changes like the increase in the number of people aged 65 and over, more elderly and retired people are visiting country parks with different needs. This and other similar demographic changes have led to changing demands, for example more easily accessible routes, which also have budgetary implications.

17. Outcome-based Commissioning: Aside from the financial imperative, the introduction of the Commissioning Framework in early 2013 changed the county council's approach to the delivery of services, including developing new ways of providing what people want and need which may not be directly through the County Council.

18. Partnership Working & Better Outcomes: Soft market testing has indicated that there is an appetite amongst landowners such as some District Councils, the RSPB and the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to collaboratively manage some sites. It is felt that better outcomes for Staffordshire's residents and nature conservation, and also savings, could be made through developing partnership management arrangements with other landowners, local communities and volunteers. Developing the green space provision across the whole of Staffordshire, particularly that close to the urban areas could make a significant contribution to the county council's priorities of better health and "well-being" and also help with prosperity.

19. Local communities and volunteers have been closely involved with the management and maintenance of the countryside estate for many years and their input is the lynchpin to the successful management of the countryside estate, particularly the smaller sites.

20. Market Changes: Market changes have seen a growth within the private sector in the delivery of public services. The County Council is currently working towards establishing a strategic partnership with AMEY for the delivery of some of its services, including the maintenance of its country parks. The management of the country parks could also be included within the scope of this project.

Existing Insight

21. The Project is still at the Initiation/ Feasibility Stage but it will be structured around the county council's commissioning principles. A proposed timeline for the Project is attached at Appendix B.

22. Some scoping work has already been carried out which will underpin the Project and in some cases, help to identify alternative delivery models for managing the countryside estate.

- A report which looked into the feasibility of transferring the ownership of countryside sites to the “Big Society” for example to charitable organisations was prepared by the county council’s Policy and Performance team in 2011. One of the key findings of the report and of particular relevance to this Review is that transferring ownership of all of the countryside estate would have significant cost implications. Most of the sites have a negative land value. Transferring ownership to a single or multiple providers would not result in any capital gain but would require the county council to provide a dowry as a necessary incentive. For those sites with liabilities such as reservoirs and dams the dowry could be significant.
- A desk top assessment of the countryside estate was carried out in 2011 (recently updated) which included a cost-benefit analysis of each site. The assessment categorised the sites into 3 main groups: those which meet the county council’s wider aims, those which provide valuable access to local green space, but are incapable of supporting other core ambitions and those which have little or no public benefit in terms of outdoor recreation and could be disposed of. Two of the sites identified within this category have been sold.
- Some insight about the countryside estate has also been gathered as part of the processes linked to the Infrastructure+ and Chasewater Country Park Projects which will also provide relevant insight for this Project. It is anticipated that further insight and consultation with stakeholders will be a major component of the overall project.

Potential Options

23. We know from recent discussions and past experience that there is an appetite amongst the private, public and third sector to collaboratively manage the green space provision county wide. This desire in some cases stems not only from a need to realise savings but also, to improve the “public offer” and capitalise on the social return on investment.

24. Alternative arrangements are likely to include collaborative management with other landowners or local community groups, a strategic partnership with a private sector company such as AMEY, transferring one or more of the sites to a third sector organisation or employment of a Community Interest Company. It is not envisaged that the delivery models will be mutually exclusive. For example, on some sites, particularly the main country parks, a combination of models could be used.

Next Steps

25. While we know from recent discussions and past experience that there is an appetite amongst partners, local communities and volunteers to become involved in the management of the countryside estate, the extent or willingness of that involvement has not yet been tested and further discussions are required. The next step is to engage with all internal and external stakeholders to obtain a more definitive response to establishing joint management arrangements and also, to develop a range of alternative delivery models for managing the countryside estate, and possibly other green space sites within the county. This formal engagement will be supported by the Customer insight team.

26. We need to ensure that any new management arrangements focus on the delivery of outcomes rather than outputs. Given that the Service area is in scope for the

Infrastructure+ Project which is outcome-focussed, it is proposed at this stage to use similar core objectives and Critical Success Factors (CSFs) as agreed for that Project, and the Connected Libraries Project. The core objectives are therefore likely to be:

- To maintain and improve the condition and usability of the country parks;
- To reduce the cost of delivering the Service;
- To involve communities in decisions and delivery of the country parks;
- To improve customer satisfaction in Staffordshire County Council and to enhance its reputation.

27. The Critical Success Factors to be used as the basis for evaluating any alternative delivery models identified for managing the countryside estate are likely to be:

- Increased value and prosperity for Staffordshire through a positive impact to SCC outcomes.
- A customer focussed service which enhances customer satisfaction and the reputation of the Council
- Financially sustainable and resilient services
- The flexibility to meet changing future demands through innovation and development

These Critical Success Factors will need to be developed in more detail at a later stage to ensure that any new management arrangements deliver the required outcomes.

28. The Select Committee's comments on this approach are sought.

29. It is anticipated that public consultation on any new delivery models for managing the countryside estate will commence at beginning of April 2015. The purpose of this exercise is to gain additional information and insight to inform the next stages and again, will be supported by the Customer Insight Team.

30. Any proposed changes to the existing management arrangements of the Countryside Estate may impact on employment. All staff affected by the Review and their Trade Union representatives have been briefed; engagement and full consultation, where required, will continue to take place on an ongoing basis as proposals are developed.

Link to Strategic Plan – The successful management of the countryside estate contributes to the county council's wider vision to create a connected Staffordshire where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy. As part of the achievement of that vision, there is a need for continual review to develop new and different ways of working to achieve outcomes with fewer resources.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – The Select Committee has played a key role in both the Infrastructure+ and Chasewater projects.

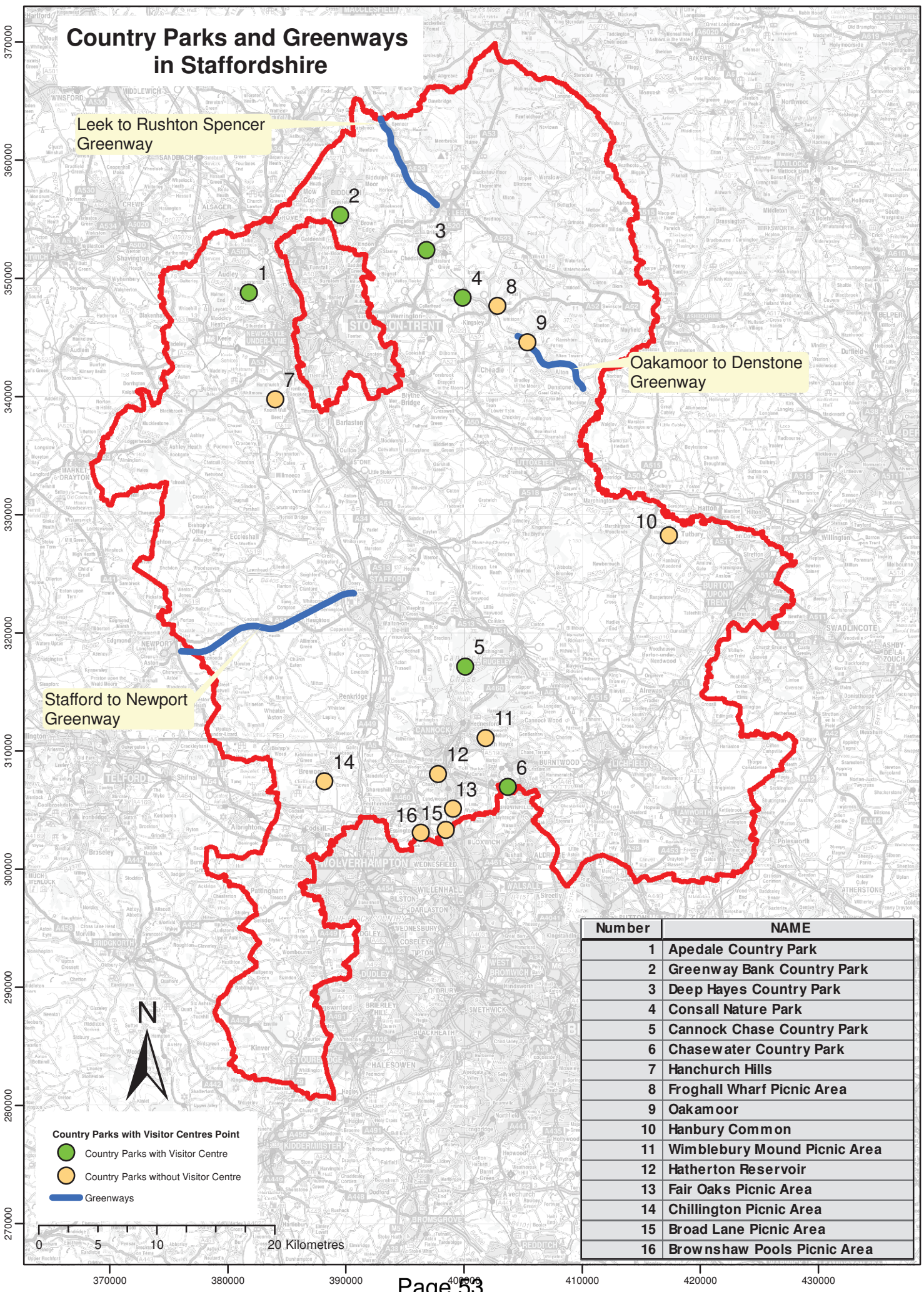
Community Impact - A full community impact assessment will be completed as part of the Project.

Contact Officer

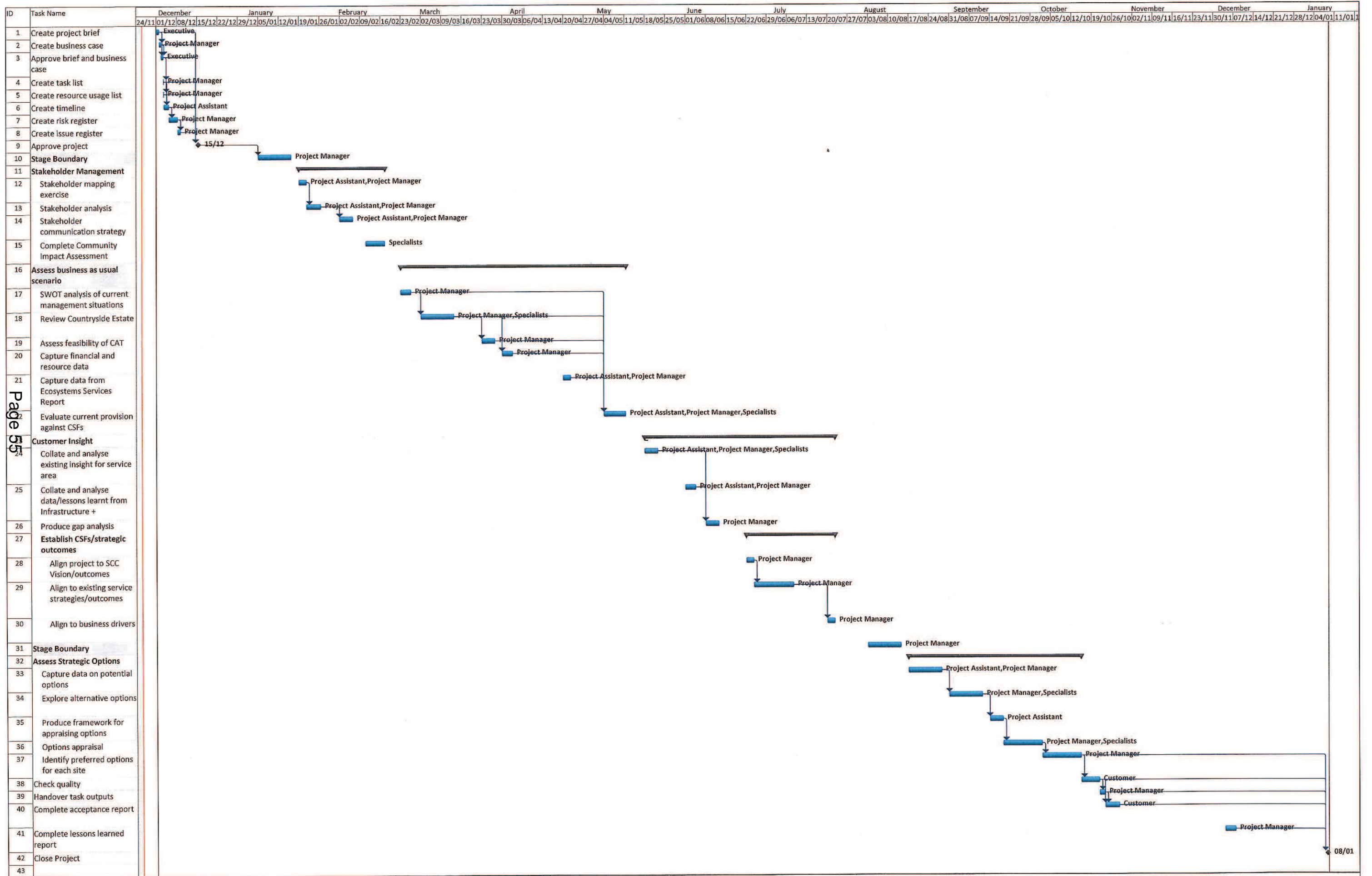
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Appendices/Background papers**Appendix A – Map of Principal Sites****Appendix B – Project Timeline**

Country Parks and Greenways in Staffordshire



Number	NAME
1	Apedale Country Park
2	Greenway Bank Country Park
3	Deep Hayes Country Park
4	Consall Nature Park
5	Cannock Chase Country Park
6	Chasewater Country Park
7	Hanchurch Hills
8	Froghall Wharf Picnic Area
9	Oakam oor
10	Hanbury Common
11	Wimblebury Mound Picnic Area
12	Hatherton Reservoir
13	Fair Oaks Picnic Area
14	Chillington Picnic Area
15	Broad Lane Picnic Area
16	Brownshaw Pools Picnic Area



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Project: msproj11
Date: Wed 26/11/14

Task	Summary	External Milestone	Inactive Summary	Manual Summary Rollup	Finish-only	Deadline
Split	Project Summary	Inactive Task	Manual Task	Manual Summary	Progress	
Milestone	External Tasks	Inactive Milestone	Duration-only	Start-only		

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 18th December 2014

Flood Risk Management update

Recommendations:

That the Select Committee:

1. Notes progress with regard to the County Council's new responsibilities as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Staffordshire.
2. Notes the results of the recent consultation on the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy prior to this being signed off by Cabinet
3. Notes the response made by Staffordshire County Council to an alternative approach to delivering Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) on new developments
4. Notes progress on work being but in place with partner organisations to deliver a six year programme of flood alleviation investment for the County
5. Notes the work of the Flood Risk Management Team with regards to managing County Council owned reservoirs

Report of Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport

Summary

The Select Committee is being asked to note progress being made on flood risk management responsibilities, including our work in partnership with Shropshire Council to deliver new responsibilities as LLFA, work with Local Planning Authorities to promote sustainable development and work with the Environment Agency and other Risk Management Authorities to bring forward Flood Alleviation Schemes in the County. This report outlines the progress made to date and provides information on further new responsibilities that the County Council may acquire with respect to the provision of SUDS on new developments.

Report

Background

Following the severe flooding during the summer of 2007, the government commissioned an independent review (the 'Pitt Review') which in 2008 recommended that local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk, working in partnership with other organisations. Two key pieces of legislation

have brought this forward; the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) which transpose the EU Floods Directive into UK Law and the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

The County Council is now a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and has new powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water (overland runoff), groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses). The County Council does this by working together with other organisations including the Environment Agency, which manages flooding from generally larger rivers (known as Main Rivers, such as the River Trent); the Sow and Penk Internal Drainage Board (IDB) managing low lying areas around Stafford; District, Borough, Parish and Town Councils and infrastructure / utility providers, such as Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and the Highways Agency.

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and Shropshire Council (SC) have collaborative working arrangements for local flood risk management. The aims and objectives of the collaborative working approach will help to ensure that both SC and SCC work effectively together to a common objective based on a culture of partnering and trust and sharing of ideas, resources and methods. To support the collaborative working approach, a new governance structure has been established to provide appropriate scrutiny and effective engagement between Regional Flood and Coastal Committees, partner organisations and community groups. The initial meetings of the Service Delivery Group (multi agency steering group) and Project Board (involving lead Elected Members for flooding) were held in November 2014.

There are both strategic and operational elements to the role of LLFA. Strategically, the Council need to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Operationally, the County Council investigates flooding incidents, holds a flood risk management asset database and has powers to designate third party assets where they have an impact on flood risk. Additionally the County Council also undertakes various land drainage activities, including consenting to works and enforcement on Ordinary Watercourses outside of the Sow and Penk IDB area.

If commenced, Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act would establish the County Council as a SUDS Approving Body (SAB). The purpose of SUDS is to mimic natural drainage, significantly reduce surface water runoff and improve water quality. The SAB would be responsible for approving, adopting and maintaining drainage systems in new developments.

However in autumn this year the Government consulted on an alternative approach to implementing SUDS legislation and mechanisms for ensuring their long term maintenance. This is based on making better use of the planning system. At the time of writing this report the outcomes of the consultation are unknown.

Progress in delivering new responsibilities including the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Operational work

As a LLFA we are required to hold a register of drainage assets that could have a significant effect on flood risk. A significant amount of work has been undertaken since 2011 to collate and update this information in a GIS based format and this is being used to inform wider LLFA work, such as flood investigations and responding to planning applications.

A project is now being undertaken within the Flood Risk Management Team to develop this further into an Asset Management System. The project will review and assess current systems and processes to realise efficiencies and optimise our Asset Management System to inform programmes of work for both ourselves and internal and external partners to help reduce flood risk throughout the County. It will also inform priorities for further data collection, taking a risk based approach.

The County Council also has powers to designate third party assets where these affect flood risk so that they cannot be removed or altered e.g. garden walls acting as informal flood defences. We have been working closely with Shropshire Council to establish the legal procedures necessary. Designation of such features will take place using a risk based approach. Such features would then be added to our Asset Management System (note that not all assets on the register above need to be designated).

The County Council has a duty to investigate flooding incidents, where it deems it to be 'necessary or appropriate' and determine which organisation(s) have roles and responsibilities. Formal investigations and more straightforward land drainage investigations are ongoing following the 2012 floods and recent flooding experienced at Little Aston, working with Walsall Council in July 2014 and the Newcastle area, working with the Borough Council in November 2014.

In respect of land drainage work, our role includes consenting of permanent and temporary works that are likely to affect the flow of an ordinary watercourse and enforcement to rectify unlawful and damaging or potentially damaging work that has an adverse affect on flow of an ordinary watercourse. We receive around 40 applications for consent a year for works such as culverts, bridges and outfalls. We seek to resolve enforcement issues, such as a lack of maintenance or unconsented structure posing a flood risk, by negotiation with the landowner(s) in the first instance and have a number of cases ongoing. We have also been working with riparian (brook and river side) landowners to raise awareness of their responsibilities to maintain watercourses and keep them free flowing.

Infrastructure Plus, the strategic partnership between Staffordshire County Council and Amey, commenced on the 1st October 2014. There are supporting links between our work as a Highways Authority and a Lead Local Flood Authority in respect of processes, systems and customer interfaces. This includes for example drainage asset management and maintenance, flood alleviation scheme design and delivery, planning for operational flood response and investigations into drainage and flood risk issues. Discussions are being held to identify the relevant linkages and how we can work together.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The County Council has a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor the implementation of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. We have worked jointly with Shropshire Council to produce our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and public consultation took place between April and September 2014. Around 20 responses were received from the public, town and parish councils, County Council colleagues and flood risk management partner organisations. The report and supporting Strategic Environmental Assessment are currently being finalised by our consultants and will be sent to Cabinet for sign off in early 2015.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out roles and responsibilities for flood risk management, assesses the risk of flooding in the County, where funding can be found to manage flood risk, and establishes our policies, our objectives and our actions to manage flood risk.

The next step will be to develop an Implementation Plan, which will bring together the actions and priorities set out in our Strategy and plans for investment in flood alleviation from all partners across Staffordshire and Shropshire. Progress will be monitored by the Staffordshire and Shropshire Flood Risk Management Service Delivery Group.

Partnership investment programme

Central Government's funding mechanism for flood risk management schemes is called Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid (GiA) (sometimes called Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA)). Since 2011 GiA has operated on a 'Partnership Funding' basis. The amount of central funding that a scheme attracts is based on the benefits of a scheme (principally in terms of residential properties protected) and the amount of funding secured from 'other' sources, including public and private funds and regional funding known as Local Levy. The government's approach to Partnership Funding means that the more external funds that can be found, the better a scheme 'scores' and the more likely it is to be delivered and prioritised against other schemes nationally. Schemes are approved by the relevant Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC).

Flood Risk Management Authorities, including Staffordshire County Council, can submit bids for GiA. Traditionally, the Environment Agency invited bids on an annual basis each summer. This year, and following the winter floods of 2014/15, a six year programme of bids was required and the submission date was moved forward to the spring. There has been ongoing and accelerated liaison with the relevant RFCCs to secure Staffordshire schemes in the six year programme and ensure that our local priorities have been taken into account. The six year programme is due to be announced nationally by government on the 5th of December.

Schemes have recently been delivered at Elford (culvert relining) and Moreton (Property Level Protection). Schemes are ongoing at Lower Tean (flood diversion channel) and Kinver (Property Level Protection).

Studies are commencing to identify the preferred option for flood alleviation for Codsall, Perton, Huntington, Rolleston on Dove, Marchington and Barton under Needwood. We have been working with East Staffordshire Borough Council and the Environment Agency to develop a solution to a health and safety issue on the Trent flood bank at Stretton. The delivery dates for these schemes will be set out in the announcement made by government in December as part of the autumn statement. That announcement will also cover other locations across the County where we hope to deliver studies and subsequent schemes over the next six years.

Flooding rarely comes from one source and we have been working closely with partner organisations to deliver schemes both led by ourselves and others at locations across the County. For example, we have been supporting the Environment Agency to develop a scheme for the Rising Brook in Rugeley, which is seeking to secure Local Enterprise Partnership funding.

Planning and SUDS: flood risk management functions yet to be finalised

Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act introduces a role for the County Council with regards to the approval, adoption and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems on new developments. Government consulted on the implementation of Schedule 3 from December 2011 to March 2012 and a number of issues have arisen that have caused delay nationally to the implementation of the legislation.

In autumn this year the Government consulted on an alternative approach for implementing SUDS and mechanisms for ensuring their long term maintenance. This is based on making better use of the planning system to meet Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations on sustainable drainage. In light of this consultation, both Councils have put the preparation work for the SAB on hold until further clarity is known about the future of LLFA involvement in SUDS on new developments.

The suggested alternative approach centres around strengthening planning policy (with supporting guidance including the National Standards for SUDS proposed under Schedule 3) and that Local Planning Authorities should secure SUDS through conditions on new development, being supported by expert advisors and consultees. A variety of options were put forward for maintenance, although none of these are new and all are potentially available at the current time. Subject to the outcomes of the consultation, the government would like to introduce changes to the planning regime in Spring 2015.

A response was prepared with Councillor Gill Heath to the consultation highlighting the following key issues:

1. The anticipated SUDS Approving Body as an entity disappears but the work involved in 'approving' SUDS remains.
2. The need for funding for the role of 'approving' SUDS as considered under the burdens analysis undertaken for Schedule 3 remains
3. Imposing conditions to ensure and check SUDS are implemented and maintained will be a major challenge
4. How the SUDS are maintained in perpetuity and who pays for this work will be a major challenge, as highlighted in the Pitt Review (2008)

The Environment Agency have withdrawn from making bespoke comments on planning applications outside of the larger river flood risk zones and on surface water management for new developments. They are also withdrawing from providing advice on

flooding from smaller watercourses and surface water to inform Local Planning Authority strategic planning documents. The Environment Agency has been deflecting developers and Local Planning Authorities towards the LLFA to provide this advice. This has significantly increased the workload of the Flood Risk Management team as there is an expectation from Local Planning Authorities that we will act as a non statutory consultee to the planning process.

We are working in partnership with Local Planning Authorities, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and United Utilities to put in place efficient and effective processes for managing planning responses to ensure integrated working and on a risk basis to identify the developments with the potential to have the highest impact on flood risk.

Reservoirs

Staffordshire County Council owns and maintains six reservoirs throughout the County. There are three in the North (Serpentine, Deep Hayes and Consall) and three in the South (Chasewater, Norton Bog and Hatherton).

Chasewater and Serpentine fall under the regulation requirements of the Reservoirs Act (1975) because they are large raised reservoirs (over 25,000m³). This requires a regular programme of inspection and monitoring by Inspecting and Supervising Engineers to ensure public safety. Serpentine and Chasewater are also monitored by the County Council Countryside Rangers on a weekly basis and if any works are necessary the Flood Risk Management Team liaise with the County Structures Team and Countryside Services Team who are responsible for reservoir management in Country Parks.

Staff Resources

There are currently five members of the Flood Risk Management Team: a Team Leader (Flood Risk Manager), three Flood Risk Officers and a Flood Risk Management Technician.

The need to act as a non statutory consultee to Local Planning Authorities has created a significant additional workload for the team and put pressure on our other flood risk management functions. Resources are currently being supplemented by consultancy support on planning applications provided by partnership arrangements with Shropshire Council. Depending on the outcomes of the current consultation and any future role that the County Council has with regard to SUDS on new developments, additional resources will need to be considered.

Contact Officer

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Background papers

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Flood Risk Regulations 2009

Pitt Review 2008

Staffordshire County Council response to government consultation on an alternative approach to SUDS provision 2014

Staffordshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Consultation Staffordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014

UKCP09 "The climate of the UK and recent trends" 2009

UKCP09 "Climate Change Projections" 2009

IPCC 5th Assessment Report 2014

Appendix

Flood Alleviation Schemes in Staffordshire

Six year programme announced on 2nd December 2014

Scheme	Area	Total Cost (£k)	Allocated Grant in Aid and Local Levy 2015/16 to 2020/21 (£k)	Estimated earliest construction start
Staffordshire County Council led schemes				
Barton-under-Needwood (Knoll Brook)	East Staffordshire	107	95	2016 to 2017
Bilbrook (Acacia Crescent)	South Staffordshire	5	4	2018 to 2021
Brown Edge	Staffordshire Moorlands	94	90	2018 to 2021
Codsall (in partnership with Severn Trent Water)	South Staffordshire	19	19	2015 to 2017
Dunston	South Staffordshire	23	22	2018 to 2021
Endon (Village Brook)	Staffordshire Moorlands	171	159	2018 to 2021
Essington	South Staffordshire	15	14	2018 to 2021

Scheme	Area	Total Cost (£k)	Allocated Grant in Aid and Local Levy 2015/16 to 2020/21 (£k)	Estimated earliest construction start
Great Wyrley	South Staffordshire	15	14	2018 to 2021
Hamstall Ridware	Lichfield	75	8	2021 onwards
Huntington	South Staffordshire	240	230	2017 to 2018
Kidsgrove (The Rookery)	Newcastle	295	220	2018 to 2021
Lichfield (Marsh Lane)	Lichfield	55	55	2021 onwards
Lower Penn	South Staffordshire	90	4	2021 onwards
<i>Marchington</i>	<i>East Staffordshire</i>			<i>2021/22 onwards, but prospect of bringing forwards</i>
Perton	South Staffordshire	250	170	2017 to 2018
Rollestone on Dove	East Staffordshire	190	150	2016 to 2018
Stretton Surface Water Pumping Station, Clay Mills, Burton on Trent	East Staffordshire	530	500	2016 to 2018

Scheme	Area	Total Cost (£k)	Allocated Grant in Aid and Local Levy 2015/16 to 2020/21 (£k)	Estimated earliest construction start
Environment Agency led schemes				
Barton-under-Needwood (Barton Brook)	East Staffordshire	849	743	2016 to 2018
Fowlea Brook (Stoke on Trent, upstream reaches are in Staffordshire)	Stoke on Trent	2,000	2,000	2016 to 2018
Rugeley Town Centre (Rising Brook)	Cannock Chase	1,500	800	2016 to 2018
Stafford (Sandyford Brook)	Stafford	3,107	50	2021 onwards

Please note the following:

- All above figures are indicative and actual scheme costs are subject to the production of a detailed business case during which a preferred option is developed and which are then further refined during the detailed scheme design process.
- Funding shortfall includes funds that were allocated for 2014/15 for flood study work at Stretton (£30k), Rolleston on Dove (£30k), Barton-under-Needwood (Knoll Brook) (£15k), Huntington (£50k), Marchington (£30k), Perton (£65k), Barton-under-Needwood (Barton Brook) (£66k), Rugeley Town Centre (Rising Brook) (£40k) and Stafford (Sandyford Brook) (£10k). It also includes funding that may be allocated from 2021/22 onwards towards flood alleviation work from Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid and/ or Local Levy
- Taking a Partnership Funding approach advocated by central government, any further funding shortfall will need to come from contributions from public and private sources, which may include the potential for Local Enterprise Partnership funding and developer contributions where there is an economic development driver.

- With regards to Marchington, a submission was for inclusion in the six year programme in Spring 2014. Funds have been allocated in 2014/15 for a study to assess a preferred option for the village. This will be used to refine the scheme costs and benefits and to seek to secure construction of a scheme in the next six years.



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

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	Great Place to Live 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	5 September 2014	Great Place to Live Create the right conditions to attract and grow business in Staffordshire.	Members to scrutinise progress on the European Growth Deal submission	Members welcomed the investment and will give consideration to the best approach to scrutinising progress of the 8 projects, including whether joint scrutiny with Stoke-on-Trent City Council would be appropriate.
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.	Great Place to Live 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	
Education Support Services – Commissioning and Contract Performance Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead officer: Ian H Benson	5 September 2014	Ready for Life 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.	Members noted the progress made and will continue to monitor progress, in particular around communication.
The Ofsted Focused Inspection Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead Officer: Anna Halliday	5 September 2014	Ready for Life 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, and	Members welcomed the work already underway and will scrutinise progress of the action plan (at their March meeting).

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
			specifically on the outcome of the Ofsted Focused Inspection	
Roll out of Broadband Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Steve Burrows	16 October 2014 (following the update request on 24 April 2014)	Great Place to Live Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology. and Create the right conditions to attract and grow business in Staffordshire.	Monitoring progress with delivery	Members noted the progress made and agreed that: The Vice Chairman share details of contacts at Severn Trent Water with the Cabinet Member and Superfast Broadband Manager, and that they explore working with Severn Trent Water to extend the superfast broadband coverage in Staffordshire; the Superfast Broadband Manager consider how best to share progress on the implementation of Superfast broadband with the Borough and District Councils in Staffordshire; and the Committee receive a further update in 6 month's time.
W2R Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Ian Benson	16 October 2014	Great Place to Live Support the improvement and development of shared	Members requested an updating on progress	Members noted the progress made and requested that a copy of

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
		resources such as utilities, highways and technology.		the report given to the Committee be forwarded to Mike Grundy, Planning and Development Control Manager, in preparation for the Planning Committee's visit.
E Safety Contracts with Schools Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead Officer: Sander Kristel	18 December 2014	Ready for Life Focus on school improvement and providing access to a good education.	Following proposed changes to the E-Safety contracts with schools Paul Woodhead, PGR, requested this item to explain the proposals.	
Improving Connectivity in Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Clive Thomson	18 December 2014	Great Place to Live 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)	
Flood Risk Management – progress update Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Ian Benson	18 December 2014	Great Place to Live 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	18 December 2014 (a briefing note will be available in July/August 2014 on this issue in preparation for	Great Place to Live Use and maintain our built and natural environment to improve health and wellbeing and strengthen community assets. Enjoying Life Strengthen public confidence in the county as a great	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.	

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
	the main discussion later in the year)	place to live with lots of opportunities to enjoy life.		
Achieving Excellence – Libraries in a Connected Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mike Lawrence Lead Officer: Janene Cox/Catherine Mann	23 January 2015	Great Place to Live Support the improvement and development of shared resources such as utilities, highways and technology.	To consider the results of the consultation on Staffordshire libraries.	
School Improvement Programme Cabinet Member: Ben Adams Lead Officer: Anna Halliday	23 January 2015	Ready for Life Focus on school improvement and providing access to a good education.	To keep Members updated on the work of the Programme Board and the action taken.	
Tourism – Destination Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Graeme Whitehead	Strategy circulated to Members on 26 September 2014	Enjoying Life Encourage people to participate in social and leisure activities that they enjoy by promoting the attractiveness of the County to tourists, businesses and residents.	This was subject to a delegated decision to extend the strategy and therefore Members may wish to receive a copy of the strategy rather than a report.	
Impact of SEND reforms Cabinet Member – Ben Adams Lead Officer – Lynda Mitchell	6 March 2015	Ready for Life Focus on school improvement and providing access to a good education.	To consider the impact of the SEND reforms for Staffordshire children.	
Infrastructure + Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Ian Turner	6 March 2015	Great Place to Live 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)	
Bradwell Lane Cabinet Member – Mark	tbc	Included on the work programme as part of the	A petition with over 2,500 signatures requesting	

Item	Date of meeting when the item is due to be considered	Link to the Council's Business Plan	Details	Action/Outcome
Winnington Lead Officer – Richard Harris		Petition Scheme process	traffic calming measures at Bradwell Lane, Newcastle had been presented by Mrs Emma Meadon at the 25 July Select Committee. This issue will be considered again once the Coroners report on the fatal accident that prompted the petition has been received.	
Working Groups				
Children Missing out on Education (CME) Working Group	March 2014 -	Ready for Life 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".	
Briefing notes/updates and referrals				
Higher level education Lead Officer: Tony Baines		Ready for Life 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:		Great Place to Live Use and maintain our built and natural environment to improve health and wellbeing and strengthen community assets. and Ready for Life 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>Membership</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) Candice Yeomans (Co-optee)</p>	<p>Calendar of Committee Meetings (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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of the Local Government Act 1972

Document is Restricted

