

Constitution

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION TO HOW THE COUNTY COUNCIL WORKS

1. The County Council

- 1.1 The County Council is composed of 62 councillors elected every four years. Councillors are democratically accountable to the residents of their electoral division. The overriding duty of councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.
- 1.2 Councillors have to agree to follow a code of conduct to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. The Standards Committee trains and advises them on the code of conduct.
- 1.3 All councillors meet together as the County Council. Meetings of the County Council are normally open to the public. Here councillors decide the County Council's overall policies and set the budget each year. The County Council is also responsible for electing the Leader of the Council and for appointing Committees, some of which are responsible for overseeing and reviewing the decisions of the Cabinet, while others have responsibilities for taking decisions about specific areas.
- 1.4 The Leader of the Council appoints the members of the Cabinet.

2. How decisions are made

- 2.1 Different parts of the Council are responsible for particular types of decisions and decisions relating to particular areas or functions. A list of the responsibilities of each body or individual can be found in the relevant section of the constitution.
- 2.2 All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) due regard to all relevant and material considerations and without regard to any irrelevant considerations;
 - (b) where appropriate, the realistic evaluation of alternatives;
 - (c) proportionality (ie the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
 - (d) due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
 - (e) respect for human rights and equalities;
 - (f) a presumption in favour of openness;
 - (g) clarity of aims and desired outcomes; and
 - (h) reasons being given for the decision.

- 2.3 The Council, a Committee or Panel, a councillor or an officer acting as a tribunal or in a quasi judicial manner or determining/considering (other than for the purposes of giving advice) the civil rights and obligations or the criminal responsibility of any person will follow a proper procedure which accords with the requirements of natural justice and the right to a fair trial contained in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

3. Decision making by the Cabinet

- 3.1 The Cabinet is the part of the County Council which is responsible for most day-to-day decisions. The Cabinet comprises the Leader of the County Council and up to nine councillors who meet together to take decisions. Meetings of the Cabinet are generally open for the public to attend, except where personal or confidential matters are being discussed.
- 3.2 The Cabinet is responsible for taking 'Key Decisions' which are decisions which are termed significant, either in financial terms or in its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions in the County area.
- 3.3 The Cabinet has to make decisions which are in line with the Council's overall policies and budget. If it wishes to make a decision which is outside the budget or policy framework, this must be referred to the Council as a whole to decide.
- 3.4 In some instances individual Cabinet Members may have delegated powers to take decisions on behalf of the Cabinet.

4. How decisions are scrutinised

- 4.1 There are four Select Committees who support the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole. Their overview and scrutiny of both planned and taken decisions leads to reports and recommendations which advise the Cabinet and the Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery. Select Committees monitor the decisions of the Cabinet and may be consulted on forthcoming decisions and the development of policy.
- 4.2 Members of the Council who are not on the Cabinet can 'call-in' a decision which has been made by the Cabinet but not yet implemented. If a matter is 'called-in' it will be considered by the Corporate Review Committee and Members of the relevant Select Committee may be invited to the meeting when the 'call-in' is considered. They may recommend that the Cabinet reconsider the decision or in some circumstances refer it to the Council.

5. The Council's Staff

- 5.1 The County Council has people working for it (called 'officers') to give advice, implement decisions and manage the day-to-day delivery of its services. Some officers have a specific duty to ensure that the Council acts within the law and uses its resources wisely. A code of practice governs the relationships between officers and members of the County Council.

6. Citizens' Rights

- 6.1 Citizens have a number of rights in their dealings with the Council. Section 4 of this Constitution sets out Citizens' rights to participate in Council's democratic

arrangements by voting, attending meetings and accessing reports and background papers. It also sets out Citizens' right to complain about the Council's actions or proposals.

- 6.2 Some of these are legal rights, whilst others depend on the County Council's own processes. The Local Citizens' Advice Bureau can advise on individual legal rights. Where members of the public use specific Council services, for example as a parent of a school pupil, they may have additional rights. These are not covered in this Constitution.
- 6.3 The County Council welcomes participation by its citizens in its work. For further information on your rights as a citizen, please contact the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation .

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SECTION 2

THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION – ROLE AND PURPOSE

1. What is the Constitution?

1.1 The Staffordshire County Council Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.

1.2 The Constitution is divided into Sections which explain how the Council makes its decisions by outlining how the different parts of the Council work and the basic rules governing the Council's business. These are:

- Members of the County Council (Section 3)
- Citizens and the County Council (Section 4)
- The County Council (Section 5)
- The Council's Cabinet (Section 6)
- Overview and scrutiny of decisions (Section 7)
- Other Committees (Section 8)
- Joint Arrangements (Section 9)
- Officers (Section 10)
- Procedural Standing Orders (Section 11)
- Access to Information Rules (Section 12)
- Financial Regulations (Section 13)

2. Purpose and Interpretation of the Constitution

2.1 The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- (i) enable the County Council in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations, to provide broad leadership to and support for the communities of Staffordshire to improve their economic social and environmental well-being;
- (ii) support the involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
- (iii) help councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
- (iv) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- (v) create a rigorous means by which decision-makers can be held to public account;
- (vi) ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they have been directly involved;

- (vii) ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions; and
 - (viii) provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community to meet the County Council's vision, as expressed in the policy themes on which the Council's Corporate Strategy is based.
- 2.2 Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the purposes stated above.
- 2.3 The ruling of the Chairman of the County Council on the construction or application of this Constitution or on any proceedings of the Council shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purposes of this Constitution above.

3. Review of the Constitution

- 3.1 The Audit and Standards Committee will review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect. Where practicable, proposal for changes to the Constitution will be reported for consideration by the Audit and Standards Committee prior to consideration by Full Council.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive and the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation as Monitoring Officer will monitor and report to the Audit and Standards Committee from time to time on the Constitution adopted by the Council and will make recommendations for ways in which it could be amended in order better to achieve the purposes set out above.
- 3.3 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will have the authority to make minor and consequential amendments to the constitution to keep it up to date with legislative requirements and/or to keep the whole constitution in line with Council decisions made from time to time.
- 3.4 In the event of any proposals for a change in Executive arrangements from a Leader and Cabinet form of Executive to another form of Executive or vice versa, the Council will take reasonable steps to consult local electors and other interested persons in the area when drawing up proposals.
- 3.5 No change to any provision of this Constitution or to any sub-delegation scheme having effect under it shall, unless otherwise specified, invalidate any previous decision or action made or taken under such provisions.
- 3.6 Unless specified by a provision of the Constitution, any decision made by or on behalf of the County Council (including any plan, budget, policy or strategy approved by or on behalf of the County Council) prior to the coming into effect of the Constitution or the making of any change to it shall remain in force until it is amended varied or replaced.

4. Suspension of the Constitution

- 4.1 Any suspension of any part of the Constitution, in particular, but not exclusively, the Procedure Rules, and Finance and Contract Procedure Rules, shall only take place in accordance with the provisions in the specific rules themselves.

5. Publication of the Constitution

- 5.1 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will give a printed copy of this Constitution to each member of the authority upon delivery of that individual's declaration of acceptance of office on the member first being elected to the Council.
- 5.2 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will maintain and publish an up to date version of the Constitution on the Council's website and ensure that copies are widely available for inspection at Council offices, libraries and other appropriate locations, and can be purchased by members of the local press and the public on payment of a reasonable fee.

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SECTION 3

MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Composition and eligibility

- 1.1 The Council will be made up of Members, otherwise known as County Councillors, elected by the voters of each electoral division in accordance with legislation. (Currently 62 Members)
- 1.2 Only registered voters of the county area or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of County Councillor.
- 1.3 A list of the current County Councillors along with their address and contact details is maintained on the County Council website at <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>.

2. Election and terms of councillors

- 2.1 The regular election of councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2001. The terms of office of councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

3. Roles, functions, rights and responsibilities of all councillors

- 3.1 All councillors will:
 - (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out strategic and corporate management functions;
 - (ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision making;
 - (iii) effectively represent the interests of their electoral divisions and of individual constituents and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process;
 - (iv) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
 - (v) participate in the governance and management of the Council;
 - (vi) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
 - (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics, observing the provisions of the constitution, especially the Members Code of Conduct attached to this section.
- 3.2 The County Council has agreed role descriptions for Councillors and the various office holders in the County Council and will keep these under review. Councillors are also encouraged to prepare and publish an accountability statement each year.

3.3 Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents and information as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.

3.5 Councillors will not make public information which is confidential or exempt without the consent of the Council or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a councillor or officer entitled to know it.

3.5 For these purposes, “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the access to Information Rules in Section 13 of this Constitution.

4. Allowances

4.1 Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members’ Allowances Scheme set out in this Constitution.

5. Staffordshire Local Community Fund

5.1 The County Council operates a Staffordshire Local Community Fund under which Councillors are able to recommend expenditure of up to a prescribed amount each year on initiative(s) in their electoral divisions which are intended to promote the well-being of the division. Details of the Scheme are set out on the County Council’s website <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/slcf/>.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Principles of the Code

As a member or co-opted member of Staffordshire County Council I have responsibility to represent the community and work constructively with our staff and partner organisations to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

In accordance with the Localism Act provisions, when acting in this capacity I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for our residents and maintain public confidence in this authority.

SELFLESSNESS: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

INTEGRITY: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

OBJECTIVITY: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

OPENNESS: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

HONESTY: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

LEADERSHIP: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

General Undertaking

When acting in my role of member of Staffordshire County Council my conduct will in particular address the statutory principles of the code of conduct by:

- Championing the needs of residents - the whole community and in a special way your constituents, including those that did not vote for you, and put their interests first.
- Dealing with representations and enquiries from residents, members of the community and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially
- Not allow other pressures, including the financial interest of myself or others connected with me to deter me from pursuing constituents' casework, the interest of Staffordshire County Council or the good governance of the authority in a proper manner
- Exercising independent judgement and not compromising my position by placing myself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way I perform my duties as a member of the authority
- Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit
- Being accountable for my decisions and co-operate when scrutinised internally and externally, including by local residents
- Contributing to making the authority's decision making processes as open and transparent as possible to enable residents to understand the reasoning behind those decisions and to be informed when holding me and other members to account but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it (Being aware of the potential for information passed through social networking media to be distributed much more widely than intended by the author)
- Behaving in accordance with all the authority's legal obligations, alongside any requirements within the authority's policies, protocols and procedures, including with regard to confidentiality and on the use of the authority's resources
- Valuing colleagues and staff and engage with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect that is essential to good local government

- Always treating people with respect, including those organisations and members of the public I engage with and those I work alongside
- Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interest of the community and other organisations as well as within the authority

Registration and Disclosure of Interests

1. The interests which you are required to register with the County Council's Monitoring Officer (Director of Law and Democracy) are called Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and are defined in section 5 below.
2. Any such interest must be registered within 28 days of the adoption of this Code (19th July 2012) or within 28 days of being elected (or re-elected) or appointed (or re-appointed), whichever is relevant.
3. All interests notified to the Monitoring Officer (with the exception of such interests defined in paragraph 6 below) will be included in the register of interests
4. A copy of the register of interests will be available for public inspection and will be published on the County Council's website.
5. A 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interest' is an interest of yourself or your partner, ie your spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners, (but only where you are aware that your partner has the interest) within the following descriptions:

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Staffordshire County Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you or your partner in connection with you carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you or your partner (or a body in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest) and

	Staffordshire County Council- (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Staffordshire County Council
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Staffordshire County Council for a month or longer
Corporate Tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) (a) the landlord is Staffordshire County Council and (b) the tenant is a body in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Staffordshire County Council; and (b) either- (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class

6. Where you consider that disclosure of the details of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest could lead you, or a person connected with you, being subject to violence or intimidation if the interest is entered on the register, then, if the Monitoring Officer agrees, copies of the register that are available for public inspection and any published version of the register will exclude details of the interest but may state that you have an interest the details of which are withheld.

7. Where it becomes apparent to you at a meeting of the County Council (or Committee, sub-Committee, Joint Committee or Joint Sub-Committee of the County Council) that you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter which is to be or is being considered at the meeting that is not included on the register of interests then;
 - (i) you must disclose the interest to the meeting,
 - (ii) unless the interest is the subject of a pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days.

9. Where you are present at a meeting of the County Council (or Committee, sub-Committee, Joint Committee or Joint Sub-Committee of the County Council) and you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter which is to be or is being considered at the meeting then
 - (i) you may not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting, and
 - (ii) you may not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting, unless you have a written dispensation from the County Council in respect of either or both (i) or (ii) above.

10. The County Council's Standing Orders require that if you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter under discussion at a meeting of the County Council (or Committee, sub-Committee, Joint Committee or Joint Sub-Committee of the County Council) you must notify the Chairman that you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the matter and the nature of the interest, and leave the meeting room until consideration of the item in question is concluded.

11. Section 34 of the Localism Act sets out a number of offences relating to the notification and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, participating in matters in which you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and knowingly or recklessly providing false or misleading information in relation to your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. All of these offences are subject to criminal penalties which include a fine of up to £5000 and disqualification from being a Councillor for up to 5 years.

Gifts and Hospitality

12. The acceptance, or offering of, gifts and hospitality by members is not merely an administrative issue; it reflects directly upon the public perception of members and of the authority and may have criminal offence implications.

13. It may be entirely appropriate to accept an offer, or to make one, but you must give consideration to the appropriateness of your actions together with how that action may be perceived by someone looking on.

14. A particular concern to bear in mind is that you should do nothing which might be considered to place yourself – or others within the authority - under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations.

15. You should note that, in respect of both the giving and receiving of gifts and hospitality, there are possible criminal offences under the Bribery Act 2010 with penalties including imprisonment of up to 10 years.
16. If you receive, or refuse the offer of, any gifts or hospitality worth over £25 in connection with your role as a member of the County Council then you will need to complete the relevant form:
<http://solapps.staffordshire.gov.uk/SCC/CXO/GiftsHospitality/>
17. Should you require it, advice and assistance is available from Member and Democratic Services or the Monitoring Officer.

Planning Committee Members' Guidance Protocol

18. In addition to this Members' Code of Conduct there is further guidance for members of the Planning Committee. The aim of the Guidance Protocol is to ensure that in the planning process there are no grounds for suggesting that a decision of the Planning Committee has been unfair, biased, partial or not well founded in any way.
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/committeesold/standards/complaining/complaints.aspx>

Complaints

19. If a member of the public is unhappy about the way that a member has behaved, they may complain to the Monitoring Officer of Staffordshire County Council.
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/committeesold/standards/complaining/complaints.aspx>

GUIDANCE ON MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Councillors and Officers both have important but distinct roles. The relationship between them has to function effectively in order for them to be able to carry out their respective roles. The purpose of this guidance is to offer advice to Councillors and Officers on how to conduct that relationship in a way that allows both to do their jobs and enhances the reputation of the County Council.
- 1.2 Although both councillors and officers depend upon one another to be able to do their respective jobs, councillors, in particular, are reliant upon officers for information and support. Because of this all officers need to be aware of their responsibility when called upon to provide support and assistance to councillors to enable them to do their job effectively. Whenever a councillor raises a question with an officer a response must be given promptly. When promises are made to Councillors they need to be kept.

2. THE ROLE OF COUNCILLORS

- 2.1 Councillors may have a number of complex roles including politician, policy maker, representative, constituent advocate and Council/Committee worker. It is not the role of a Councillor to involve themselves in the day to day management of Council services.
- **Councillor** – in this capacity Councillors will usually belong to particular groupings represented on the Council and will express political values and support the policies of the group to which they belong.
 - **Policy Maker** - Members may have personal, individual or collective responsibility depending on their role for the Council and its activities. They set the direction of the Council; are responsible for ensuring that adequate management arrangements are in place; develop and allocate the Council's physical, financial and human resources and monitor the performance, development, continuity and overall well-being of the Council.
 - **Division Member** –in this capacity Councillors interpret and express the wishes of the electorate, advocate on behalf of constituents and seek to account for service priorities, allocation of resources and ultimate performance of the Council. Councillors may also be appointed to outside bodies and the role can vary from representing the views of the Council to acting according to individual judgement.
 - **Members, collectively, therefore Need to:**
 - Determine vision and values and ensure staff commitment;
 - Ensure standards are properly established and monitored;
 - Link service and corporate objectives;
 - Enable local people to resolve problems and issues faced by the community;
 - Ensure community needs are fed into strategy formulation and service provision;
 - Develop and support community leadership.
 - **Cabinet Members and Leader of the Council** - The Leader and Members of the Cabinet have executive power to take decisions. Working closely with the Corporate Management Team, they will develop the policy framework and budget proposal for Council. The Leader and Cabinet are then responsible for

implementing the approved policy framework by collectively and individually making decisions in keeping with the Council's scheme of delegation.

- **Opposition Members** - All Members should be given timely access to information required in their role as Councillors and have the same rights and obligations in their relationship with officers.

3. THE ROLE OF OFFICERS

3.1 Officers of the Council have the following main roles:

- Initiate policy proposals;
- Implement all Council policies;
- Manage the services for which the Council has given them responsibility. They are accountable for the efficiency and effectiveness of those services and for proper professional practice in discharging their responsibilities and taking decisions, within agreed policy;
- Provide professional advice to the Council, its Committees and Members and the public in respect of their service;
- Ensure that the Council acts in a lawful way.

4. RESPECT AND TRUST

4.1 The relationship between Councillors and Officers should be based on mutual respect and trust. Officers should avoid criticising Councillors, and Councillors should avoid criticising officers, in order to maintain that trust and respect.

4.2 In dealings between Councillors and Officers neither should seek to take unfair advantage of their position. Councillors should not press employees to do things that they are not empowered to do.

4.3 Officers must not press Councillors to make a decision in their favour, nor raise personal matters to do with their job, nor make claims or allegations about other employees. (The only exception to this rule is where the officer wishes to report possible wrongdoing under the Council's "Whistleblowing" procedure.)

4.4 Reports from officers should be in the name of the relevant Chief Officer. Reports may be discussed with councillors, such as with the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder or Chair of the relevant Committee, and the Councillors concerned may make suggestions as to the contents of the report. However, the content remains the responsibility of the Chief Officer and amendments can only be made by him or her. (This does not apply to the recommendations to Cabinet or the front sheet to a Cabinet report on which the Cabinet Member has the final say).

4.5 Officers must deal honestly with members and not attempt to mislead them. Reports and all other communications with members must be clear concise and in plain English.

Familiarity

4.6 Close personal familiarity between individual Councillors and Officer should be avoided and the relationship maintained on a professional basis.

- 4.7 The holders of office should, in public, always be addressed by their office such as “Chairman”, “Vice-Chairman” etc. At formal meetings it would be usual for officers and members to address each other by their surname and title.
- 4.8 In less formal environments, the use of first names as a means of address is usually acceptable. However, some individual members and officers may feel more comfortable with the more formal mode of address, and allowance should be made for such individual preferences where known.

5. INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

- 5.1 It is vital for Chief Officers and officers to keep councillors informed about the major issues concerning the County Council. Just as importantly, councillors should be informed about proposals that affect their electoral division before they are announced publicly, and should be invited to attend County Council initiated events within their electoral division.
- 5.2 Where an issue affecting a particular division is to be discussed by the Cabinet or a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel on which the local councillor does not serve, the councillor will be invited to attend and may speak on it if he or she wishes to do so. (This is of course subject to any overriding requirement of the Members Code of Conduct).
- 5.3 Where councillor requests information, the fact of that request, and the information supplied, may be brought to the attention of the Cabinet Member/Chair concerned by the relevant Chief Officer.
- 5.4 Councillors requests for information must always be given high priority and a response given within 2 working days.

Access to Papers and other County Council Information

- 5.5 Councillors have all the rights available to members of the public and may request individual copies of any agendas of the Cabinet and of Committees, Sub-Committees or Panels of which they are not members.
- 5.6 Additionally, if a councillor is able to demonstrate a "need to know" in his or her role as a County Councillor, officers should provide the relevant information, including exempt or confidential information, to that councillor.
- 5.7 Special care needs to be taken when a councillor has a significant personal or business relationship with a constituent about whom he or she is seeking information. In such circumstances councillors are advised to consider their Code of Conduct and consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation as necessary.

How can the Information be used?

- 5.8 Any County Council information provided to a member should only be used by the member for the purpose for which it was provided. Confidential information must remain confidential.

6. POLITICAL ACTIVITY

- 6.1 Senior officers cannot be councillors or MPs, nor can they speak or write publicly as private individuals on party political issues.
- 6.2 Officers are employed by the County Council as a whole and are responsible to the Chief Executive and their respective Chief Officers rather than to individual members of the Council.
- 6.3 Regular contact between senior officers and senior politicians on matters affecting the County Council is essential.
- 6.4 County Council decisions can only be made in accordance with the Constitution. (Decisions by party political groups do not constitute County Council decisions). All information or advice needed to make a decision should be given to the Cabinet or the relevant Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel.

Officer advice to party groups

- 6.5 It is possible that senior officers may be asked to attend a party group meeting whether of the controlling party group or of a minority party group.
- 6.6 Any such request should be made or referred to the Chief Executive. If agreed it will be on the basis that a similar arrangements will be made for the other groups should they so request.
- 6.7 Officer attendance at political group meetings is voluntary.
- 6.8 Officers are entitled to have their political neutrality respected should they agree to attend the group meeting, and to be treated in a fair and proper way. They must not be placed in a position where they feel that their political impartiality or integrity are put at risk, and should leave the meeting having given information on the issue in question, and before the Group decide what view to take on it as a political group.
- 6.9 Officers should not be expected to be present at meetings, or parts of meetings, when matters of party business are to be discussed. Officers should be reminded on each occasion that they should leave a meeting if they are to be asked to comment on matters beyond the brief agreed in advance, or if they feel vulnerable or that their integrity was being put in question.
- 6.10 Special care needs to be exercised whenever officers are involved in providing information and advice to a party group meeting that includes persons who are not members or co-opted members of the County Council. For reasons of confidentiality, officers may not be able to provide the same level of information and advice as they would to a "members-only" meeting.
- 6.11 Officers must respect the confidentiality of any party group discussions by not relaying the content of any such discussion to another party group.

Relationships between Officers and Portfolio Holders and Chairs

- 6.12 It is clearly important that there should be a close working relationship between Portfolio Holders, the Chairs of Committees and the relevant Chief Officer and other senior officers. However, such relationships should never be allowed to become so close, or appear to be so close, as to impair the officers' ability to deal impartially with other members and other party groups.
- 6.13 Officers are accountable to their Chief Officer and must not go beyond the bounds of whatever authority they have been given by their Chief Officer.

7. REDRESS

- 7.1 If a councillor feels that an officer has acted contrary to the spirit of this guidance they should raise it with the Officer's line manager or Chief Officer.
- 7.2 If an officer has similar concerns about a councillor, he or she should raise the matter with their Chief Officer who may then raise the matter with the individual member and/or Party Group Leader.
- 7.3 If councillors are having difficulty in obtaining information they need to carry out their duties as a County Councillor, they should contact the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

8. SUMMARY

8.1 Officer Commitments to Councillors:

- We recognise that we are here to support you to do your job as a County Councillor and will provide you with support and assistance when requested
- We will show understanding for your respective roles, workloads and pressures
- We will treat you with respect and deal with you honestly
- We will not use our relationship with you to advance our personal interests or to influence decisions improperly
- We will give your queries priority and answer them quickly (within 2 working days)
- We will ensure that local members are informed about our proposals for their division before we announce them publicly
- If we make a promise to you we will deliver on it on time
- We will make sure that all communications with you whether formal or informal are clear, concise and in plain English.

8.2 Member Commitments to Officers:

- We will provide political leadership and direction
- We treat you with respect, dignity and courtesy
- We will show understanding for your respective roles, workloads and pressures
- We recognise that you must operate with political neutrality and will respect this
- We will not take unfair advantage of our position as a Councillor
- We will not subject you to bullying or undue pressure
- When you give us information in confidence we will respect that confidentiality.

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MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Contents

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17. Tax, National Insurance, Sickness and Pensions
18. What if a member does not wish to be paid allowances?
19. Members responsibilities

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Section is to give guidance on members' entitlement to allowances and expenses.
- 1.2 It is extremely important, both from the member's personal point of view and for the County Council, that the entitlements under the arrangements are clear and transparent and that the possibility of erroneous claims is avoided.
- 1.3 Set out in Annex 1 is the formal County Council Scheme for the payment of members' allowances.
- 1.4 This Scheme addresses various aspects of allowances payable to members. It replaces all previous guidance issued by the County Council on the subject.
- 1.5 Members can obtain further guidance, if necessary, from the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

2. Statutory requirements

- 2.1 One provision in the Local Government Act 1972 remains in force relating to County Councils:-

Sections 3 and 5 respectively authorise the payment of allowances to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council.

2.2 The primary legislation under which the main allowances are now paid is Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Sections 99 and 100 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 issued under the Acts, prescribe the detailed controls and require authorities to make a scheme covering the payment of certain allowances to members.

3. How the allowances are determined

3.1 The County Council is required, by law, to pay a basic allowance the amount of which is at the Council's discretion. The County Council pays a basic allowance which takes all aspects of the role of a member into account, other than special responsibilities.

3.2 In the event that any Member holds more than one position for which a special responsibility allowance is payable he shall be entitled to claim only one of those allowances.

3.3 In respect of the payment of allowances covered by the previous paragraph the County Council makes financial provision for these allowances within the estimates, and reviews the allowances annually.

4. Different types of allowance

4.1 The allowances to which members may be entitled are listed below:-

- basic allowance
- special responsibility allowance
- Chairman and Vice- Chairman allowances
- carers'/dependants' allowance
- subsistence and travelling allowances
- meetings allowance
- reimbursement of telephone and broadband line rental

5. Basic Allowance

5.1 An elected member is entitled to receive a basic allowance for each year from 1 April to 31 March. By law, the amount of basic allowance has to be the same for each member during that period. A member who is not a member for the whole of the financial year receives an allowance reduced proportionately as provided for in the Scheme.

5.2 The County Council has decided that the annual basic allowance will be paid by 12 monthly instalments in arrears on the last Wednesday of each month.

5.3 In the year of a county council election the basic allowance for the month preceding the election will be adjusted to cover the period ending on the fourth day after the date of the election, this being the date of automatic retirement of councillors.

In the month of the election returning and newly elected members will then receive their basic allowance pro-rata from the fifth day after the election to the end of the month, in accordance with the Scheme already in force for that financial year.

6. Special Responsibility Allowance

- 6.1 The regulations permit the County Council to pay an allowance to certain councillors who have special responsibilities which must be defined in the Scheme. Those special responsibilities have to fall within certain categories defined in the regulations.
- 6.2 The amounts paid to individual councillors can differ and the annual allowance is reduced proportionately for any period during the year when a councillor does not have special responsibilities.
- 6.3 The special responsibility allowance is paid by 12 monthly instalments in arrears on the last Wednesday day of each month.
- 6.4 In the year of a county council election the special responsibility allowance will be paid to returning members who will remain in that position until the annual council meeting.

Special responsibility allowances will be pro-rata from the date of the annual council meeting until the end of that month.

7. Chairman and Vice-Chairman Allowances

- 7.1 The allowances paid to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council will be increased annually in line with the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the increase in the basic allowance. The level of allowances is shown in Schedule 3. The allowance is paid by 12 monthly instalments in arrears on the last Wednesday of each month.

8. Carers'/Dependants' Allowance

- 8.1 A member may claim an allowance of the actual hourly rate of care provision up to a maximum of £14.42 per hour subject to the conditions below:-
- such payments may only be claimed and made in respect of children aged 16 years of age or under and/or other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required (which should be submitted to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation)
 - allowances claimed and paid should be based on actual expenditure and be accompanied by appropriate receipts
 - allowances should not be payable to reimburse a member for payments made to a member of the claimant's household (i.e. a person usually residing with a claimant)

9. Subsistence Allowance

- 9.1 A member (including a co-opted member and/or independent persons consulted as part of the Council's Standards arrangements) is entitled to claim subsistence allowance at the rates adopted by the County Council from time to time following consideration of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The current rates will be available on the Staffordshire Web and the Members'

Intranet. In calculating the period of absence, reasonable time properly spent in travelling to and from the meeting can be taken into account.

- 9.2 To be entitled to claim, members are required to certify that expenditure has actually been incurred by them on subsistence and to claim only for that expenditure up to the maximum amount allowed within the scheme.
- 9.3 There are occasions when members on approved duties need to take a main meal that will be more expensive than the allowance permitted by the scheme such as when attending venues in major cities or on trains. In such circumstances, members can claim the reasonable cost of the meal taken.
- 9.4 Members are advised that all receipts for expenditure claimed for under the scheme should be forwarded to Member and Democratic Services for retention as proof of the claim.
- 9.5 There may be times when a member is required to be away overnight. If accommodation is required then it can be arranged and paid for in advance rather than the member incurring the expense and being reimbursed up to the maximum in schedule 4.
- 9.6 Members may occasionally be required to make overseas visits on County Council business in connection with one or other of the specific functions of the County Council. In those circumstances subsistence costs can be reimbursed provided they are reasonable.
- 9.7 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will supply details of these allowances on request.

10. Travelling allowance

- 10.1 A member is entitled to claim travelling allowance when expenditure is incurred on travelling to attend an approved duty. The rates applicable to this allowance are shown in schedule 5.
- 10.2 If members are using their own transport, the mileage claimed should be the mileage as calculated by Internal Audit and recorded on the on-line expenses claims system. The mileage claimed for must, if necessary, be properly justified, by the member recording the starting point of his route, particularly if additional mileage results from, for example, authorised visits to other sites on the route.
- 10.3 When it is financially advantageous to the County Council to do so, members should use any transport arranged by officers to travel to meetings or site visits, etc.
- 10.4 It is possible for senior citizens to apply for and obtain the appropriate rail card entitling them to concessionary fares at about half the full price. The County Council has agreed, where "senior citizen" members are willing to use this privilege when travelling on County Council business, to reimburse the member on the first occasion used, the cost of the appropriate annual "senior citizen" rail card. The actual cost of travel must be claimed when the facility is used.

10.5 If the member uses public transport facilities then the following rates apply:-

Mode of travel	Maximum rates
Public transport (within county) Public transport (outside county)	Standard rail fare or bus fares Standard bus fares Standard or first-class rail fare
	Note 1 Members are asked to use their discretion in travelling first-class. For example, an off-peak journey to London might comfortably be managed in second-class. Travel at peak times or needing confidential discussions on route may suggest first-class as more appropriate.
	Note 2 In the majority of cases member travel should be booked through officers and in advance to ensure the most advantageous rates. However, if urgency dictates that a member purchases tickets himself/herself, the receipt must be kept as proof for reimbursement of actual costs incurred.
Taxi cab or cabs (i) In cases of urgency or where no public transport is reasonably available (ii) In other cases	Actual fare and reasonable gratuity Not exceeding the amount of the fare for travel by appropriate public transport. Note: In claims relating to hire of taxis or cabs, members should indicate in writing, the circumstances in which the expenditure was incurred; whether it was incurred on grounds of urgency or because there were no public facilities available.

11. Meetings Allowance

11.1 Appointed members (i.e. church and parent representatives on the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee, or any Committee (whatever entitled), whose functions include the education function), including a co-opted member and/or independent persons consulted as part of the Council's Standards arrangements, are entitled to receive an annual Meetings Allowance of £588.

12. Reimbursement of Telephone and Broadband line rental

12.1 In addition to the opportunity for the provision of a dedicated County Council smartphone members are reimbursed their telephone line rental up to a maximum of £126.00 per year. on the production of a recent telephone bill.

- 12.2 Members without a County Council provided broadband line can also claim their broadband line rental, up to a maximum of £190.00 on the production of a recent telephone bill.
- 12.3 If, a member is also a district or borough councillor and you receive a refund from the district/borough for telephone and/or broadband line rental, the county council will not reimburse that member for the same line.

13. Pensions

- 13.1 As of 1 April 2014 new councillors will not be able to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. Any members who have joined the scheme before 31 March 2014 will be allowed to continue their membership for their **current** term of office (renewal on re-election will not be permitted).

14. Calculating the time allowed

- 14.1 Reasonable travelling time is allowed for in calculating the period of absence for the purpose of claiming subsistence allowances.
- 14.2 It occasionally happens that a member of the County Council moves home to somewhere outside the county but remains as a councillor until the next County Council election. Additionally, a member may be required to work outside the county area on a temporary basis. In either of these circumstances the councillor is requested to discuss the arrangements for travelling and subsistence claims with his Group Leader and the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

15. Submission and payment of claims

- 15.1 The County Council's scheme requires members to submit all claims for allowances within two months of the end of the month to which the claim relates. Allowances will be forfeit if not promptly claimed.

16. Approved Duties

- 16.1 Members may only claim for travel, subsistence and other allowances for attendance at approved duties detailed below:
- Attendance at calendared meetings of the Council or any of its Executive, Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Policy Advisory Groups etc
 - Attendance at visits of inspection of sites and buildings arranged by any of the bodies listed above (including children's home)
 - Attendance at meetings of any Outside Body or bodies to which the member has been appointed at the Annual Council meeting
 - The doing of anything as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of an outside body on which the member is representing the Council.

- Authorised briefings for Committees/Panels/Executive meetings including all meetings which are called by officers of the Council e.g. Pre Agenda meetings.
- Authorised attendance at Conferences/Seminars.
- Duties undertaken by a Chairman/Executive Member in connection with his/her role.
- Member Learning and Development Events, including Member Personal Development Planning meetings.
- Attendance at Staffordshire County Council Local Democracy Events (including briefings)
- Attendance at any event that the County Council invites you to represent the Council (but not to other events to which you may be invited as a county councillor)
- Attendance at Parish Council meetings where you are representing the County Council (but not where you are also a member of the Parish Council or representing the Parish or District)
- Attendance at governor meetings at which you are representing the County Council

16.2 The lists of outside bodies at which attendance is authorised by the County Council are maintained by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and are varied by him from time to time after consultation with the Chairman of the County Council and the Leader of the Council. Copies of the current lists are available from the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

16.3 If, as an appointee, or nominee, of the County Council, a member is asked to attend a meeting of a body which is not on the County Council's lists of authorised outside bodies then travelling and subsistence allowances can only be claimed if attendance has been approved beforehand for this purpose, which requires the use of the Gold Form¹. Such approvals must be given before attendance, otherwise any allowance may not be payable.

16.4 If a member has been appointed to serve on an outside body for which attendance is not regarded by the County Council as an approved duty for the purpose of the payment of a member's allowance i.e. a body which is not included in the lists of bodies referred to, or approved under 16.3 above, the member may, in some cases,

¹ ***Form (not part of the Constitution) to be signed by members for approval, in advance, of a claim for travelling and subsistence allowances for attendance at an event, function, meeting, outside body, conference or course which is not included in the County Council's approved lists of such events, functions, meetings, bodies, conferences and courses.***

claim direct from the outside body concerned. In such cases the member may wish to consult the body concerned.

17. Tax, national insurance, sickness and pensions

- 17.1 Basic and special responsibility allowances and the allowances paid to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council, are all liable to tax under Schedule E. The allowances are paid by the Director of Finance and Resources through a payroll which accounts for the tax on the PAYE system using a code number issued by the Inland Revenue. In arriving at the code number it is a matter for the individual member to agree direct with the Inland Revenue any allowances which may help to reduce the tax liability. Subsistence claims for meetings in County Buildings are also taxable. More detailed guidance on Inland Revenue practice is available from the Director of Finance and Resources.
- 17.2 The same allowances are liable for National Insurance Class I contributions notwithstanding that the member may be employed elsewhere or be self employed, unless:-
- (a) the allowances due for the month are less than an amount prescribed from time to time by the Inland Revenue, or
 - (b) the member is male and over 65 years old or female and over 60 years old.
- 17.3 It is understood that the Benefits Agency may regard a member's basic and special responsibility allowances as affecting, for social security purposes, that members' entitlement to benefits. Claiming such allowance(s) could, therefore, affect a member's entitlement to benefits. In these circumstances, they should seek advice from the Benefits Agency.
- 17.4 Under self assessment regulations members are required to declare to the Inland Revenue any taxable benefits they receive. Such benefits may arise if members are deemed to have made a profit on mileage allowances, or if they are provided with certain other facilities, for example with a computer, fax or telephone answering machine at less than the full cost of provision. Any member who has received a taxable benefit will be provided with a form P11E by the Director of Finance and Resources, which will provide the information to be declared to the Inland Revenue, and from whom further advice is available on request.
- 17.5 It is also possible that the payment of basic or special responsibility allowance(s) or an allowance to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the County Council could affect a member's entitlement to an occupational pension or other financial arrangements with previous employers.
- 17.6 Members who are unable to perform duties in that capacity as a result of sickness in some circumstances may be eligible for statutory sick pay.
- 18. What if a member does not wish to be paid allowances?**

- 18.1 A member who wishes to forego the right to be paid any of the allowances covered by the County Council's scheme may do so in writing to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation specifying which allowance(s) the member elects to forego and the date(s) upon which the election is to become effective. Such an election may not be revoked until the following 1 April.

19. Members' responsibilities

- 19.1 It is the personal responsibility of members to ensure the accuracy of all information entered on their claim forms relating to duties performed. Processes arranged by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation are designed to ensure that all claims relate to properly approved duties. The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will ensure that the correct financial limits on the various allowances are complied with. In all other respects members are accountable for the accuracy and reasonableness of their claims.

Annex 1 – The County Council’s Scheme for the Payment of Members’ Basic, Special Responsibility and other Allowances

The Staffordshire County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, hereby make the following scheme.

1. This scheme, may be cited as the Staffordshire County Council Members’ Allowances scheme and shall have effect from 1 April 2007.

2. In this scheme:-

"councillor" means a member of the Staffordshire County Council who is a councillor;

"year" means the 12 months ending with 31 March;

"County Council election" means an election for the appointment of all councillors and does not include by-elections.

3. Basic allowance

3.1 Subject to paragraph 10, the total amount payable to each councillor for a year is set out in Schedule 1. The basic allowance is payable, in a year in which there is no County Council election, monthly in arrears on the last Wednesday of each month.

3.2 In the year of a county council election the basic allowance for the month preceding the election will be adjusted to cover the period ending on the fourth day after the date of the election, this being the date of automatic retirement of councillors.

Returning and newly elected members will then receive their basic allowance pro-rata from the fifth day after the election to the end of the month, in accordance with the Scheme already in force for that financial year.

4. Special responsibility allowance

4.1 For each year a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those councillors who hold special responsibilities in relation to the authority as fall within the categories defined in paragraph 9 of the Regulations and as specified in the Schedule to this scheme.

4.2 (a) The special responsibility allowances shall be payable:-

(i) In a year in which there is no County Council election, by monthly instalments in arrears on the last Wednesday of each month, and

(ii) In the year of a county council election the special responsibility allowance will be paid to returning members who will remain in that position until the annual council meeting. Special responsibility allowances will be paid pro-rata from the date of the annual council meeting until the end of that month.

- (b) Subject to paragraph 10, the amount of each such allowance paid in the year shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in Schedule 2 to this scheme.

5. Carers/Dependants' Allowance

- 5.1 An allowance of the actual hourly rate of care provision up to a maximum of £14.42 per hour is payable to any member subject as follows:-
- (i) such payments may only be claimed and made in respect of children aged 16 years of age or under and/or other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required (such evidence to be submitted to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation;
 - (ii) allowances claimed and paid must be based on actual expenditure (up to the maximum hourly rate) and be accompanied by appropriate receipts;
 - (iii) allowances will not be paid to reimburse the claimant for payments made to a member of the claimants' household.

6. Subsistence Allowances

- 6.1 Subsistence allowances are payable to any member (including a co-opted member and/or an appointed member (see paragraph 8 below) and/or an independent persons consulted as part of the Council's Standards arrangements) at the rates set out in Schedule 4 subject to the member certifying that expenditure has actually been incurred by the member on subsistence. The actual expenditure may be more or less than the amount claimed.
- 6.2 The appropriate charge for all meals taken at premises owned or administered by the County Council should be paid. However, if a meal is made available free of charge from any source during the period to which the allowance relates, then the appropriate amount must be deducted from the claim.
- 6.3 Where main meals (ie breakfast, lunch or dinner) are taken on trains during a period for which there is an entitlement to a subsistence allowance, the reasonable cost of the meals (including VAT) may be reimbursed in full, provided the time on duty meets the conditions set out in Schedule 4. In such circumstances, reimbursement of the reasonable cost of a meal would replace the entitlement to the subsistence rate for the appropriate period.
- 6.4 Special allowances apply if a member is required to be away overnight or to undertake duties abroad. The overnight allowances are set out in Schedule 4. The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will, on request, supply details of the allowances payable for duties undertaken abroad.

7. Travelling Allowance

- 7.1 Travelling allowances are payable to any member (including a co-opted member and/or an appointed member (see paragraph 8 below) and/or independent

persons consulted as part of the Council's Standards arrangements) in accordance with the rates set out in Schedule 5.

8. Co-optees Allowance

- 8.1 Subject to paragraph 10 below, an annual co-optees allowance of £588 is payable to appointed members (ie church and parent representatives on the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee or on any Committee (whatever entitled) whose functions include the education function); including a co-opted member and/or independent persons consulted as part of the Council's Standards arrangements. In either case such amount shall be paid monthly in arrears on the last Wednesday of each month.
- 8.2 The amount of co-optees allowance payable to any member who presides at a meeting of a Scrutiny Panel where the functions of that Committee under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 relate wholly or partly to any education functions which are the responsibility of the Council's Executive, shall not be less than the minimum amount of any special responsibility allowance payable under this scheme to a person who presides at meetings of any other of the Council's Committees or Sub-Committees.

9. Pensions

- 9.1 In accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel, any elected member of the County Council, who is under 70 years of age, is entitled to claim a pension from the County Council and both the basic and special responsibility allowances are to be treated as amounts in respect of which such a pension will be payable.

10. Renunciation

- 10.1 A councillor may, by notice given to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation, elect to forego any part of his or her entitlement to an allowance under paragraphs 3 or 4 of this scheme.
- 10.2 An appointed member (see paragraph 8 above) or independent persons consulted as part of the Council's Standards arrangements may, by notice given to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation, elect to forego any part of his or her entitlement to an allowance under paragraph 8 of this scheme.
- 10.3 Any such notice shall specify the effective date of renunciation and once given the notice may not be revoked otherwise than with effect from 1 April in any year.

11. Part-year entitlement

- 11.1 The provisions of this paragraph shall have effect to regulate the entitlements of a councillor to basic allowance, special responsibility allowance, and to the entitlements of appointed members (see paragraph 8 above) and independent persons consulted as part of the Council's Standards arrangements, to a co-optees allowance where, in the course of a year:-

(a) this scheme is amended; or

- (b) that person becomes or ceases to be a councillor or an appointed or independent member; or
- (c) that councillor accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility for which a special responsibility allowance is payable.

11.2 In relation to basic allowances and special responsibility allowances:-

- (a) if an amendment to this scheme changes the amount to which a councillor is entitled; or
- (b) where the term of office of a councillor begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year; or
- (c) where the special responsibilities of a councillor do not subsist throughout the year; or
- (d) where the scheme is amended as referred to in (a) above and the term of office and/or the special responsibilities of the councillor do not subsist throughout any part of the periods within the year distinguished by the payment of different amounts for these allowances; then

the entitlement to the allowances shall be calculated by reference to the proportion the number of days in each such period bears to the number of days in that year.

11.3 In relation to the co-optees allowance:-

- (a) if an amendment to this scheme changes the amount to which an appointed member (see paragraph 8 above) or an independent member of the Standards Committee is entitled; or
- (b) where the term of office of an appointed member or an independent member begins otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year; or
- (c) where the scheme is amended as referred to in (a) above and the term of office of the appointed or independent member does not subsist throughout any parts of the periods within the year distinguished by the payment of different amounts for this allowance, then

the entitlement to the allowance shall be calculated by reference to the proportion the number of days in each such period bears to the number of days in that year.

12. Administration

12.1 All claims for the payment of:

- (a) dependants' carers' allowance;
- (b) travelling and subsistence allowance; and

(c) co-optees' allowance;

must be submitted to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation for payment within two months of the meeting taking place. Failure to comply with this timescale will result in the allowance being forfeit.

12.2 Where a member of the County Council is also a member of another authority, that member may not receive an allowance from more than one authority in respect of the same duty.

12.3 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation shall maintain on behalf of the authority a record of all payments made under this scheme which shall:-

(a) specify in relation to each payment the name of the recipient and the amount and nature of the payment;

(b) be kept available, at all reasonable times, for inspection (free of charge) by any local government elector for the area of the authority.

12.4 A person entitled to inspect the record may make a copy of any part of it.

13. Review of allowances

13.1 The allowances payable under this scheme shall be reviewed annually based on the National Joint Council for Local Government Services annual review, and any percentage increase applied automatically.

14. Suspension or partial suspension of a member

14.1 Where a member of the County Council is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as such member in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under that Part, the part of all, or any, of the following allowances payable to him or her in respect of the period for which he or she is suspended, or partially suspended, may be withheld:-

- Basic allowance
- Special responsibility allowance
- Travelling and subsistence allowances
- Co-optees allowance
- Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council allowances

15. Revision or revocation of the scheme

15.1 This scheme may only be amended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Part 3 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

SCHEDULE 1

	1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 £	1 April 2014 To 31 March 2015
Basic Allowance	9,244	9,022

SCHEDULE 2

Special Responsibility Allowances

Special Responsibility Allowance	1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 £	1 April 2014 To 31 March 2015
Leader of the Council	35,000	35,000
Deputy Leader of the Council	26,250	26,250
Cabinet Member (5)	17,500	17,500
Support Members (3)	11,550	11,550
Leader of the Principal Opposition	17,500	17,500
Leader of the Minority Opposition (2)	1,750	1,750
Chair of Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee	7,325	7,325
Vice Chair of Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee	2,664	2,664
Chair of Select Committee (3)	6,658	6,658
Vice Chair of Select Committee (3)	2,331	2,331
Chair of Planning Committee	6,658	6,658
Vice Chair of Planning Committee	2,331	2,331
Chair of Audit and Standards Committee	3,996	3,996
Vice Chair of Audit and Standards Committee	1,332	1,332
Chair of Pensions Committee	3,996	3,996
Vice Chair of Pensions Committee	1,332	1,322
Shadow Cabinet Members (6)	5,250	5,250
Chair of the Police and Crime Panel	920	920

Members may only claim one Special Responsibility Allowance

Note – These amounts follow the recommendations of the County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

SCHEDULE 3

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council

	1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 £	1 April 2014 To 31 March 2015
Chairman of the County Council	16,649	16,815
Vice-Chairman of the County Council	8,322	8,405

The allowance above is paid under Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972 and does not affect members entitlement to a Special Responsibility Allowance

SCHEDULE 4

Subsistence Allowances

	Up to a maximum of £
Breakfast	
A duty of four hours – three of which should be before 11 am	£5
Lunch	
A duty of four hours including 12 noon to 2 pm	£7
Tea	
A duty of four hours including 3 pm to 6 pm	£3
Dinner	
A duty of four hours ending after 7 pm	£12
Overnight	
London allowance for overnight accommodation	£92
All other for overnight accommodation	£80

	£
Overseas allowance per day	£10.89

SCHEDULE 5

Mileage Allowances – Cars, Motorcycles and Bicycles

	Rate per mile
All motor cars	50 p
All motorcycles	25 p
Bicycle allowance	20 p
Passenger rate	5p per passenger

SECTION 4

CITIZENS AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Citizens' rights

- 1.1 Citizens have a number of rights under this Constitution. These rights set out the ways in which Citizens can participate in the County Council's decision making arrangements.
- 1.2 A Summary of Citizens rights is given below and they are covered in more detail in the relevant parts of Procedural Standing Orders in Section 11 and the Access to Information Rules in Section 13.

2. Voting and petitions

- 2.1 Citizens on the electoral roll for the County area have the right to vote in any election or referendum organised by the County Council. They may also sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected mayor form of Constitution. If the number of signatures on the petition reaches the prescribed number (currently 5% of the Electoral Roll), the County Council will hold a referendum.
- 2.2 Citizens also have a right to submit or sign petitions to the County Council including electronic petitions which can be submitted via <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>. Petitions submitted to the County Council will be dealt with under the petition scheme appended to this section.
- 2.3 Further details on how petitions are dealt with can also be found in Section 11 Procedural Standing Orders.

3. Information

- 3.1 Full details of Citizen's rights of access to information and the County Council's decision making arrangements are given in Section 13 of the Constitution – Access to Information Procedure rules.
- 3.2 In Summary, Citizens have the right to:
- Attend meetings of the County Council and its Committees and Panels except where it is likely that confidential or exempt information will be disclosed during the meeting. Where this is the case, the meeting will be held in private and any reports containing confidential or exempt information will not be published;
 - Attend meetings of the Cabinet when key decisions are being considered;
 - Find out what key decisions will be taken by the Cabinet and when from the Council's Notice of Intended Key Decisions;
 - See reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Cabinet; and
 - Inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

4. Complaints

- 4.1 Citizens have the right to complain to the Council under its complaints scheme which can be found on the Council's website at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultationandfeedback/complimentscommentscomplaints>.
- 4.2 If Citizens are not satisfied by the response from the Council after using the Council's own complaints scheme they can then complain to the Local Government Ombudsman, details of how to complain to the Ombudsman are given as part of Council's complaints scheme.
- 4.3 Citizens can also complain about the conduct of elected Members of the County Council to the County Council's Monitoring Officer who will investigate and determine if a breach of the Councillors' Code of Conduct has occurred. Further details about the Councillors' Code of Conduct can be found in Section 3 – Members of the County Council.

5. Overview and Scrutiny

- 5.1 Citizens have the right to participate in the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements by suggesting topics for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review. More details can be found at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/decisionmakingcouncil/scrutinygetinvolved/>.
- 5.2 Citizens also have the right to attend meetings of the Council's overview and Scrutiny Committees and members of the public may be invited to participate in scrutiny activity at appropriate points.

6. Citizens' responsibilities

- 6.1 Citizens must not be violent, abusing or threatening to councillors or officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the County Council, councillors or officers.

Petitions

Staffordshire County Council wants to hear from people who live, work and study in the area about the things that matter to them. We welcome petitions which are one way for people to let us know their concerns. We will acknowledge all petitions sent or presented to the council within 10 working days of receipt. This acknowledgement will set out what we plan to do in response to the petition. We will treat something as a petition if it says it is a petition, or if it seems to us that it is meant to be one.

You can send paper petitions to:

Duncan Whitehouse, Democracy Manager – Scrutiny and Governance
Member and Democratic Services
Staffordshire County Council
Wedgwood Building
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH

Or create, sign and submit a petition online by following this link
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/doitonline/haveyoursay/> .

Or contact Duncan Whitehouse, Democracy Manager – Scrutiny and Governance, on 01785 276154 to make arrangements to hand a petition in.

Petitions can also be presented to a meeting of the full council. These meetings take place at least six times a year, dates and times can be found here <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=124> . If you would like to present your petition to the council, or would like your councillor or someone else to present it on your behalf, please contact Duncan Whitehouse, Democracy Manager – Scrutiny and Governance, on 01785 276154 at least 10 working days before the meeting and an officer will talk you through the process.

What are the guidelines for submitting a petition?

Petitions submitted to the council must include:

- a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition - it should state what action the petitioners wish the council to take (or stop taking)
- the name and address and signature of any person supporting the petition.

Petitions should be accompanied by contact details, including an address, for the petition organiser. This is the person we will contact to explain what we will do in

response to the petition. If the petition does not identify a petition organiser, we will contact signatories to the petition to agree who should act as the petition organiser.

Please tell us if the petition has been sent to anyone else as well as the County Council.

Petitions which we consider to be vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate are not acceptable.

What will the council do when it receives my petition?

An acknowledgement will be sent to the petition organiser within 10 working days of receiving the petition. It will explain what we plan to do in response to the petition and if and when they can expect to hear from us again. The acknowledgement will also be published on our website. The contact details of the petition organiser will not be published.

If we can do what your petition asks for, the acknowledgement may confirm our response that we will do this and the petition will be closed.

If the subject raised by the petition needs more investigation, we will tell you the steps we plan to take to do this, how you may be involved and when you can expect a final response.

If the petition has enough signatures to trigger a council debate (5,000 signatures), or a senior officer giving evidence (2,500 signatures), then the acknowledgment will confirm this and tell you when and where the meeting will take place and how you may be involved.

If the petition applies to a planning application, is a statutory petition (for example requesting a referendum on having an elected mayor), or on a matter where there is already an existing right of appeal, other procedures apply. Further information on all these procedures and how you can express your views is available on the council's website.

In the period immediately before an election or referendum we may need to deal with your petition differently – if this is the case we will explain the reasons and discuss the revised timescale which will apply.

If a petition does not follow the guidelines, the council may decide not to do anything further with it. In this case, we will write to you to explain the reasons.

So that people know what we are doing in response to the petitions we receive the details of all the petitions submitted to us will be published on our website, together with the acknowledgement and notification of the response, except in

cases where this would be inappropriate. Whenever possible we will also publish all correspondence relating to the petition (all personal details will be removed).

How will the council respond to petitions?

Our response to a petition will depend on what a petition asks for and how many people have signed it, but the steps we take in response may include one or more of the following:

- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's overview and scrutiny committee*
- calling a referendum

leading to writing to the petition organiser:

- setting out our views about the request in the petition
- explaining that we will take the action requested in the petition
- explaining why we will not take the action requested in the petition
- explaining what action we will take, if any, in response to the subject raised by the petition
- giving advice about how the subject raised by the petition might be pursued.

*Overview and scrutiny committees are committees of councillors who are responsible for scrutinising the work of the council and some partners – in other words, the overview and scrutiny committee has the power to hold the council's decision makers and some partners to account. You can find out more about our decision making and scrutiny arrangements by following this link <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/decisionmakingcouncil/> .

The council will consider all the specific actions it could take on the subject raised by a petition. If your petition is about something over which the council has no direct control (for example the local railway or hospital) we will consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body. The council works with a large number of local partners and where possible will work with these partners to respond to your petition. If we are not able to do this for any reason, then we will explain this to you. You can find more information on the services for which the council is responsible on our website.

If your petition is about something that a different council is responsible for we will give consideration to what the best method is for responding to it. This might consist of simply forwarding the petition to the other council, but could involve other steps. In any event, we will always notify you of the action we have taken.

Full council debates

If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures it will be debated by the full council (unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting). This means that the subject raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all County Councillors can attend. The council will usually consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. We will let you know about the specific arrangements for the debate and how you may be involved. The council may decide the response to the petition at this meeting or suggest what other steps should be taken. Where the council executive has to make the final decision on the response to the petition, the council may make recommendations to inform this decision.

The petition organiser will be notified of the council's resolutions.

This notification will also be published on our website.

Officer evidence

Your petition may ask for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting about something for which the officer is responsible as part of their job. For example, your petition may ask a senior council officer to explain progress on an issue, or to explain the advice given to elected members to enable them to make a particular decision.

If your petition contains at least 2,500 signatures, the relevant senior officer will give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee. A list of the senior staff that can be called to give evidence can be found here [see annex]. You should be aware that the overview and scrutiny committee may decide that it would be more appropriate for another officer to give evidence instead of any officer named in the petition – for instance if the named officer has changed jobs. The committee may also decide to call the relevant councillor to attend the meeting. Committee members will ask the questions at this meeting, but we will let you know the specific arrangements for the meeting and how you may be involved. The overview and scrutiny committee will make a report on its findings which may include recommendations for action.

The petition organiser will be sent a copy of the overview and scrutiny committee's report. The report will also be published on our website.

E-petitions

The council welcomes e-petitions which are created and submitted through our website [<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/doitonline/haveyoursay/>]. E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions.

The petition organiser will need to provide us with their name, postal address and email address. You will also need to decide how long you would like your petition to be open for signatures. Most petitions run for six months, but you can choose a shorter or longer timeframe, up to a maximum of 12 months.

When you create an e-petition, it may take five working days before it is published online. This is because we have to check that the content of your petition is suitable before it is made available for signature. If we feel we cannot publish your petition for some reason, we will contact you within this time to explain. You will be able to change and resubmit your petition if you wish. If you do not do this within 10 working days, a summary of the petition and the reason why it has not been accepted will be published under the 'rejected petitions' section of the website.

When an e-petition has closed for signature, it will automatically be submitted unless you would like to present it to a meeting of the council. If you would like to present your e-petition please contact Duncan Whitehouse, Head of Scrutiny and Support, on 01785 276154 in advance of the closure date. In the same way as a paper petition, you will receive an acknowledgement within 10 working days.

A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information. The acknowledgment and response will also be published on this website. We will not send you anything which is not relevant to the e-petition you have signed, unless you choose to receive other emails from us.

How do I 'sign' an e-petition?

You can see all the e-petitions currently available for signature on the council's website.

When you sign an e-petition you will be asked to provide your name, your postcode and a valid email address. When you have submitted this information you will be sent an email to the email address you have provided. This email will include a link which you must click on in order to confirm the email address is valid. Once this step is complete your 'signature' will be added to the petition. People visiting the e-petition will be able to see your name in the list of those who have signed it but your contact details will not be visible.

What can I do if I feel my petition has not been dealt with properly?

If you feel that we have not dealt with your petition properly, the petition organiser has the right to request a review of the steps that the council has taken in response to your petition. This will be undertaken by the Council's Corporate Review Committee, unless it has previously been involved in considering the petition in which case it will nominate another of the council's overview and scrutiny committees to undertake the review. It is helpful to everyone if the petition organiser gives a short explanation of the reasons why the steps the council has taken are not considered to be adequate.

The committee will usually consider your request at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will take place at the following meeting. Should the committee determine that we have not dealt with your petition adequately, it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. These powers include making recommendations to the council executive and arranging for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the full council.

Once the appeal has been considered the petition organiser will be informed of the results within 5 working days. The results of the review will also be published on our website.

Annex

List of the senior staff that can be called to give evidence

Chief Executive
Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive
Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Finance and Resources
Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation
Director of Strategy and Customer Services
Director of Public Health

SECTION 5

THE FULL COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Full Council

- 1.1 The Full Council is the County Council's primary democratic body. All 62 County Councillors meet together to debate matters of importance and fulfil the functions set out for full Council.

2. Functions of Full Council

- 2.1 The Full Council's primary responsibility is to adopt and approve the County Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The way in which changes to the Budget and Policy Framework are made is governed by the Budget and Policy Framework Rules appended to this section.

- 2.2 The County Council's policy framework sets out the major policies governing the Council's work and includes the following plans and strategies:-

- Annual Library Plan
- Best Value Performance Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Corporate Strategy
- Sustainable Community Strategy
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
- Development Plan documents contained in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework
- Youth Justice Plan
- Local Transport Plan

- 2.3 The Full Council is also responsible for setting the County Council's budget on an annual basis. This includes the allocation of financial resources to different services, proposed contingency funds, setting the level of Council Tax and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits.

- 2.4 The Full Council will also exercise the following functions, some of which may be delegated to Officers of the Authority under the Scheme of Delegation in Section 11 of this Constitution (These functions are indicated by an asterisk):
- Adopting and changing the Constitution on the recommendation of the Audit and Standards Committee.
 - Subject to the urgency procedure contained in the Access to Information Rules in Section 13 of this Constitution, making decisions about any matter in the discharge of an executive function which is covered by the policy framework or the budget where the decision maker is minded to make it in a manner which would not be in line with the policy framework or the budget.
 - Appointing and removing the Leader of the Council.
 - Setting the maximum number of Support Members.

- Agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for Committees and Panels, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them.
- Appointing representatives to outside bodies unless the appointment is an executive function or has been delegated by the Council.
- Adopting a Members Allowances Scheme on the recommendation of the Independent Panel.
- Changing the name of the area.
- Conferring the title of honorary alderman.
- Confirming the appointment of, and dismissing, the Head of Paid Service.
- Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting byelaws and promoting or opposing the making of local or personal Bills in Parliament.
- All local choice functions set out in the table below which the Council decides should be undertaken by itself rather than the Cabinet (if any).
- Adopting or changing the Members' Code of Conduct.
- The approval, for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with Regulation 10 or 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Plans) (England) Regulations 1999, of draft proposals associated with the preparation of alterations to, or the replacement of, a development plan.
- Agreeing to confer additional functions on a joint committee agreed by the Planning Committee for the purposes of Part 2 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to be a local planning authority.
- Agreeing to request the dissolution of a joint committee agreed to by the Planning Committee for the purposes of Part 2 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to be a local planning authority.
- Appointing the Returning Officer for Local Government Elections.*
- Dividing electoral divisions into polling districts at Local Government elections.
- Submitting proposals to the Secretary of State for an order under section 11 (pilot schemes for local elections in England and Wales) of the Representation of the People Act 2000.
- To make standing orders.
- To appoint staff, and to determine the terms and conditions on which they hold office (including procedures for their dismissal).*
- To make arrangements for proper administration of financial affairs etc.
- To designate an officer as the head of the authority's paid service, and to provide staff, etc.
- To designate an officer as the monitoring officer, and to provide staff, etc.
- All other matters which, by law, must be reserved to the Council.

3. Local Choice Functions

- 3.1 The County Council is responsible for determining responsibility for Matters which are termed 'local choice' functions under Section 13 of the Local Government Act 2000.
- 3.2 A list of those Local Choice Matters which Full Council has determined should be the responsibility of the Cabinet can be found in Section 6 – The Cabinet.

- 3.3 The Full Council is responsible for the following Local Choice Functions:
- The making of arrangements under section 20 (questions on police matters at Council meetings) of the Police Act 1996 for enabling questions to be put on the discharge of the functions of the Staffordshire Police Authority.
 - The Full Council has also determined that the Audit and Standards Committee will be responsible for the determination of an appeal against a decision made by or on behalf of the authority.

4. Council Meetings

4.1 There are three types of County Council meeting:

- The Annual meeting;
- Ordinary meetings;
- Extraordinary meetings.

4.2 Meetings of the County Council will be conducted in accordance with the Procedural Standing Orders in Section 12 of this Constitution.

5. Chairing County Council Meetings.

5.1 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council will be elected by the Council at its annual meeting and The Chairman of the County Council, and in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, will have the following roles and functions:

5.1.1 To uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary.

5.1.2 To plan for and to preside over meetings of the Council, ensuring that its business is carried out efficiently, having regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community.

5.1.3 To ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and a place at which members who are not on the Cabinet are able to hold the Cabinet and Committee and Panel Chairmen to account.

5.1.4 To promote public involvement in the Council's activities.

5.1.5 To attend or to be represented at such civic and ceremonial functions as he may determine.

5.1.6 To determine any matter referred to him under the urgency provisions in the Access to Information Rules in Section 2 or the Budget and Policy Framework Rules appended to this section.

5.1.7 To respond to any consultations where consultation with the Chairman of the County Council is required under this Constitution.

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Appendix BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES

1. The framework for Cabinet decisions

- 1.1 The Council will be responsible for the adoption of its budget and policy framework as set out in Section 5 of the Constitution. Once a budget or a policy referred to in the policy framework is in place, it will be the responsibility of the Cabinet to implement it.

2. Process for developing the framework

- 2.1 After appropriate consultation with stakeholders, the Cabinet will draw up initial proposals in relation to any plan, strategy or budget which forms part of the Council's budget and policy framework. Once drawn up the Proper Officer will serve copies of them on the Chairman of the relevant Select Committee(s) together with dates when the Cabinet will consider them further, which shall allow a reasonable period for the Select Committee(s) to consider the proposals.

- 2.2 The relevant Select Committee will consider whether to respond to the Cabinet's initial proposals and whether any further consultation is appropriate. If so the Committee will conduct such consultation, and will reflect any representations made to it, in its response to the Cabinet prior to the decision being made by the Cabinet.

- 2.3 The Cabinet will finalise its proposals for the Council to consider having taken into account the comments from the relevant Select Committee. The report to Council will show the Cabinet's response to those comments.

- 2.4 The Council will consider the proposals of the Cabinet and if the Council has no objection to those proposals it may adopt them.

- 2.5 If the Council has any objections to a draft plan or strategy proposed by the Cabinet, then before the Council:-

- (a) amends the draft plan or strategy; or
- (b) approves, for the purpose of its submission to the Secretary of State or any Minister of the Crown for his approval, any plan or strategy (whether or not in the form of a draft) of which any part is required to be so submitted; or
- (c) adopts (with or without modification) the plan or strategy,

it shall inform the Leader of the Council of those objections and shall give the Leader of the Council instructions requiring the Cabinet to reconsider, in the light of those objections, the draft submitted to it.

- 2.6 Where the Council gives instructions in accordance with paragraph 2.5 it shall specify a period of at least five working days, beginning on the day after the date on which the Leader of the Council receives the Council's instructions in writing on behalf of the Cabinet, within which the Cabinet may:-

- (a) submit a revision of the draft plan or strategy as amended by them (the "revised draft plan or strategy"), with the Cabinet's reasons for any amendments made to the draft plan or strategy, to the Council for the Council's consideration: and/or
- (b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the Cabinet has with any of the Council's objections and the Cabinet's reasons for any such disagreement.

2.7 When the period specified by the Council under paragraph 2.6 has expired, the Council shall, when:-

- (a) amending the draft plan or strategy or, if there is one, the revised draft plan or strategy; or
- (b) approving, for the purpose of its submission to the Secretary of State or any Minister of the Crown for his approval, any plan or strategy (whether or not in the form of a draft or revised draft) of which any part is required to be so submitted: or
- (c) adopting (without or without modification) the plan or strategy,

take into account any amendments made to the draft plan or strategy that are included in any revised draft plan or strategy, the Cabinet's reasons for those amendments, any disagreement that the Cabinet has with any of the Council's objections and the Cabinet's reasons for that disagreement, which in each case have been notified to the Council within that period.

2.8 Subject to paragraph 2.12, where, before 8 February in any financial year, the Cabinet submits to the Council for its consideration in relation to the following financial year:-

- (a) estimates of the amounts to be aggregated in making a calculation (whether originally or by way of substitute) in accordance with any of sections 43 to 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- (b) estimates of other amounts to be used for the purposes of such a calculation;
- (c) estimates of such a calculation; or
- (d) amounts required to be stated in a precept under Chapter IV of Part I of the Local Government Finance Act 1992,

and following consideration of those estimates or amounts the Council has any objections to them, it shall take the action set out in paragraph 2.9.

2.9 Before the Council makes a calculation (whether originally or by way of substitute) in accordance with any of the sections referred to in paragraph 2.8 (a) or issues a precept under Chapter IV of Part I of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, it shall inform the Leader of the Council of any objections which it has to the Cabinet's estimates or amounts and shall give to the Leader of the Council instructions

requiring the Cabinet to reconsider, in the light of those objections, those estimates and amounts in accordance with the Council's requirements.

- 2.10 Where the Council gives instructions in accordance with paragraph 2.9, it shall specify a period of at least five working days beginning on the day after the date on which the Leader of the Council receives the Council's instructions in writing on behalf of the Cabinet within which the Cabinet may:-
- (a) submit a revision of the estimates or amounts as amended by the Cabinet ("revised estimates or amounts"), which have been reconsidered in accordance with the Council's requirements, with the Cabinet's reasons for any amendments made to the estimates or amounts, to the Council for the Council's consideration; and/or
 - (b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the Cabinet has with any of the Council's objections and the Cabinet's reasons for any such disagreement.
- 2.11 When the period specified by the Council under paragraph 2.10 has expired, the Council shall, when making calculations (whether originally or by way of substitute) in accordance with the sections referred to in paragraph 2.8(a) or issuing a precept under Chapter IV of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, take into account any amendments to the estimate or amounts that are included in any revised estimates or amounts; the Cabinet's reasons for those amendments; any disagreement that the Cabinet has with any of the Council's objections; and the Council's reasons for that disagreement which in each case have been notified to the Council within that period.
- 2.12 Paragraphs 6 to 9 shall not apply in relation to :-
- (a) calculations or substitute calculations which an authority is required to make in accordance with section 52J or 52U of the Local Government Finance Act 1992; and
 - (b) amounts stated in a precept issued to give effect to calculations or substitute calculations made in accordance with section 52J or 52 U of that Act.
- 2.13 In approving the policy and budgetary framework the Council will also specify the extent of virement within the budget and degree of in-year changes to the policy framework which may be undertaken by the Cabinet in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of these Rules (virement and in-year adjustments). Any other changes to the budget and policy framework are reserved to the Council.

3. Decisions outside the Budget or Policy framework

- 3.1 Subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 below (virement), the Cabinet, and any officers discharging Cabinet functions, may only take decisions which are in line with the budget and policy framework. If any of these bodies or persons wishes to make a decision which is not in line with the policy framework or the budget approved by the full Council, then that decision may only be taken by the Council, subject to paragraph 4 below.

3.2 If the Cabinet, or any officer discharging Cabinet functions, want to make such a decision, they shall take advice from the Monitoring Officer and/or the Director of Finance and Resources as to whether the decision they want to make is not in line the policy framework or the budget. If the advice of either of those officers is that the decision would not be in line with the existing budget and/or policy framework, then the decision must be referred by that officer to the Cabinet and by the Cabinet to the Council for decision, unless the decision is a matter of urgency, in which case the provisions in paragraph 4 below (urgent decisions outside the budget and policy framework) shall apply.

4. Urgent decisions outside the Budget or Policy framework

4.1 The Cabinet, or the Chief Executive or a Chief Officer may take a decision which is not in line with the Council's policy framework or the budget approved by full Council if the decision is a matter of urgency. However, the decision may only be taken:

- (a) if it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the full Council; and
- (b) if the Chairman of the relevant Select Committee agrees that the decision is a matter of urgency.

4.2 The reasons why it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of full Council and the consent of the Chairman of the relevant Select Committee to the decision being taken as a matter of urgency must be noted on the record of the decision. In the absence of the Chairman of the relevant Select Committee the consent of the Chairman of the Council or in the absence of both, the Vice-Chairman will be sufficient.

4.3 Following the decision, the Cabinet will provide a full report to the next available Council meeting explaining the decision, the reasons for it and why the decision was treated as a matter of urgency.

5. Virement

5.1 Steps taken by the Cabinet, or any Sub-Committee or Portfolio Holder or officer, discharging executive functions to implement Council policy shall not exceed the allocated budget for the service in question.

5.2 The Financial Regulations in Section 14 of this Constitution set out the rules for the operation of virement across the budgets allocated for particular functions of the Council.

5.3 Virement in excess of the limits from time to time prescribed for the purposes of the Financial Regulations shall require the approval of the full Council.

6. In-year changes to the Budget and Policy Framework

- 6.1 The responsibility for agreeing the budget and policy framework lies with the Council, and decisions by the Cabinet, or any Sub-Committee or Portfolio Holder or any officer, discharging executive functions must be in line with it.
- 6.2 No changes to any policy and strategy which make up the policy framework may be made by any officer and no such changes may be made by the Cabinet except those changes:-
- (a) which will result in the closure or discontinuance of a service or part of service to meet a budgetary constraint;
 - (b) which are necessary to ensure compliance with the law, ministerial direction, guidance issued by Government or a Government Agency, or guidance issued by the Audit Commission or the Council's external Auditor.
 - (c) in relation to the policy framework, in respect of a policy which would normally be agreed annually by the Council following consultation, but where the existing policy document is silent on the matter under consideration.
 - (d) which relate to policy in relation to schools, where the majority of school governing bodies agree with the proposed change.
 - (e) for which the budget or policy specifically provides for in-year change.

7. Call-in of decisions outside the Budget or Policy Framework

- 7.1 Where a Select Committee is of the opinion that an Cabinet decision is, or if made would be, not in line with the policy framework or the Council's budget, then it shall seek advice in the form of a report from the Monitoring Officer and/or Director of Finance and Resources.
- 7.2 In respect of functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet, the Monitoring Officer's report and/or Director of Finance and Resources's report shall be submitted to the Cabinet and copied to every member of the Council. Regardless of whether the decision is delegated or not, the Cabinet must meet to decide what action to take in respect of the Monitoring Officer's report and to prepare a report to Council in the event that the Monitoring Officer or the Director of Finance and Resources conclude that the decision was not in line with the policy framework and/or budget, and to the relevant Select Committee if the Monitoring Officer or the Director of Finance and Resources conclude that the decision was in line with the policy framework and/or budget.
- 7.3 If the decision has yet to be made, or has been made but not yet implemented, and the advice from the Monitoring Officer and/or the Director of Finance and Resources is that the decision is or would be not in line with the policy framework or the budget, the Select Committee may refer the matter to the Council. In such cases, no further action will be taken in respect of the decision or its implementation until the Council has met and considered the matter. The Council shall meet within 20 working days of

the request by the Select Committee. At the meeting it will receive a report of the decision or proposals and the advice of the Monitoring Officer and/or the Director of Finance and Resources. The Council may either:

- (a) endorse a decision or proposal of the Cabinet as falling within the existing budget and policy framework. In this case no further action is required, save that the decision of the Council be minuted and circulated to all councillors in the normal way; or
- (b) amend the Council's Financial Regulations or policy concerned to encompass the decision or proposal of the body or individual responsible for that Cabinet function and agree to the decision with immediate effect. In this case, no further action is required save that the decision of the Council be minuted and circulated to all councillors in the normal way; or
- (c) where the Council accepts that the decision or proposal is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget, and does not amend the existing framework to accommodate it, require the Cabinet to reconsider the matter in accordance with the advice of either the Monitoring Officer or the Director of Finance and Resources.

SECTION 6

THE CABINET

1. Executive Arrangements

- 1.1 The role of the Council's Executive is to lead the preparation of the Council's policies and budget, to lead the community planning process and the attainment of best value, to implement the Council's policies and budget, to take in-year decisions on such and to be the focus for Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 1.2 The County Council's Executive comprises the Leader of the Council and a Cabinet of other Members appointed by the Leader. The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet are collectively described as "The Cabinet". The Cabinet is not a Committee of the County Council.

2. Leader of the Council

- 2.1 The County Council shall appoint a Member of the Council as the Leader of the Council at its annual meeting in the year of elections for County Councillors.
- 2.2 The Leader will serve for a four year term unless:-
- They resign from the office;
 - They are suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension)
 - They are no longer a Councillor; or
 - They are removed from office by resolution of the Council.
- 2.3 If the serving Leader ceases to be Leader for one of the above reasons, the Council will elect a new Leader who will serve until the next election for County Councillors.

3. The Cabinet

- 3.1 The Leader shall specify the number of Members in addition to himself who comprise the Cabinet being not less than two and not more than nine. The Cabinet shall not be a Committee of the Council.
- 3.2 The Leader of the Council shall appoint Members of the Council to serve on the Cabinet as Cabinet Members. Only Councillors may be appointed to the Cabinet and there may be no Deputies or Substitutes for Cabinet Members.
- 3.3 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council may not be Members of the Cabinet and Cabinet Members may not be Members of any of the Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.4 Cabinet Members will serve for a four year term of office unless:-
- They resign from office;
 - They are suspended from being councillors under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension);

- They are no longer a Councillor;
- They are removed from office by the Leader of the Council; or
- The Leader of the Council resigns or is removed from office.

3.5 The Leader of the Council shall allocate to each Cabinet Member responsibilities relating to the executive functions of the Council as he shall decide. The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation shall maintain a list of these responsibilities and include it in the Constitution.

4. The Deputy Leader

4.1 The Leader of the Council shall designate one Cabinet Member as Deputy Leader who may, in any circumstances that Leader of the Council is unable to act, exercise the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Leader of the Council under the Constitution.

4.2 If the Leader of the Council ceases to hold the office, the Deputy Leader will act as Leader until a new Leader is appointed by the Council. Under these circumstances, the provisions of Paragraph 3.4 above shall not apply.

4.3 The Deputy Leader will hold office until the end of the Leader's term of office unless removed from the office by the Leader or they cease to be a Cabinet Member under Paragraphs 3.4 above.

5. Role of the Cabinet

5.1 The Council's Cabinet will operate as the strategic policy and decision making body of the County Council carrying out such of the County Council's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council and which are allocated to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council.

5.2 In support of those roles the Cabinet will consider and manage the exercise of all the functions and powers of the Council which are delegated to the Cabinet by the Leader and:-

- After consulting with the appropriate Scrutiny Committee, consider and make recommendations to the full Council on any matters which it is the responsibility of the full Council to determine, (other than on matters which are by law not the responsibility of the Leader and Cabinet);
- Determine an annual programme for the preparation of reports and recommendations to the Council on such matters;
- Consult as the Cabinet thinks fit on any matter.
- Conduct reviews in respect of any service or function within the scope of the role of the Leader and/or Cabinet, subject to consultation with the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and to the participation of members of the appropriate Scrutiny Committee in individual reviews; and receive reports on reviews undertaken.
- Refer such matters as the Cabinet may decide to any Scrutiny Committee for consideration and/or report and/or recommendation.
- Consider and respond to reports and recommendations from any Scrutiny Committee.

5.3 The Cabinet shall appoint Members to serve on the various bodies upon which the County Council is entitled to appoint representatives subject to any relevant

statutory provision relating to political balance. The Cabinet may also remove an appointee from the office if and when required.

- 5.4 No member of the Council other than the Cabinet Member in question shall be appointed to or serve on any Body advising or being consulted by that Portfolio Holder.
- 5.5 The Cabinet will as appropriate or necessary in the circumstances seek the advice of the Chief Executive, the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation the relevant Chief Officer and/or the Director of Finance and Resources on any matter and shall have regard to any advice so given.

6. Cabinet Decisions and Cabinet Member Decisions

- 6.1 The Cabinet may collectively take any decision on any matter delegated to the Cabinet by the Leader or has been referred to the Cabinet by a Cabinet Member, the Chief Executive or any Chief Officer or is one which the Cabinet have specifically reserved for decision to them.
- 6.2 The Cabinet have no power to take decisions on matters reserved to the full Council or matters which may not by law be determined by the Cabinet or change the delegation of any Local choice Function.
- 6.3 The Leader may establish one or more Cabinet Sub-Committees on a task and finish basis. They shall appoint the Chairman and members of the Sub-Committee from amongst the Members of the Cabinet and may delegate powers to it. The details of any Sub-Committee and the powers delegated to it shall be recorded in this Constitution.
- 6.4 The Leader of the Council may also delegate specific decision making powers to a specified Cabinet Member. All such allocations are to be recorded by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation in the Constitution on the written notification by the Leader of the Council.
- 6.5 Cabinet Members may only take decisions within the approved budget and may not have delegated power to take key decisions, decisions that are by law not the responsibility of the Council's Executive or decisions that are reserved by the Leader to the Cabinet as a whole. No decision shall be made by a Cabinet Member who has a conflict of interest or where such action would be contrary to a Code of Conduct in any other way or would be unlawful.
- 6.6 The exercise of delegated powers by a Cabinet Member is always subject to the County Council's Budget and Policy Framework rules, the Call-in provisions in Section 7 (Select Committees), the Access to Information Rules (Section 13), and Financial Regulations (Section 14).
- 6.7 Delegated powers can only be exercised once the Cabinet Member has considered a written report from the Chief Officer concerned. Where appropriate, such written report shall include confirmation that the Chief Officer has received and considered advice from the relevant Statutory Officer.
- 6.8 The decision of the Portfolio Holder must be in writing, signed by him/her and by the Chief Officer concerned and include a record of the reasons for the decision, details of any alternative options considered and rejected at the time by the

Portfolio Holder, a record of any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member who is consulted in relation to the decision and a note of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee in respect of any such declared conflict of interest. A copy of such decision must be given within 24 hours to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

- 6.9 The Leader may delegate to a Chief Officer any power or responsibility or function which it is in law the responsibility of the Cabinet to discharge and will maintain a scheme of such delegations in Section 11 of the Constitution.
- 6.10 Chief Officers may in turn delegate any responsibilities that have been allocated to them to an officer in accordance with a scheme to be approved by the Leader. The Leader will keep such schemes under review and may from time to time add to, vary or delete any such delegations.
- 6.11 Even where executive functions have been delegated, that fact does not prevent the discharge of delegated functions by the person or body who delegated those functions.

7. Cabinet Meetings

- 7.1 Cabinet decisions which are taken by the Cabinet as a whole will be taken at meetings convened in accordance with the Access to Information Rules in Section 13 of the Constitution. The Cabinet will normally meet at monthly intervals and at other times to be agreed by the Leader of the Council.
- 7.2 The quorum for a meeting of the Cabinet shall be three including the Leader of the Council, or if he is absent, the Deputy Leader. If the Leader of the Council is present he will preside and if he is absent the Deputy Leader will preside.
- 7.3 At each meeting of the Cabinet the following business will be conducted:-
- Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting.
 - Declarations of interest, if any.
 - Any matters referred to the Cabinet (whether by a Scrutiny Committee or by the Council) for reconsideration by the Cabinet in accordance with the provisions contained in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in this Constitution.
 - Consideration of reports from Scrutiny Committees; and
 - Any matters set out in the agenda for the meeting, and which shall indicate those which are key decisions and those which are not in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure rules set out in Section 13 of this Constitution.
- 7.4 The Cabinet may require any Cabinet Member or the Leader of the Council or Chief Officer to report to the Cabinet on any matter which the Cabinet specify and which is within its or his/her purview.
- 7.5 Any Cabinet Member may request the Leader of the Council to arrange for an item to be placed on the agenda of the next available meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.
- 7.6 The Monitoring Officer and/or the Finance Officer may require the Proper Officer to include an item for consideration on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting. If there is

no meeting of the Cabinet soon enough to deal with the issue in question, then the person(s) entitled to include an item on the agenda may also require that a meeting be convened at which the matter will be considered.

- 7.5 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will be the Proper Officer for matters relating to the membership and meetings of the Cabinet, including summoning meetings, circulating the Agenda and papers for such meetings, and recording every decision taken by the Cabinet itself. Such record shall include the reasons for such decision and any alternative options considered and rejected.

8. Conflicts of Interest

- 8.1 Where the Leader and/or a Cabinet Member has a conflict of interest this should be dealt with as set out in the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.
- 8.2 If the exercise of an executive function has been delegated to an officer and a conflict of interest arises, then the function will be exercised in the first instance by the person or body by whom the delegation was made and otherwise as set out in the Officers' Code of Conduct in Section 11 of this Constitution.

9. Rights of attendance at Meetings of the Cabinet

- 9.1 Any person entitled to do so by the Access to Information Rules in Section 13 of this Constitution may attend a Cabinet Meeting. A Councillor may attend a Cabinet meeting in accordance with the 'Local Member' provisions in Section 12 of this Constitution.
- 9.2 The Cabinet or the Leader of the Council may invite any individual to attend a meeting of the Cabinet to assist or advise the Cabinet but such individual shall not be a member of the Cabinet and shall not have any voting rights.
- 9.3 Up to two representatives nominated by the Corporate Review Committee shall be entitled to attend and speak (but not to vote) at a meeting of the Cabinet when it considers any reference back of a called-in decision.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 Reports to the Cabinet from any Cabinet Member or an officer on proposals relating to the budget and policy framework must contain details of consultation with stakeholders and relevant Scrutiny Committee, and the outcome of that consultation.
- 10.2 Reports about other matters will set out the details and outcome of consultation as appropriate.
- 10.3 Each Cabinet Member may from time to time make arrangements for consultation with persons or bodies who are not members of the Council about any matter within the portfolio of that Cabinet Member. These arrangements shall not lead to any delegated powers being vested in any person or body so consulted or asked to advise.
- 10.4 The Leader may also establish (and disestablish) Boards comprising Members and officers to oversee specific projects, functions or services or to undertake reviews.

- 10.5 Boards do not have the power to take decisions on behalf of the Council and are informal structures not subject to the provisions regarding Access to Meetings and Information (except the additional rights of Access for Members).
- 10.6 A list of boards currently established, along with their terms of reference and Membership shall be maintained by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and included in the Constitution.

CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Cabinet Member	Responsibilities	Support Officers
<p style="text-align: center;">Leader</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 63</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council’s overall strategy and budget setting and monitoring (Overview, Policy and MTFs) • Relations with all Staffordshire’s Public Sector Authorities • Relations with neighbouring authorities • Governmental relations • Emergency planning and control • Membership of Outside Bodies (Corporate level) • Pensions • LEP • The Deal • European projects and funding • Partnership with business and business representatives • Winning new resources for Staffordshire • Increasing inward investment and levels of the quality employment • Chair of Cabinet 	<p style="text-align: center;">Chief Executive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Senior Leadership Team</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and business planning • Policy development • Performance management • Customer insight and research • Customer feedback and complaints • Communications and marketing • Customer Services • Organisational Development • The Council Budget and MTFs (Strategy and Delivery) • Transformation and Organisational Change • Corporate Finance • ICT • Human Resources • Procurement • Treasury Management • Shared services and governance with partners • Legal Services 	<p style="text-align: center;">Chief Executive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director of Strategy and Customer Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director of Finance and Resources</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation</p>

<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation (cont)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member and Democratic Services • Information Management and Security • Audit and Risk Management • Property and Assets (Policy, Management & Delivery) • Commercial/Trading Services (Delivery/Operations) • Director of Entrust • Chair Procurement Board • Chair of Strategic Property Board 	
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 64</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership In respect of Adult Social Care for Staffordshire • Leadership of the County Council’s relationship with the NHS including the outcomes, plans and actions around this • Leadership in respect of mental health, older people, people with disabilities, carers, long term conditions • Lead spokesperson for the County Council in respect of the care of adults [health and social care] <p>Specific responsibilities in respect of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship with key providers – hospitals, Mental Health Trusts, Staffordshire and Stoke-on – Trent Partnership Trust • Relationship with key strategic commissioning partners – Clinical Commissioning Groups, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Area Office of the NHS, NHS nationally, Department of Health • The quality and effectiveness of key providers including Independent Futures, the residential care sector, the domiciliary care sector, the voluntary and private sector providers of Staffordshire 	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People</p> <p>Director for Public Health</p>

**Cabinet Member
for Children,
Communities and
Localism**

- Statutory lead member for Children's Services
- Leadership of keeping children safe and ensuring effective integrated commissioning for children

Specific responsibilities in respect of

- Delivery of an effective safeguarding service
- Supporting children who are looked after
- Supporting the Corporate Parenting role
- Securing effective intervention for children in need
- Families First
- Special Educational Needs
- Localism – commissioning policy lead
- Community capacity building
- One Staffordshire
- Customer and communities voice – policy, engagement, partnerships
- Third sector – capacity building and relationships
- Community Action Teams
- Libraries, Arts, Museums and Archives, (including Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Joint
- Archives, Victoria History Archives and Victoria County Advisory Board)
- Citizenship
- Community Right to Challenge
- Registrars
- Trading standards
- Volunteering and third sector
- Community Capacity and Social Capital
- Local Infrastructure :Physical
- Local Infrastructure: Social

Deputy Chief
Executive and
Director for Place

Deputy Chief
Executive and
Director for People

Director of
Strategy and
Customer Services

<p>Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure</p> <p>(supported by two Cabinet Support Members – see below for responsibilities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic leadership of commissioning for prosperity, skills and employment • Business Innovation and Enterprise Centres and Industrial Starter Units • Inward investments (Delivery) • Regeneration • Business Support – Loan fund and business hotline • Business Awards • Flooding and sustainable urban drainage systems • Waste to Resource (W2R) (Chair of W2R Board) • Mineral Core Strategy • Strategic Planning • Master Planning • Tourism (operation and policy) • Market Town Initiatives and town centre developments • Infrastructure (policy) • Joint waste strategy 	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Place</p>
<p><i>The Cabinet Support Member for Transport and the Connected County will lead on the effective delivery of these areas on behalf of the Cabinet Member</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways • Highway network investment • Emergency planning (highways only) • Road safety • Transport • Joint Parking Board 	
<p><i>The Cabinet Support Member for the Environment and Rural Affairs will lead on the effective delivery of these areas on behalf of the Cabinet Member</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and climate change • Waste management and recycling • County Farms • Countryside and Country Parks • Countryside and Rights of Way • Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Renewable Energy • Shugborough • Sport (including Sports Council and Staffordshire Playing Fields Association) • Staffordshire Local Community Fund • Staffordshire Parish Council’s Association 	

<p>Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>(supported by a Cabinet Support Member – see below for responsibilities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Health and Wellbeing agenda for Staffordshire with particular focus on wellbeing including public health and the County Council’s statutory responsibilities regarding Community Safety working in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner • To work with District Councils, the third sector, and communities with regard to enhancing the capacity to improve the wellbeing of residents <p>Specific responsibilities in respect of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and planning • Information, advice and guidance • Prevention and Early Intervention • Strategic safeguarding for children and adults • The Health and Wellbeing Strategy • The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing will be co- chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board 	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People</p> <p>Director for Public Health</p>
<p><i>The Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Community Safety will lead on the effective delivery of these areas on behalf of the Cabinet Member</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community safety • Domestic violence • Drug and alcohol misuse • MAPPAs • Public Health • Prevention and Early Intervention • Information, Advice, Guidance and signposting • Alcohol Strategy • Drugs Strategy • Smoking Cessation • Obesity • Housing Support • Welfare Rights • Early Years • Youth Offer • Teenage Pregnancy • Public Health contracting • Disability Grants and Equipment • Physical Activity / Sports • Safeguarding Children and Adults • MASH developments • Troubled Families 	

<p>Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • School governance and infrastructure services • School organisation and planning • School Transport • Schools Capital Programme • Employment skills and training • Educational links to offending institutions • Apprenticeships • Training provision – skills centres, further education and other providers • Careers advice and guidance • Education Trust • Skills post 16 and relationship with Colleges, Universities and Entrust 	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People</p>
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In addition to the specific responsibilities outlined above, all Portfolio Holders have the following generic responsibilities within their respective portfolio areas:

- Implementation of Cabinet and Group policies
- Involvement and Membership of Outside Bodies (in consultation with the Leader)
- Efficiencies and delivery improvements
- Government policy – managing and deciding on approach
- Communications – presenting policy, changes, initiatives and innovation
- Answering questions at Select Committee and Council (by agreement with the Lead Cabinet Member in the case of Cabinet Members)
- On-going development of policy and strategic direction
- Budget – development and control
- Press – being the lead spokesperson in the Council on this portfolio
- Raising the profile of Staffordshire, nationally and within government
- Consultation and joint working where responsibilities overlap with other portfolio holders.

LOCAL CHOICE FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CABINET

1. Any function under a local Act other than a function specified elsewhere in this Appendix.
2. The making of arrangements in relation to appeals against the exclusion of pupils from maintained schools.
3. The making of arrangements pursuant to Section 94(1), (1A) and (4) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (admission appeals).
4. The making of arrangements pursuant to Section 95(2) of the 1998 Act (Children to whom Section 87 applies: appeals by governing bodies).
5. The making of appointments to the Joint Appointments Committee under paragraphs 2 to 4 (appointment of members by relevant Councils) of Schedule 2 (Police Authorities established under Section 3) to the Police Act 1996.
6. The conducting of best value reviews in accordance with the provisions of any order for the time being having effect under section 5 (best value reviews) of the Local Government Act 1999.
7. Any function relating to contaminated land.
8. The discharge of any function relating to the control of pollution or the management of air quality.
9. The obtaining of information under section 330 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as to interests of land.
10. The obtaining of particulars of persons interested in land under section 16 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
11. The making of agreements for the execution of highways works
12. The appointment of any individual –
 - (a) to any office other than an office in which he is employed by the authority;
 - (b) to any body other than –
 - (i) the authority;
 - (ii) a joint Committee of two or more authorities; or
 - (c) to any Committee or Sub-Committee of such a body, and the revocation of any such appointment.
13. The making of agreements with other Local Authorities for the placing of staff at the disposal of those other Authorities.
14. Power and duties in respect of Local Development Documents which are not Development Plan Documents.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BOARDS (To be Completed)

**Strategic Property Board
Innovation and Efficiency Board
Service Review Board
W2R Board
BSF Project Board
Procurement Board**

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THE SHADOW CABINET

Composition

The Leader of the Major Minority Group may choose to form a Shadow Cabinet by his/ her nomination from amongst the members of the Council. The Leader of the Major Minority Group shall notify the Council and the Chief Executive of the names of the members nominated to form a Shadow Cabinet and of any changes in the membership of the Shadow Cabinet which may occur from time to time.

Role

The Shadow Cabinet will have collective responsibility for providing an effective challenge to the controlling Executive (Cabinet) and for contributing constructively to the achievement of the County Council's corporate and service objectives and priorities. These responsibilities should be undertaken in a positive manner, maintaining respect at all times.

Number of members

The Shadow Cabinet shall comprise no greater number of members than the number of members of the Cabinet other than the Leader of the Council.

Functions

(a) Effectively to call to account or challenge the Majority Group on the County Council at meetings of the County Council, Committees, Panels and on other occasions as appropriate.

(b) To meet regularly, and ensure good communications with, other members to inform the effective performance of the Shadow Cabinet's role.

(c) To maintain effective relationships with the Cabinet and their Support Members, the Corporate Directors and other relevant senior officers, and to meet them, as required, to ensure that members of the Shadow Cabinet are sufficiently and effectively briefed on service and relevant corporate areas and any other relevant issues pertaining to the County Council.

(d) To assist in ensuring effective arrangements for overview and scrutiny.

(e) To ensure effective contact with community representatives and other local stakeholders, as appropriate, and to represent their views in the performance of the Shadow Cabinet's role

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SECTION 7

SELECT COMMITTEES

1. General Role of Select Committees

- 1.1 Select Committees are appointed as the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 (and retained in the Localism Act 2011) to review, and scrutinise the Council and its partners in delivering the Council's Vision and priorities and to monitor performance against relevant plans and strategies.
- 1.2 To undertake this role each Select Committee will:
- Assist and advise on the development of new policy or reviewing current policy;
 - Review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's or relevant partners functions;
 - Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Cabinet and/or relevant partners in connection with the discharge of any functions;
 - Consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants including any matters raised by a Councillor Call for Action;
 - Exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet/ Cabinet Member; and
 - Respond to direct requests from Council or the Cabinet when appropriate.
- 1.3 By law, neither a Select Committee nor any Sub-Committee of a Select Committee has any power to take any decisions on behalf of the Council and therefore there are no delegations to them.

2. Specific functions

- 2.1 A Select Committee may within the scope of its allocated terms of reference:-
- Assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
 - Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
 - Question members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and Directors about their views on issues and proposals affecting the County Council's area; or about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
 - Liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working;
 - Review and scrutinise the decisions made by, and performance of, the Cabinet and/or Committees and Directors both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
 - Review and scrutinise the decisions made by, and performance of, relevant partner organisations (as defined in legislation) in the area;
 - Review the performance of relevant external organisations which impact on the County Council's functions or services and to submit reports thereon to the

Council subject to such reports being first submitted to the Cabinet and the appropriate Portfolio Holder and the external organisation in question for comment;

- Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Select Committee and local people about their activities and performance;
- Question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent);
- Make recommendations to the Cabinet, appropriate Committees, Council or Relevant Partner Organisation as appropriate arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- Scrutinise policies strategies procedures and performance in respect of any function which is the responsibility of the County Council;

3. Terms of Reference of Select Committees

3.1 The Council currently has four Select Committees, which have the following terms of reference:-

3.2 The **Corporate Review Committee** is the Council's Principal Scrutiny Committee. It is responsible for leading on the overall management and co-ordination of Select Committee work programmes as well as:

- Holding the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to account for their leadership and performance.
- Scrutiny of the Council's overall performance and approach to managing performance and Strategic Corporate Planning
- Scrutiny of the Council's ongoing programme of improvement and transformation.
- Scrutiny of the Local Enterprise Partnership
- Dealing with any Executive decisions that have been called in.
- Scrutiny of the Council's support services including Finance, ICT, Human Resources, Organisational Development, Legal and Member Services

3.2.1 Corporate Review will also establish an MTFFS Working Group on an annual basis. The Working Group will be responsible for the scrutiny of the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, Annual Budget and Council Tax setting process.

3.3 The **Health Staffordshire Select Committee** is responsible for scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the Authority's area, including public health, in accordance with regulations made under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and subsequent guidance including the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. In accordance with these Regulations the County Council has agreed for these regulations to be discharged through the designated Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee has the power to make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies conferred by the Health and Social Care Act 2001.

The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee may, within the scope of its allocated roles and responsibilities, respond independently to health related consultations from Government and external agencies.

The Committee will take the lead in scrutinising the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and developing a working relationship to enable this to be undertaken effectively and constructively.

- 3.4 The **Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee** is responsible for scrutiny of achievement against the Council's strategic ambitions for promoting prosperity and economic growth. The committee is also responsible for the scrutiny of highways infrastructure and connectivity.

In addition the committee will be responsible for priorities around education, learning and skills. As such the statutory education co-optees will sit on this committee.

- 3.5 The **Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee** is responsible for scrutiny of safeguarding vulnerable people, community safety and localism. In particular it will include priorities around:

- Safeguarding children
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- The Council's responsibilities regarding reducing crime and the fear of crime and wider Community Safety priorities (referring matters as appropriate to the Police and Crime Panel where responsibility sits with the Police and Crime Commissioner).

There will be occasions when the committee will undertake joint working with the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee especially in regard to safeguarding issues and the Corporate Parenting Panel in respect of safeguarding children.

4. **Membership of Select Committee**

- 4.1 All Councillors, except members of the Cabinet, may be members of a Select Committee.

- 4.2 The County Council Members of the Select Committees will be appointed, in accordance with the relevant political balance provisions, at the Annual meeting of the County Council as follows:-

- Corporate Review Committee (13 Members)
- Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee (13 Members + 8 District and Borough Members)
- Prosperous, Staffordshire Select Committee (10 Members)
- Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee (10 Members)

5. **Co-optees**

- 5.1 The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee will include in its membership the following co-optees who shall have voting rights when the Committee considers education matters:

- At least one Church of England diocese representative;
- One Roman Catholic diocese representative; and
- Three parent governor representatives.

5.2 If the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee deals with non-education matters, the co-optees shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

5.3 The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee shall have 8 co-opted members (1 per District Council, each having voting powers).

5.4 In its capacity as the Council's designated crime and disorder Committee, the Safe and Strong Staffordshire Select Committee may co-opt additional members who, unless the Committee decides otherwise, shall not be entitled to vote. Such a co-opted member can only be a person who is an employee, officer or non-Executive member of a responsible authority or a co-operating body or a co-operating person.

5.5 The other Select Committees do not have any statutory arrangements for co-optees, but may appoint non-voting co-optees at any time to assist them in the completion of their work programme.

6. Meetings of the Select Committees

6.1 Each Select Committee shall meet at such intervals as the Council may decide and at other times as may be appropriate.

6.2 A special meeting of a Select Committee may also be called by the Chairman of the Committee (See Standing Order 24.2 of Section 12).

6.3 Meetings of the Select Committees shall be conducted in accordance with the Procedural Standing Orders in Section 12, although where appropriate a more informal style may be adopted for a particular meeting, to suit the subject matter of the meeting. In such cases, the Chairman's word shall be final in matters of running the meeting.

6.4 The order of business for meetings of Select Committee will be determined by the Chairman, and will include the following business:-

- Minutes of the last meeting;
- Any declarations of interest by Members (including the declaration of any party whip);
- Community engagement, as appropriate
- The work programme and items for future meetings of the Committee;
- The business otherwise set out on the agenda for the meeting.

6.5 No Member may be involved in scrutinising a decision they were involved in making (i.e. an executive decision taken when they were a Member of the Cabinet or a decision by a non-scrutiny committee they were a Member of). If such a decision is scrutinised by a Select Committee the Member must inform the Chairman of their involvement and withdraw from the room while the item is considered.

7. Agenda items

- 7.1 County Councillors, officers, partners and members of the public shall be entitled to propose issues for Select Committees to consider. In order to put forward an issue for consideration the person or body must submit their request to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation in writing or by email using the prescribed form.
- 7.2 If the matter has been proposed by a County Councillor then on receipt of such a request the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will ensure that the proposal is included on the next available agenda of the appropriate Committee. A councillor can submit a request to any Select Committee not just those on which he or she sits. Should the matter have been raised by an officer, partner or member of the public then the Committee will consider the issue when prioritising their work programme. The person or body making the request for scrutiny may be invited to attend the Committee meeting to explain the reasons for the request. The Select Committee Chair will decide how much time will be given to the person or body for addressing the Committee.
- 7.3 All proposals for scrutiny will be considered by the appropriate Committee taking into account agreed criteria. Where a Select Committee decides not to undertake a piece of work the reasons for the decision shall be minuted. Where the person or body who made the request is not in attendance at the meeting the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will inform them of the Committee's decision.
- 7.4 In addition, all elected Members of the Council have a statutory right to ask for a local government matter affecting their constituents to be considered by overview and scrutiny as a Councillor Call for Action.
- 7.5 The Leader of the largest Minority Group may on up to 2 occasions per year require the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation to include an item on the agenda of a Select Committee. They will inform the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation of the request, who will make arrangements for the matter to be included on the agenda at the next available meeting of that Select Committee.
- 7.6 Where a Select Committee is proposing to scrutinise a matter which also falls (whether in whole or in part) within the remit of another Committee, then it shall seek clearance from the Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee to carrying out that work, and will, if requested by the Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee, invite members of the other committee to attend and speak but not vote at meetings when it is undertaking that work.

8. Work Programme and Budget

- 8.1 Each Select Committee will be responsible for preparing its own work programme and in doing so it shall take into account the wishes of the Committee as a whole. These work programmes will then be submitted to the Corporate Review committee for approval to ensure that the overall programme of Scrutiny activity is consistent, coherent and free of duplication and can be properly resourced and supported by the Council.

- 8.2 The Corporate Review Committee may also identify issues which it wishes a Select Committee to review. Select Committees must undertake any work which is identified by Corporate Review and will be expected to amend their work programmes to accommodate such items.
- 8.3 The lead Director and/ or senior officer(s) supporting a relevant Committee will be consulted on a regular basis about the contents and upcoming issues on the work programme. Directors and Wider Leadership Team officers will be notified of forthcoming issues to enable officers' time to prepare reports and presentations on the subject under consideration.
- 8.4 The Council will allocate and make available to each Select Committee a budget for reasonable expenses to be incurred by the Select Committee in the discharge of its work programme. Such budget shall not be exceeded.

9. Members or officers giving account

- 9.1 A Select Committee may scrutinise and review decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any Council functions and will normally do so through the consideration of written reports. In addition the Select Committee may ask for the detail of any Community Impact Assessment, public consultation or financial implications pertaining to the decision or action under scrutiny.
- 9.2 A Select Committee may not scrutinise a decision of a Director acting under delegated powers. The only exception is where the Committee can evidence that the decision has wider implications on County Council policy and service delivery or has a specific impact upon particular communities or relates to a function of the Council and falls outside the day to day administration of the service for which the Director is responsible.
- 9.3 As well as reviewing documentation, Committees may also require the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and/or any senior officer¹ to attend before it to explain in relation to matters within their remit:-
- A particular decision or series of decisions;
 - The extent to which the actions taken implement Council policy; and/or
 - Their performance.
- 9.4 Senior officers will also be required to attend Committee meetings to give account of themselves following the receipt of a petition with the prescribed number of signatures under the Council's petition scheme.
- 9.5 Officers or other invited guests that are asked to give evidence will be given a minimum of 15 working days notice. In practice additional notice will normally be given. Where, in exceptional circumstances, the member or officer is unable to attend on the required date, then the Select Committee shall arrange an alternative date to attend and give evidence. This would normally be the next scheduled meeting of the Committee unless urgency requires a special meeting to be organised.

10. Cabinet Member Accountability Sessions

1. The term 'senior officer' means any officer who is employed upon the Conditions of Service of the JNC for Chief Officers.

- 10.1 The Leader and each Cabinet Member shall be required to attend, a minimum of twice a year, a meeting of the relevant Select Committee to report on their activities, the performance of services they are responsible for and to answer any questions on their work and responsibilities.
- 10.2 When the Leader or Cabinet Member attends the Select Committee for an accountability session, they shall be given 10 minutes to present the report before answering questions for a period of 1 hour, which may be extended by the Chairman.
- 10.3 Members may, but shall not be required to, submit questions for the Cabinet Member in writing prior to the meeting and the Chairman will deal with any written questions immediately after the Cabinet Member has presented their report.
- 10.4 The Chairman will have absolute discretion to determine the order of questions, any supplementary questions and their ruling on such matters will be final.

11. Attendance by others

- 11.1 A Select Committee may invite people other than those referred to above to address it, discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions. It may for example wish to hear from residents, stakeholders and members and officers in other parts of the public sector and other agencies and bodies and shall invite such people to attend.
- 11.2 Attendance by such invitees will normally be obtained by mutual agreement. Overview and Scrutiny does however have the right to require information from partner organisations in respect of delivery against local improvement targets. The organisations listed in legislation include:-
- Any district council which is not a responsible local authority;
 - The fire and rescue authority;
 - The National Park authority;
 - The Broads Authority;
 - A joint waste authority established under section 207(1);
 - The waste disposal authority established under section 10 of the Local Government Act 1985 (c. 51);
 - The metropolitan county passenger transport authority established by section 28 of the Local Government Act 1985 (joint arrangements);
 - Transport for London;
 - Primary Care Trusts;
 - Development agency established by section 1 of the Regional Development Agencies Act [1998 \(c. 45\)](#);
 - The local probation board established by section 4 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act [2000 \(c. 43\)](#);
 - The youth offending team established under section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act [1998 \(c. 37\)](#);
 - The National Health Service trust;
 - An NHS foundation trust;
 - The Arts Council of England;
 - The English Sports Council;
 - The Environment Agency;

- The Health and Safety Executive;
- The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission;
- The Learning and Skills Council for England;
- The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Natural England.

In addition to their requirement to provide evidence for the purposes of an Overview and Scrutiny investigations, the above named bodies are also required to give consideration to any recommendations arising from such investigation.

- 11.3 When a witness attends a meeting regard will be had to the following principles:-
- 11.3.1 That the investigation be conducted fairly and all members of the Committee be given the opportunity to ask questions of attendees, and to contribute and speak.
- 11.3.2 That those assisting the Committee by giving evidence be treated with respect and courtesy; and
- 11.3.3 That the investigation be conducted so as to maximise the efficiency of the investigation or analysis.

12. Select Committee Working Groups

- 12.1 The Corporate Review Committee may establish Select Committee Working Groups as and when required to advise the Cabinet on the development of Policy for the Council.
- 12.2 The membership of these groups will not be fixed and will be determined by the relevant Committee from the non-Executive Members of the Council, depending on the skills and experience required for the particular policy work in question.
- 12.3 Each Working Group will have clearly defined aims and terms of reference and agreed start and end dates. Working Groups will report their findings and recommendations to the Cabinet, Cabinet Member(s) or relevant partners. The person or body to whom the report is submitted shall consider it within two months. The work of the Working Groups will be monitored by Corporate Review and the implementation of recommendations will be monitored by the relevant Select Committees.

13. Policy review, development and investigations

- 13.1 The role of the Select Committees in relation to the development of the Council's budget and policy framework is set out in detail in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.
- 13.2 In relation to the development of the Council's approach to other matters of policy not forming part of its budget and policy framework a Select Committee may make proposals to the Cabinet for the development of policy so far as they relate to matters within its scope.
- 13.3 A Select Committee may hold enquiries and investigate the available options for future direction in policy development and may invite advisers and assessors to assist it in this process. The Committee may undertake site visits, conduct public surveys, hold public meetings, commission research and do all other things that

it reasonably considers necessary to inform its deliberations. It may ask witnesses to attend to address it on any matter under consideration and may, subject to paragraph 8.4 above, pay advisers, assessors and witnesses a reasonable fee and expenses for doing so.

14. Reports from Select Committees

- 14.1 Once it has formed recommendations on proposals for policy development above, the Select Committee will prepare a formal report and submit it to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation for consideration by the Cabinet or the Council as appropriate.
- 14.2 If a Select Committee cannot agree on one single final report to the Council or the Cabinet as appropriate, then up to one minority report may be prepared and submitted for consideration.
- 14.3 The Council or Cabinet shall consider the report of the Select Committee within two months of it being submitted to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation .

15. Making sure that Scrutiny reports are considered by the Cabinet

- 15.1 Once a Select Committee or Working Group reports on any County Council matter it will forward a copy of its report to the Proper Officer (Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation) who will allocate it to the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member as appropriate for consideration.
- 15.2 The process for the involvement of the Select Committees in the development of the Council's budget and policy framework is set out in detail in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in Section 5 of the Constitution. Where the Council considers a scrutiny report, it shall have regard to the response of the Executive to the recommendations.
- 15.3 For reports allocated to the Cabinet as a whole, the report shall be included on a Cabinet meeting agenda to enable a response to be produced within two months. The Cabinet will respond in writing to the appropriate Committee. The response will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 15.4 For reports allocated to a portfolio holder, the portfolio holder will consider the report and respond in writing to the Committee within two months of receiving the report. The response will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 15.5 If for any reason the Cabinet or portfolio holder does not respond to the Scrutiny Committee report within two months, then the matter will be referred to the Council for review.
- 15.6 Select Committees will have access to the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions and timetable for decisions and intentions for consultation. They will use the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to identify potential items for scrutiny when work programme planning. However, even where an item is not the subject of detailed scrutiny/proposals from a Select Committee the Committee will nonetheless be able to respond in the course of the Cabinet's consultation process in relation to any key decision.
- 15.7 Where scrutiny recommendations are agreed by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member then an action plan for their implementation will be included with the response. The appropriate Select Committee shall monitor their implementation accordingly. Any issues with the implementation of scrutiny recommendations shall be brought to the attention of Cabinet for resolution.
- 15.8 Once a Select Committee report on any matter relating to the functions of another body, it will forward a copy of the report to that body requesting a response. Where appropriate, notice will be given of any applicable requirement for the body to respond and/or have regard to the report
- 15.9 The Council shall publish scrutiny reports and responses in accordance with the Access to Information Rules.

16. Rights of Select Committee members to documents

- 16.1 In addition to their rights as councillors, members of Scrutiny have the additional right to documents, and to notice of meetings as set out in the Access to Information Rules in Section 14 of this Constitution.

- 16.2 Nothing in this paragraph prevents more detailed liaison between the Cabinet and a Select Committee as appropriate depending on the particular matter under consideration.
- 17. Call-in of Executive Decisions**
- 17.1 Executive decisions made by the Cabinet, by Cabinet Members under delegated powers or by other bodies with executive powers may be 'called in' for reconsideration by the Corporate Review Committee. If they deem it appropriate, the Chairman of Corporate Review may delegate consideration of a Call In to the relevant select committee. Should the matter be delegated to a different committee then only the County Councillors on that Committee would be able to vote on the matter. The Committee can either agree that the decision be implemented or refer the decision back, with recommendations, to Cabinet or the relevant decision maker.
- 17.2 Executive decisions will be published electronically by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and shall be available for inspection at the County Buildings, Stafford as soon as practicable, normally within three working days of being made. The published record of the decision will state the date of publication and whether the decision is urgent and cannot be called in. If the decision is not urgent, it will be implemented on the fourth working day after the publication of the decision, unless it is called in.
- 17.4 During the period between the publication and implementation of a decision not less than four voting members of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, eight members of the Council who are not members of the Cabinet or a Group Leader with a group of eight or more members (excluding members of the Cabinet) and who is not a Cabinet Member may call the decision in either in writing or by e-mail. The call in will then be considered at the next meeting of the Corporate Review Committee (or the relevant Committee if delegated) and the decision shall not be implemented until the relevant Committee have dealt with it.
- 17.5 The call-in notice shall specify a 'Lead Member' who will speak at the Committee meeting to explain the reasons for calling the decision in and answer any questions from Committee Members. The Cabinet Member responsible for the decision will also be invited to explain the reasons behind the decision and answer questions. The remaining members who have called the decision in who are neither members of the Corporate Review Committee nor "local members" shall be entitled to attend and may answer questions from Committee Members.
- 17.6 If the Committee decides to refer the decision back for reconsideration then the decision shall not be implemented until the Cabinet have reconsidered the matter, having regard to the Committee's views. The Committee may nominate up to two representatives, who may be from the relevant Select Committee, for the purpose of attending and speaking (but not voting) on the matter at the Cabinet meeting. The decision of the Cabinet on such reconsideration shall be final.
- 17.7 If the Committee decides that a proposed decision relates to a matter which by law cannot be determined by the Council's Cabinet or must be determined by the full Council (and the Monitoring Officer confirms this) then unless the proposal is withdrawn the Committee shall refer the matter to the full Council for a decision.

- 17.8 If the Committee consider that the decision is one which raises issues of such exceptional significance and public interest as to justify consideration by the full Council before the decision is implemented the Committee may refer the decision to the full Council for consideration and the decision shall not be implemented until after the meeting of the Council to which it has been referred and the Cabinet have reconsidered the matter having regard to the Council's views on the decision.
- 17.9 If the Committee (or the Council) decides not to refer the decision back then it may be implemented on or after the first working day following the meeting of the Committee or Council.
- 17.10 Whichever course of action the Committee decides to take the reasons for taking that action and the concerns of the Committee about the decision shall be recorded in the minutes and reported to Cabinet.
- 17.11 If the Committee do not consider the call-in at their next meeting after expiry of the appropriate period the decision may be taken or implemented on or after the first working day after the meeting of the Committee at which the matter should have been considered.

18. Call-in and urgency

- 18.1 The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken by or on behalf of the Cabinet is urgent and any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests or the interests of any person(s) to whom the decision relates.
- 18.2 The record of the decision, and notice by which it is made public shall state, with reasons, whether in the opinion of the Cabinet the decision is an urgent one and therefore should not be subject to call-in.
- 18.3 The Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee must agree that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred. If they are unwilling or unable to act, the Chairman of the County Council or in their absence the Vice-Chairman of the County Council may agree that the decision is urgent but the reasons for the Chairman of Corporate Review failing to agree must be recorded.
- 18.4 The operation of the provisions relating to call-in and urgency shall be monitored, and a report submitted to Council on the use of the procedure on a quarterly basis.

SECTION 8

OTHER COMMITTEES

1. Committees

1.1 The County Council will appoint the Committees listed below to perform functions which cannot be dealt with by the Executive. The Committees will be appointed at the Annual Meeting of the County Council under Standing Order 24 of the Procedural Standing Orders in Section 12 of this Constitution.

1.2 The responsibilities and powers of each Committee are listed below and any of their powers that are delegated to officers of the Council are recorded in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers in Section 11 of this Constitution.

2. Planning Committee

2.1 The Planning Committee will be responsible for the discharging the following functions and delegated powers:-

- Deciding applications for planning permission and whether to impose any condition, limitation or other restriction on an approval, consent, licence, permission or registration granted and deciding any other terms to which any such approval, consent, licence, permission or registration is subject.
- Revoking, amending, modifying or varying any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration or any condition, limitation or term to which it is subject.
- Deciding applications to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached.
- Deciding to grant planning permission for developments already carried out.
- Declining to decide applications for planning permission
- Deciding applications for planning permission made by a local authority, alone or jointly with another person.
- Deciding, giving approvals and agreeing certain other matters relating to the exercise of permitted development rights.
- Deciding to enter into agreement regulating development or use of land.
- Granting consent for the display of advertisements.
- Power to determine applications for hazardous substances consent, and related powers
- Deciding conditions to which old mining permissions, relevant planning permissions relating to dormant sites or active Phase I or II sites, or mineral permissions relating to mining sites, as the case may be, are to be subject.
- Deciding applications for listed building consent, and exercising the related powers and duties.
- Deciding applications for conservation area consent, and exercising the related powers and duties.
- Executing urgent works
- Making limestone pavement orders.
- Exercising the County Council's powers relating to the preservation of trees.
- Deciding whether, and how, to enforce any failure to comply with an approval, consent, licence, permission or registration; or a condition, limitation or term to which such approval, consent, licence, permission or registration is subject; and any other contravention in relation to a matter with regard to which the function

of determining an application for approval, consent, licence, permission or registration would not be the responsibility of the Cabinet. This includes the following powers:-

- To issue a planning contravention notice, breach of condition notice, stop notice (full) or temporary stop notice and to serve a completion notice.
- To require the discontinuance of a use of land.
- To issue or withdraw an enforcement notice and to waive or relax any requirement of the notice
- To apply for an injunction restraining a breach of planning control
- Exercising the County Council's powers and duties relating to Local Development Documents which are Development Plan Documents.
- Agreeing to establish a joint committee to be, for the purposes of Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a local planning authority.

2.2 Where the Planning Committee are minded to refuse an application for planning permission which has been submitted on behalf of the Cabinet in respect of a County Council service, the application shall not be determined by the Planning Committee but shall be referred to a Special Ad Hoc Panel comprising five members of the Audit and Standards Committee who are not members of the Cabinet, the relevant Scrutiny Committee, or the Planning Committee.

2.3 Meetings of the Planning Committee will be subject to the Procedural Standing Orders in Section 10 of this Constitution and, in addition the Committee has agreed a protocol for Members of the public who have made representations to speak at meetings of the Committee. The operation of this protocol is regular reviewed and the up to date version can be found at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/committeesold/planningcommittee/default.htm>.

2.4 In addition the Planning Committee will establish a **Countryside and Rights of Way Panel** and **Licensing Panel** of five members of the Committee with full delegated powers to deal with the following matters detailed below.

2.5 **Countryside and Rights of Way Panel**

2.5.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Panel will be appointed at the first meeting of the Planning Committee in each municipal year. In addition to the five Members of the Panel, five additional Members will be appointed to substitute for any Member of the Panel who is unable to consider a matter on the agenda which affects their Division.

2.5.2 The functions and responsibilities of the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel shall be as follows:-

- Registering common land or town or village greens, except where the power is exercisable solely for the purpose of giving effect to – (a) an exchange of lands effected by an order under section 19(3) of, or paragraph 6(4) of Schedule 3 to, the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (c.67) or (b) an order under section 147 of the Inclosure Act 1845 (c. 8 & 9 Vict. C 118)
- Registering variation of rights of common
- Authorising erection of stiles etc. on footpaths or bridleways
- The creation of footpaths or bridleways, including by agreement.
- Keeping a register of information with respect to maps, statements and declarations.

- Stopping up footpaths and bridleways.
- Deciding applications for public path extinguishment orders.
- Making rail crossing extinguishment orders.
- Making special extinguishment orders.
- Diverting footpaths and bridleways.
- Making public path diversion orders.
- Making rail crossing diversion orders.
- Making special diversion orders.
- Requiring applicants for orders to enter into agreements.
- Making an Site of Special Scientific Interest diversion order.
- Keeping a register with respect to applications under sections 118ZA, 118C, 119ZA and 119C of the Highways Act 1980.
- Deciding to decline to determine certain applications.
- Exercising the duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to use and enjoyment of highways.
- Exercising the duty to serve notice of proposed action in relation to obstruction.
- Applying for variation of orders under section 130B of the Highways Act 1980.
- Authorising temporary diversions of surface of footpath or bridleway.
- Divert footpaths or bridleways temporarily.
- Exercising functions relating to the making good of damage and the removal of obstructions.
- Exercising powers relating to the removal of things deposited on highways causing a nuisance.
- Extinguishing certain public rights of way.
- Keeping the definitive map and statement under review.
- Including modifications in other orders.
- Keep a register of prescribed information with respect to applications under section 53(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- Reclassifying roads used as public paths.
- Preparing a map and statement by way of consolidation of definitive map and statement.
- Designating footpaths as cycle tracks.
- Authorising stopping up or diversion of highway under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1980.
- Authorising stopping-up or diversion of footpath or bridleway under Town and Country Planning Act.
- Extinguishing public rights of way over land held for planning purposes.
- Deciding to enter into agreements with respect to means of access.
- Exercising the power to provide access in absence of agreement.
- Exercising powers relating to the protection of important hedgerows.

2.5.3 Meetings of the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel will be conducted in accordance with the Procedural Standing Orders in Section 12 of this Constitution.

2.5.4 For consideration of reports on applications for the registration of common land, or town or village greens the Panel shall operate a formal substitute member system in cases where a full member of the Panel is the local member for the division in which the land is situated.

2.6 Licensing Panel

2.6.1 A Licensing Panel will be appointed by Planning Committee when necessary to deal with matters in respect of the following functions and responsibilities:-

- Keeping a list of persons entitled to sell non-medicinal poisons
- Registering animal trainers and exhibitors
- Licencing the employment of children
- Approving premises for the solemnisation of marriages
- Granting a street works licence
- Licencing agencies for the supply of nurses
- Issuing licences for the sale or movement of pigs and licencing collecting centres for the movement of pigs.
- Issuing licences to move cattle from a market.
- Granting permission for the provision etc. of services, amenities, recreation and refreshment facilities on highway, and related powers
- Publishing notice in respect of proposal to grant permission under Section 115E of the Highways Act 1980
- Permitting deposit of builder's skip on highway
- Licencing planting, retention and maintenance of trees etc in part of highway
- Licencing works in relation to buildings etc. which obstruct the highway
- Consenting to temporary deposits or excavations in streets
- Dispensing with obligation to erect hoarding or fence
- Restricting the placing of rails, beams etc over highways
- Consenting to the construction of cellars etc under street.
- Consenting to the making of openings into cellars etc under streets, and pavement lights and ventilators.
- Sanctioning the use of parts of buildings for storage of celluloid.
- To conduct a public hearing for objections received to applications for licences to manufacture and/or store explosives and to decide whether to assent to the application.

3. Audit and Standards Committee

3.1 The purpose of an Audit and Standards Committee is:

- to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment,
- to provide independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment,
- to oversee the financial reporting process
- to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for elected and co-opted members of Staffordshire County Council
- to provide a system for dealing with complaints about the conduct of elected and co-opted members.

3.2 The Audit and Standards Committee has the following functions and responsibilities:-

- To approve authority's statement of accounts
- To approve, monitor, review and amend from time to time the Council's Code of Corporate Governance to ensure that it is adequate and effective.

- To advise on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's internal control environment.
- To liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the council's external auditor.
- To review any issue referred to it by the chief executive or a director, or any council body.
- To monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the External Audit service and respond to its findings. This will include:-
 - Discussing the nature and scope of the audit of County Council services and functions, and considering the external audit fee and terms of engagement;
 - Receiving and considering external audit reports and Management Letters and advising the County Council as appropriate;
 - Monitoring the County Council's response to the external auditor's findings and the implementation of external audit recommendations.
- To work with and advise the Director of Finance and Resources in ensuring arrangements for the provision of an adequate and effective Internal Audit.
- To monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Internal Audit service and Chief Officers' responsibilities for ensuring an adequate control environment including:-
 - Receiving an annual internal audit plan from the Chief Internal Auditor
 - Monitoring progress against the plan through the receipt of periodic progress reports and an annual Internal Audit report;
 - Receiving and considering major Internal Audit findings and recommendations;
 - Monitoring the response to major findings and the implementation of key recommendations;
- To monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's risk management processes and to:
 - Approve the Risk Management Policy Statement and monitor it's implementation
 - Approve the content of the Corporate Risk Register and proposed Risk Mitigation Action Plan and monitor it's implementation
- To monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the County Council's Information Governance arrangements
- To monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the County Council's Corporate Health and Safety policies and to approve the annual Action Plan and key priorities
- To oversee, review, and make any recommendations on, the effectiveness and operation of the Constitution and any of the provisions of it.
- To divide electoral divisions into polling districts at local Government elections.
- To declare vacancy in office in certain cases.
- To give public notice of casual vacancies for County Councillors
- To determine fees and conditions for supply of copies of, or extracts from, election documents.
- To provide staff etc. to person nominated by the Monitoring Officer
- To determine the voting rights of co-opted members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- To make payments or provide other benefits in cases of maladministration etc.
- To oversee the Register of Members' Interests
- To advise the County Council on the adoption and revision of the members Code of Conduct and Protocols and to monitor their operation

- To advise, train or arrange training for elected and co-opted members on matters related to the Code of Conduct and Protocols
- To assist County Councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct and Protocols
- To interview and make recommendations to Council on the appointment of Independent Person(s) in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.
- To oversee the effectiveness of the Council's procedures for investigating and responding to complaints about Councillors and Co-opted members.
- To make final decisions on recommendations of the standards Panel on those cases where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been proven.
- To grant dispensations to elected and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the members Code of Conduct
- To determine the level of allowances and expenses for the Independent Person(s) appointed in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 to consider alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct
- To establish Panels of five members of the Committee as and when necessary with full delegated powers to deal with Appeals against:-
 - (a) disciplinary or employment related action or grading from officers
 - (b) dismissal from teachers employed in Education Support Units
 - (c) Any executive decision where the law requires that a person shall have a right of appeal within the Council against that decision and for which no other provision is made under this Constitution
- To establish Panels of five members of the Committee who are not Members of the Cabinet, relevant Scrutiny Committee or Planning Committee to deal with Planning Applications referred to it under Paragraph 2.2 of this section
- To establish Panels of five members of the Committee, as and when necessary, to deal with those complaints of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct which the Director of Law and Democracy, as Monitoring officer, in consultation with an Independent Person(s) deems to warrant detailed consideration and to make final recommendations thereon.
- To the extent that it relates to a function which is not a function of the Executive, authorising a person to exercise a function to which Section 70 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 applies, and revoking that authority.
- To deal with any other matter involving a regulatory, judicial, quasi-judicial or licensing function of the County Council which by law cannot be the responsibility of the Executive and for which no other provision is made in this Constitution.

4. Pensions Committee

- 4.1 The Pensions Committee will have full delegated powers to deal with all Functions relating to Local Government Pensions on behalf of the County Council.
- 4.2 The Committee shall comprise 9 elected members and 6 non-voting co-opted members representing the following categories:-
- Local Authorities/Staffordshire Police Authority/ Combined Fire Authority (1 seat)
 - Contractors (1 seat)
 - Other Scheduled Bodies (1 seat)
 - Trades Unions (2 seats)
 - Pension Recipients (1 seat)

4.3 The terms of reference of the Pensions Committee will be:-

- To decide and set from time to time:-
 - The strategic asset allocation and objectives of the Staffordshire County Council Pension Fund (“the Pension Fund”);
 - The strategic benchmarks for the performance of the Pension Fund against which the actual performance is to be measured;
 - The strategic targets against which the performance of the Pensions Panel and Fund Managers is to be measured;
 - The arrangements for consultation with the stakeholders that have an interest in the affairs of the Pension Fund.
- To review at not more than yearly intervals the performance of the Pension Fund and the Pensions Panel against the strategic objectives, benchmarks and targets set by them and to consider if, and to what extent, any change may be necessary to ensure the efficient and effective performance of the Pension Fund;
- To approve and keep under review the Statement of Investment Principles and Funding Strategy Statement.
- To maintain a Communication Strategy.
- To approve the Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts.
- To receive a report at least annually on pensions administration activities.
- To approve and keep under review the Fund’s Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) arrangements.
- To approve the formal Actuarial Valuation.
- To approve the admission of employing organizations to the Fund where there is discretion to do so.
- To have due regard to the advice of the Chief Finance Officer and to the advice of Consultants appointed by the Committee for the purpose (the appointment of whom may be made by the Committee on such terms and conditions and for such duration as the Committee may consider appropriate) with expertise in either or both of the following fields:-
 - Actuarial matters and Risk/Liability assessment
 - Investment Strategy and Allocation;
- To monitor from time to time the advice received from Consultants.
- To have regard to the advice of the Pensions Panel on matters referred to the Committee for consideration by the Panel and to call for advice from any Adviser or Manager who could have been asked by the Pensions Panel to give the Panel advice.
- If the Pensions Committee shall disregard the advice of Consultants their reasons for so doing shall be recorded in the minutes of the Committee.
- To deal with any other matters arising in respect of Local Government Pensions.
- To Appoint a Pensions Panel of five Members of the Committee.

4.4 The Pensions Panel

4.4.1 The Pensions Committee will constitute a Pensions Panel of five members of the Committee with full delegated powers to deal as and when appropriate with the following matters:-

- The structure of the management arrangements necessary to achieve the effective management of the Pension Fund to meet the objectives set by the Pensions Committee;

- The selection, appointment and dismissal of, and the monitoring of the performance of, the Managers of the Pension Fund;
- The allocation of the assets of the Pension Fund and the generic selection of asset portfolios in order to meet the objectives set by the Pensions Committee;
- The monitoring of the performance of the Pension Fund and its portfolios on a regular and routine basis across all sectors of investment and management and the reporting arrangements to Panel may require from time to time for this purpose;
- To agree from time to time any restrictions to be placed on any one or more Managers of the Pension Fund as to particular classes of authorised investment or decisions they may take on behalf of the Pension Fund or as to the exercise of voting rights;

4.4.2 The Pensions Panel will review regularly and make recommendations to the Pensions Committee on the following matters:-

- Strategic Asset Allocation.
- Strategic Benchmarks.
- Strategic Performance Targets.
- The performance of Fund Investment Managers.
- The Statement of Investment Principles and the Funding Strategy statement.
- Legislative, financial and economic changes which impact on the investment activity of the Fund.
- The advice from advisers appointed by the Panel.

4.4.3 The Pensions Panel shall have regard to the advice of the Chief Finance Officer and to the advice of Independent Advisers appointed by the Panel for the purpose (the appointment of whom may be made by the Panel on such terms and conditions and for such duration as the Panel may consider appropriate) with expertise in any one or more of the following fields:-

- Tactical Asset Allocation/Investment Strategy Implementation;
- Equities/Stocks/Shares/Securities (whether in UK or Overseas)
- Property
- Bonds and Gilt-edged Investments
- Manager Selection and Performance Monitoring;

and to the advice of any one or more Managers of the Pension Fund as the Panel may request.

4.4.4 The Pensions Panel may make recommendations to the Pensions Committee on any other matter whether or not it falls within the delegated powers available to the Pensions Panel.

5. Charities and Trust Committee

5.1 The purpose of a Charities and Trusts Committee is:

- To exercise those powers and duties held by the County Council in its capacity as a Trustee for Charities and Trusts registered with the Charity Commission and recording the County Council as a Trustee.

5.2 The Charities and Trusts Committee has the following functions and responsibilities

- to approve annual reports and accounts
- to approve Charity Commission returns and other regulatory documents
- to respond to enquiries from auditors and independent examiners
- to make decisions on the use/disposal of charity property and assets
- to oversee the management of any Charity and Trust for which the County Council is a Trustee
- to act as the accountable manager for, and take all necessary administrative decisions on any Charity and Trust for which the County Council is the a Trustee
- To compile and maintain an up to date list of Charities and Trusts for which the County Council is a Trustee
- to take any other action required to ensure the proper management and administration of Charities and Trusts for which the County Council is a Trustee.
- to report annually to the full County Council on decision made on its behalf.

5.3 Membership

- The Committee shall comprise 5 members (Cabinet members shall not be eligible for appointment to this Committee).

5.4 Frequency of Meetings

- The Committee shall hold a minimum of 2 meetings per municipal year. Additional meetings to be held as and when required.

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SECTION 9

All Party Member Groups

1. Role and Purpose of All Party Member Groups

- 1.1 Elected Members are at the heart of driving forward the Council's responsiveness to addressing the needs of the County Council's customers and the citizens of Staffordshire. Members have a significant knowledge of their local communities and are a conduit for bringing that knowledge into public service organisations and communicating the actions taken in response to this information back out into communities.
- 1.2 The All Party Member Groups have been established to provide a forum to drive the debate around the long term issues that affect the communities of Staffordshire and how public services, working with the private and voluntary and community sector can plan for and address these issues.
- 1.3 The All Party Groups will produce policy options and recommendations to address the long term needs of the communities of Staffordshire within the broad headings of Health and Wellbeing, Learning and Skills, Economy and Infrastructure and Communities, Culture and Localism. Their recommendations will be considered by Cabinet or the relevant Cabinet Member or presented to partner organisations as appropriate.

2. Membership

- 2.1 The All Party Member Groups are not Committees of the County Council and therefore are not subject to the formal political balance requirements. Four APMGs will be established covering
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Learning and Skills
 - Economy and Infrastructure
 - Communities, Culture and Localism

The membership of these will be:

- 5 Conservative members
- 4 Labour members
- 1 UKIP or Independent member

The Groups will be Chaired by the Cabinet Member or Cabinet Support Member.

3. Meetings

- 3.1 The All Party Member Groups will meet 3-4 times a year. These meetings will be an opportunity to consider new issues within the remit of Group, identify work programme priorities and review progress against previous recommendations or proposals.

- 3.2 The All Party Member Groups will also be able to establish specific investigations for the purpose of developing policy proposals for the County Council and/ or partner organisations. Each All Party Member Group will be able to establish 1 investigation at a time. Each investigation will need to be effectively scoped prior to the investigation commencing.
- 3.3 It will be for the Group to scope the specific question that is to be answered and the timescale in which the investigation will take place. The Group will move onto its next priority once the previous investigation has been concluded and recommendations drawn up.
- 3.4 In addition Cabinet may commission an All Party Member Group to undertake an investigation into a particular issue.
- 3.5 Some meetings may be held in private depending on the nature of the evidence being gathered. All investigations will however result in a final report which will be published.

4. Agenda items and Work Programmes

- 4.1 The Chairman will be responsible for drawing up the work programme in discussion with the membership of the Group. The work programme will reflect community priorities over the medium to long term.
- 4.2 Any Member may request that a particular item be considered for investigation but these will be prioritised in terms of the impact the investigation will deliver.
- 4.3 The Group can undertake its investigation in whichever way it deems appropriate and may wish to seek evidence from a range of sources including national best practice and the views of service users to inform its findings and recommendations.

5. The Relationship between the All Party Member Groups and Select Committees

- 5.1 The simplest way of describing the difference between the All Party Member Groups and the Select Committees are that the All Party Groups are forward looking investigating the issues that will be facing the communities of Staffordshire over the next 10 to 15 years and beyond.
- 5.2 The Select Committees will be focussing on the here and now and be backward looking in challenging whether the County Council and its partners are delivering the outcomes for local communities that it has made a commitment to deliver against. The core role of scrutiny is around answering the question of has the Council and its partners delivered positive impact for local communities and what have the unintended consequences been.
- 5.3 The All Party Member Groups may use evidence collected by the Select Committees as part of the evidence base as a starting point for their investigations.

SECTION 10

JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

1. Arrangements to promote well being

- 1.1 The Council or the Cabinet, in order to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area, may enter into arrangements or agreements with any person or body, co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of, any person or body; and exercise on behalf of that person or body any functions of that person or body.

2. Joint arrangements

- 2.1 The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities and/or their Scrutiny Committees to exercise functions which are not executive functions in any of the participating authorities, or advise the Council.

- 2.2 The Cabinet may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise functions which are executive functions. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of Joint Committees with those other local authorities.

- 2.3 The Cabinet may only appoint Cabinet members to a joint Committee unless:-

- 2.3.1 The Joint Committee has functions for only part of the area of the authority, and that area is smaller than two-fifths of the authority by area or population. In such cases, the Cabinet may appoint to the Joint Committee any Councillor who is a member for an electoral division which is wholly or partly contained within the area; or

- 2.3.2 The Joint Committee is between a County Council and a single District Council and relates to executive functions of the County Council. In such cases, the Cabinet of the County Council may appoint to the Joint Committee any Councillor who is a member for an electoral division which is wholly or partly contained within the area.

- 2.3.3 In both cases the political balance requirements do not apply to such appointments.

- 2.4 The Council may establish a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee where the subject of the Joint Committee relates to the attainment of any local improvement target set out in the Local Area Agreement or relates to a matter of health service variation that impacts upon the communities of the local authority concerned.

- 2.5 The Joint Committee will be constituted from elected representatives from the local authorities concerned. For a crime and disorder issue the Police Authority and Chief Officer of Police would be accountable to a crime and disorder committee rather than a Joint Committee.

- 2.6 Agreement to instigating or participating in an Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee will be made through discussion with the relevant Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair and the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation . Where the

investigation relates to a Local Area Agreement target the Strategic Board will be notified in advance of the commencement of the Joint Committee.

3. Access to Information

- 3.1 The Access to Information Rules in Section 13 of this Constitution apply.
- 3.2 If all the members of a Joint Committee are members of the Cabinet or Executive in each of the participating authorities then its access to information regime is the same as that applied to the Cabinet.
- 3.3 If the Joint Committee contains members who are not on the Cabinet or Executive of any participating authority then the access to information rules in Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 will apply.

4. Delegation to and from other local authorities

- 4.1 A Committee responsible for a non-executive function may delegate it to another local authority or, in certain circumstances, the Executive of another local authority.
- 4.2 The Cabinet may delegate executive functions to another local authority or the Executive of another local authority in certain circumstances.
- 4.3 The decision whether or not to accept such a delegation from another local authority shall be reserved to the Cabinet or the Committee by which the functions in question would be exercised on behalf of the Council.

5. Current Joint Arrangements with Delegated Powers

- 5.1 The County Council currently has the following joint arrangements in place which exercise delegated powers.

5.2 *Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Archives Committee*

Membership	2 County Council (Members of the County Council's Cabinet) with substitutes 1 County Council Observer 1 Stoke on Trent City Council (Member of the City Council's Cabinet)
Terms of Reference	To deal with all matters pertaining to archives and archive services in the County and the City of Stoke-on-Trent.
Delegated Powers	To act within the Joint Committee's terms of reference.

5.3 *Wedgwood Memorial College Joint Management Committee*

Membership	2 County Council (Members of the County Council's Cabinet) 1 Stoke-on-Trent City Council (An officer of the City Council appointed by the City Council's Cabinet)
Advised by:	The Principal The Advisory Committee (A Working Party established by the Joint Committee)

	The County Council's Director of Children's Services (or their nominee) The City Council's Director of Children and Young People's Services (or their nominee)
Terms of Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To manage and provide general direction for the College within the budget agreed by the City Council and the County Council and in so doing to ensure that economy efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources is secured. 2. To deal with the education provision (including courses) to be made by the College. 3. To produce a monitoring Report to the City Council and the County Council for each academic term including details of performance against budget within six weeks following the end of each such term. 4. To produce an Annual Report in such form and containing such detail as will allow the City Council and the County Council to review the effectiveness of the Joint Committee and the College. 5. From time to time and at least once in each financial year to consult such organisations and individuals as the Joint Committee deems representative of Adult Education in North Staffordshire and to advise the City Council and County Council on the provision of Adult Education in North Staffordshire. 6. To consult teaching staff at the College regularly about the organisation and regulation of the academic work of the College. 7. To consult teaching and non-teaching staff at the College regularly about the operation of the College. 8. To establish such Sub-Committees Working Parties or Panels and with such Terms of Reference as the Joint Committee consider appropriate. 9. To delegate under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to employees of the City Council or County Council such functions as the Joint Committee shall consider appropriate. 10. To take account of the views of the bodies and individuals listed in Section 2.
Delegated Powers	To act within the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference

5.4 **Staffordshire Connects Joint Committee**

Membership	10 Members (1 County Council, 1 Stoke-on-Trent City Council and one each from Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Tamworth Borough Council)
Terms of Reference	To consider the outcome of officer level discussions, made through the Staffordshire Connects Strategic

	Advisory Board, and to lead the process to implementing Electronic Government in Staffordshire
Delegated Powers	To act within the Joint Committee's terms of reference and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement between the partnering authorities establishing the Joint Committee.

5.5 ***Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee***

Membership	<p>1 County Council (Member of the County Council's Executive); 1 Cannock Chase District Council (Member of its Executive/Cabinet); 1 Lichfield District Council (Member of its Executive/Cabinet); 1 South Staffordshire District Council (Member of its Executive/Cabinet); 1 Stafford Borough Council (Member of its Executive/Cabinet)</p> <p>Each of the constituent authorities will appoint a substitute elected member, who is eligible to be a voting member, to attend meetings of the Joint Committee when the member is unable to attend</p>
Co-opted Advisers (Non-Voting)	<p>Chairman of the AONB Advisory Partnership; AONB Officer; 1 Countryside Agency; 2 Forestry Commission; 1 English Nature</p> <p>Such other co-opted advisers as the Joint Committee may specify having regard to their knowledge and skill and the contribution they may make to the work of the Joint Committee.</p>
Terms of Reference	To act jointly for the purpose of exercising and discharging the functions and attaining and realising the objectives relating to the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement entered into between the partnering authorities establishing the Joint Committees.
Delegated Powers	To act within The Joint Committee's terms of reference.

5.6 ***Joint Staffordshire Parking Board***

Membership	<p>1 County Councillor (The Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Infrastructure with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment to act as substitute)</p> <p>1 Member from each of Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Tamworth Borough Council</p>
Terms of Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt general policies, strategies and guidance for the introduction and on-going operation of DPE in Staffordshire. 2. Adopt key performance measures for use by the

	<p>District/Borough Councils and the County Council to enable best value and best practice to be achieved through target setting and benchmarking.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Set policies and guidance for the implementation of:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Residents' Parking Schemes (within the Residents' Parking Zone Policy); (ii) On-street pay and display and related charges. 4. Set Parking Charge Notice Levels to be applied across Staffordshire in accordance with best practice and be at the maximum level permitted. 5. Provide to each Joint Parking Committee with minutes and reports of the Parking Board. 6. Receive and consider the minutes of each Joint Parking Committee meeting. 7. Where deemed appropriate, respond to consultations relevant to DPE and make representations to government departments and others in respect of DPE issues. 8. Receive and consider performance and financial reports concerning DPE.
Delegated Powers	See Appendix 2 of SCC/District Partnership Agreement for guidance also compare with Waste Board delegations.

5.7 Joint Appointments Committee re: Staffordshire Police Authority

Members	4 Members (3 County Council, 1 Stoke-on-Trent City Council).
Terms of Reference	To calculate the overall political balance of the Councillor Members on the Staffordshire Police Authority (nine out of 17) and appoint, annually, individual Councillor Members to the Authority.
Delegated Powers	To act within the Joint Committee's terms of reference.

6. Current Joint Arrangements without Delegated Powers

6.1 The County Council currently has the following joint arrangements in place which do not exercise delegated powers.

6.2 Staffordshire Supporting People Commissioning Body Members' Board

Membership	<p>1 County Councillor 8 District/Borough Councillors 1 Representative from Strategic Health Authority/Primary Care Trusts 1 Representative from Probation Service</p>
Terms of Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prepare and agree a supporting people strategy, a programme of work and such other policy documents as may be required by the Secretary of State, or for the purpose of local delivery of the Supporting People programme. 2. To grant a scheme of delegation to the Officers'

	<p>Board to enable officers to make decisions within an agreed policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To consider how the documents referred to in (a) affect and are affected by the other statutory and non-statutory plans prepared by the parties. 4. To consider reports and recommendations of the Officers' Board, constituted in accordance with the constitution of the Commissioning Body, in respect of matters considered by the Officers' Board. 5. To deal with any matters referred by the Officers' Board on which they have failed to agree. 6. To agree an annual programme of training, information and consultation to ensure that members of the Commissioning Body have satisfactory knowledge and training and that other persons and bodies affected (including the general public) are adequately informed and consulted.
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6.3 **JOINT LOCAL PARKING COMMITTEES**

6.3.1 There shall be Joint Local Parking Committees formed in East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, and Staffordshire Moorlands Districts.

6.3.2 Each Joint Local Parking Committee shall consist of four local members nominated by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio leader together with substitute members in the event that a member is unable to attend a meeting. The District Council will appoint the same number of members. Members eligible for appointment shall represent an electoral division within each respective District Council Area.

6.3.3 The Terms of Reference of each Joint Local Parking Committee is to oversee the local operation of the DPE service in each District area, each Board being administered by the respective District Council.

7. **Statutory Joint Arrangements**

7.1 The County Council is required by law to participate in the following Joint Arrangements.

7.2 **Police and Crime Panel**

7.2.1 Established under the provisions of Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Constituted in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.

7.2.2 Staffordshire County Council shall be the host authority for the Police and Crime Panel and shall be responsible for the associated administration.

7.2.3 Membership

There shall be 10 council members, together with 2 lay co-opted members. The Panel may appoint up to an additional 8 co-opted members. These may or may not be council members. The Panel will only exercise its powers to appoint additional co-opted members with the agreement of the 10 constituent local authorities, and the appointment of each additional co-optee must be approved by all 10 constituent local authorities to be effective.

Council members:

Councillors to be appointed as follows:

Authority	Core members
Staffordshire County Council	1
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	1
Cannock Chase District Council	1
East Staffs District Council	1
Lichfield District Council	1
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council	1
Stafford Borough Council	1
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	1
South Staffs District Council	1
Tamworth Borough Council	1
TOTAL	10

Appointments shall be made on an annual basis

The appointment of core council members shall be the responsibility of the individual Authority on the basis of political control of that Authority.

In the event of a council member resigning or otherwise ceasing to be eligible to serve on the Panel, the appointment of a replacement shall be the responsibility of the Authority concerned and will be taken from the same political group (or controlling group) as the member being replaced.

Lay Co-opted members

Appointments shall be made by the Panel for a 4 year term of office and shall be made on the basis of skills, knowledge and experience.

7.2.4 Terms of Reference

- 1) To review and make a report or recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the draft police and crime plan, or draft variation, given to the panel by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2) To review, put questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner at a public meeting, and make a report or recommendation (as necessary) on the annual report.

- 3) To hold a confirmation hearing and review, make a report, and recommendation (as necessary) in respect of proposed senior appointments (ie Chief Constable, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner) made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4) To review and make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable.
- 5) To review and make a report and recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner (as necessary) on the proposed precept.
- 6) To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the commissioner's functions, including holding the Chief Constable to account, setting the police precept and budget, appointing (and removing) the Chief Constable and publishing a Police and Crime Plan setting out the strategic policing objectives.
- 7) To make reports or recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner with respect to the discharge of the commissioner's functions.
- 8) To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 9) To ensure that, when formulating the Police and Crime Plan, the Police and Crime Commissioner gives due regard to the priorities of local Community Safety Partnerships and the residents they serve.
- 10) To record and investigate complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner or other office holders that relate to non-criminal behaviour (Elected Local Policing Bodies(Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2011)
- 11) To appoint an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner if necessary.
- 12) To suspend the Police and Crime Commissioner if it appears to the Panel that the Commissioner has been charged in the United Kingdom or Isle of Man with an offence which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.

7.3 Health and Wellbeing Board

7.3.1 Established under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 as an executive body of the County Council

7.3.2 Staffordshire County Council shall be the host authority for the Health and Wellbeing Board and shall be responsible for the associated administration

7.3.3 Membership

- Cabinet Member for Adults' Wellbeing, Staffordshire County Council
- Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing, Staffordshire County Council

- Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety, Staffordshire County Council
- District & Borough Council Representative (North)
- District & Borough Council Representative (South)
- Representative of North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Representative of South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula Clinical Commissioning Group
- Representative of East Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Representative of Stafford and Surrounds Clinical Commissioning Group
- Representative of Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Commissioning Board Local Area Team
- Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police
- Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People, Staffordshire County Council
- Director of Public Health Staffordshire
- A designated representative from HealthWatch

Additional membership will be considered by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board as appropriate. The overall size of the Board will, however, be kept at a level which is manageable and able to support efficient and effective decision-making.

The Board intends to ensure effective engagement and dialogue with wider stakeholders through the development of a Health and Wellbeing Provider Forum. The views of the Provider Forum will be fed back into the Board to inform its decision making.

7.3.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board has a set of core duties as laid out in the 2012 Health and Social Care Act, these are:

1. To jointly prepare and publish a Staffordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, ensuring that it engages with and captures the voice of the community, and is used to inform collective and individual strategic decisions of the Board and the individual bodies that make up the Board.
2. To jointly agree and publish a Staffordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), setting out ambitious outcomes for improved health and wellbeing across Staffordshire.
3. To encourage health and care commissioners to work together and to co-ordinate commissioning decisions to advance the health and wellbeing of the people of Staffordshire.
4. To consider the partnership arrangements under the Section 75 of the 2006 NHS Act (such as joint commissioning and pooled budgets where appropriate).
5. To encourage integrated working.
6. To ensure patient and public voice is heard as part of the Health and Wellbeing Boards decision making, receiving and considering patient and public feedback through the statutory board membership and regular reports of Staffordshire Health-watch.
7. To receive and consider the plans of the Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Commissioning Board LAT and Local Authority, providing

assurance and endorsement that they have regard to the Staffordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

8. A duty to work in partnership.
9. Increase local democratic legitimacy in the commissioning of health and care services.

In addition to the duties of the Board as set out in the Health and Social Care Act, the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board has also agreed additional functions relevant to achieving outcomes for Staffordshire and the wider Staffordshire partnership environment:

10. To oversee the effective delivery of the Staffordshire strategic priority outcomes
11. To ensure continuous improvements in quality; encompassing dignity, safety and effectiveness.
12. To work with the Local Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards to ensure all partners promote the safety and welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults.
13. To establish the basis of collaboration with Stoke City Health and Wellbeing Board
14. To represent the needs and issues for Staffordshire at local, regional, national and international level.
15. To monitor, review and evaluate progress and impact against the outcomes and actions agreed in the Staffordshire JHWS and ensure action is taken where appropriate to improve outcomes.
16. Evaluate performance against locally agreed priorities.
17. Evaluate performance against nationally set outcomes frameworks for the NHS, public health and social care.

7.3.5 The Key principles upon which the Board will function are as follows:

- The Board will link closely with the Staffordshire Strategic Partnership (SSP) to ensure co-ordination around common priorities to the benefit of local communities.
- There will be sovereignty around decision making processes. Core members will be accountable through their own organisation's decision making processes for the decisions they take. It is expected that Members of the Board will have delegated authority from their organisations to take decisions within the terms of reference.
- Decisions within the terms of reference will be taken at meetings and will not normally be subject to ratification or a formal decision process by partner organisations (provided that at least 10 days notice of forthcoming decisions had been given). However, where decisions are not within the delegated authority of the Board members, these will be subject to ratification by constituent bodies.
- It is expected that decisions will be reached by consensus.

- From April 2013 the decisions and agendas for the Board will be publically available, except where exemption criteria apply, via the website. The Board will actively provide information to the public through publications, local media, wider public activities and an annual report.
- Core members have a responsibility to feed back to their respective organisations the deliberations and decisions of the Board as appropriate.
- The terms of reference will be reviewed annually in light of learning from the experience of Board members.

7.3.6 The Board may establish themed sub-groups from time to time comprising a range of stakeholders to ensure that these functions are undertaken effectively. These groups will be accountable to the Board for the delivery of their stated aims and outcomes within agreed timescales.

7.3.7 The Health and Wellbeing Board is an executive function of Staffordshire County Council. The Staffordshire Health Select Committee will be the key means of scrutiny of the Board's activity. This will generally involve an invitation to the Chair to attend relevant meetings of the Select Committee, linked to an agreed work programme

7.3.8 Board Leadership

In terms of providing leadership and driving forward with pace the agenda for health and wellbeing in Staffordshire Board Members will need to be committed to:

- Placing the patient and public at the heart of decision making
- Provide strategic leadership based on evidence with a focus on areas where the Board can make the biggest difference
- Act with courage and conviction when making decisions that will have long term benefits to local communities
- Working in partnership to deliver impact
- Communicate effectively and consistently across Board Members and across stakeholders.

7.3.9 Chairing of Meetings

The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board has established the following arrangement for the Chairmanship of meetings:

- The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be the County Council's Cabinet Member for Adults Wellbeing.
- The Co-Chair will be selected from the Clinical Commissioning Group representatives on the Board.

These positions do not attract an additional special responsibility allowance.

7.3.10 Meeting Arrangements

The Board will meet publically 6 times a year on an 8 week cycle. Additional meetings of the Board may be convened with agreement of the Chairman/ Co Chair. Board Members will also be asked to attend development sessions as appropriate which will be specifically structured to provide time for reflection, development and training to ensure continued focus upon effective leadership and outcomes.

The Board will establish its own Forward Programme of activity which will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains both strategic and timely. The Forward Plan will be considered at every meeting to facilitate discussion as to priority areas, new items and agenda timetabling. Any reports for a meeting of the Board should be submitted to the County Council's Member and Democratic Services team no later than eight working days in advance of the meeting. No business will be conducted that is not on the agenda.

Agendas and papers for Board meetings will be made publically available via the website (post April 2013) unless covered by exempt information procedures. Agendas and reports will be circulated and published seven days prior to the meeting.

7.3.11 Quorum

The quorum for a meeting shall be a quarter of the membership including at least one elected member from the County Council and one representative of the GP commissioning consortia.

7.3.12 Substitution Arrangements

Each Core Member has the power to nominate a single named substitute. Should a substitute member be required, advance notice of not less than 2 working days should be given to the Council, via the Member and Democratic Services Team. The substitute member shall have the same powers and responsibilities as the Core Members including the ability to vote of matters before the Board.

7.3.14 Voting

All Core Members, and their named substitute, will have the right to vote on matters before the Board. A decision will be passed on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the event of a majority vote not being possible the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

7.3.15 Expenses

The partnership organisations are responsible for meeting the expenses of their own representatives.

7.3.16 Conflicts of Interests

The Localism Act 2011 sets out matters relating to the Code of Conduct and the Registration of Interests which will apply to Health and Wellbeing Board members (subject to the publication of regulations).

These require Board Members to abide by Code of Conduct based on the 7 Nolan principles of Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership). Under this code, Health and Wellbeing Board Members, and their substitutes are required to register defined 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interests' (DPIs) that they are aware of relating to both themselves and their partner. The Council is also required to publish the Register of Interests on its website as well as having it available for public inspection.

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SECTION 11

OFFICERS

1. Management structure

- 1.1 The County Council may engage such staff (referred to as officers) as it considers necessary to carry out its functions.
- 1.2 The County Council may engage such Chief Officers with departmental or service responsibilities as it considers necessary.
- 1.3 The County Council may from time to time add to, vary or reduce the number, designation and areas of responsibility of posts of Chief Officer.
- 1.4 The following officers are the current Chief Officers of the County Council:-
- Chief Executive
 - Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive
 - Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive
 - Director of Strategy and Customer Services
 - Director of Finance and Resources
 - Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation
 - Director of Public Health
- 1.5 The Head of Paid Service will determine and publicise a description of the overall departmental structure of the Council showing the management structure and deployment of officers. This is appended as appendix 4.

2. Statutory Officers

- 2.1 The County Council must designate certain officers to discharge the statutory responsibilities of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer), Director of Children's Services, Director of Adult Social Care, Scrutiny Officer and Director of Public Health.
- 2.2 In the event that any of the designated posts of Statutory Officer are vacant, or the post holder is absent (and in the case of the Monitoring Officer, no Deputy Monitoring Officer is appointed) the Chief Executive, or in his absence the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer acting together, shall, in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, the Leaders of the Political Groups, and the other Statutory Officers (where relevant), designate another officer as an Interim Statutory Officer pending a new appointment to the Statutory Officer post by the Council. In the event that any of the designated posts of Statutory Officer are vacant, or the post holder is absent (and in the case of the Monitoring Officer, no Deputy Monitoring Officer is appointed) the Chief Executive, or in his absence the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer acting together, shall, in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, the Leaders of the Political Groups, and the other Statutory Officers (where relevant), designate another officer as an Interim Statutory Officer pending a new appointment to the Statutory Officer post by the Council. This does not apply to the Statutory Officer post of Director of Public Health. The rules governing the appointment of an Interim

Statutory Officer pending the new appointment of the Director of Public Health are set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules at Appendix 3, paragraph 6 of the Constitution

2.3 The County Council's Chief Executive is currently designated as the **Head of Paid Service**. The functions of the Head of the Paid Service are as follows:-

- The Head of Paid Service will report to full Council on the way in which the discharge of the County Council's functions is managed, the number and grades of officers required for the discharge of these functions and the way in which the officers are structured into departments.
- The Head of Paid Service may not be the Monitoring Officer.

2.4 The County Council's Director of Transformation, Law and Democracy is currently designated as the **Monitoring Officer**. The functions of the Monitoring Officer are as follows:-

- Maintaining an up-to-date version of the Constitution and ensuring it is widely available for consultation by members, staff and the public.
- Ensuring that the Council's decision making is lawful and fair. After consulting the Head of Paid Service and the Director of Finance and Resources, the Monitoring Officer will report to the full Council or to the Cabinet in relation to an executive function if they consider that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or if any decision or omission has given rise to maladministration. Such report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered.
- Contributing to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Audit and Standards Committee, monitoring adherence to the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct and dealing with any allegations of breaches of the code.
- Maintaining and publishing a register of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (and any other interests defined by the County Council), including deciding on the publication of 'sensitive interests'.
- Ensuring that Cabinet decisions, together with the reasons for those decisions and relevant officer reports and background papers are made publicly available as soon as possible.
- Advising whether decisions of the Cabinet are in accordance with the budget and policy framework.
- Providing advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors.

2.5 The Monitoring Officer cannot be the Chief Financial Officer or the Head of Paid Service.

2.6 The County Council's Director of Finance and Resources is currently designated as the **Chief Financial Officer**. The functions of the Chief Financial Officer are as follows:-

- Ensuring that the County Council's decision making is lawful and financially prudent. After consulting the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer, the Director of Finance and Resources will report to the full Council (or to the Cabinet in relation to an executive function) and the Council's

external auditor if he considers that any proposal, decision or course of action will involve incurring unlawful expenditure, or is unlawful and is likely to cause a loss or deficiency or if the Council is about to enter an item of account unlawfully.

- Responsibility for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Council, under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- Responsibility for conducting a continuous internal audit of the financial affairs of the Council as required by the relevant Regulations from time to time in force and for maintaining an adequate and effective system of internal audit as required by those Regulations.
- Contributing to the corporate management of the County Council, in particular through the provision of professional financial advice.
- Providing advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors and will support and advise councillors and officers in their respective roles.
- Providing financial information to the media, the public and the community.

2.7 The County Council will provide the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer with such officers, accommodation and other resources required to allow their duties to be performed.

2.8 Section 18 (1) of the Children Act 2004 requires the Council to appoint a **Director of Children's Services** who is tasked with improving the well-being of all children and young people in the local area across all five Every Child Matters outcomes, and ensuring that outcomes gaps between the most disadvantaged children and their peers are reduced. The County Council's Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive is currently designated as the Director of Children's Services and the functions of the Director of Children's Services are as follows:-

- Functions conferred on or exercisable by the LA in its capacity as a local education authority;
- Social services functions as they relate to children within the meaning of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970;
- Functions relating to persons leaving care;
- Functions in respect to the co-operation to improve well-being with partner agencies ;multi agency arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare; information databases ;children and young people's plans;
- Functions under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 on behalf of an NHS body, so far as those functions relate to children;
- Functions in respect to the improvement of young children's well-being; provision of child care; information ,advice and assistance, and training to child care providers;
- Such other functions conferred on or exercisable by the authority as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State by regulations.
- To promote the importance of improving outcomes for all children and young people;
- To encourage all services to contribute to improving outcomes for all children within the Children's Trust and other partnerships;
- Working with local head teachers collectively to drive up standards in schools and improve children's wellbeing

- Championing children and young people and their families within the local area;
- Management of the local authority's children's services, with professional responsibility and accountability for their effectiveness, availability and value for money;
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- Supporting looked after children;
- Ensuring there are effective arrangements for school improvement in the area;
- Ensuring effective delivery of the authority's responsibilities for 14-19 commissioning and provision, and all aspects of 16-19 provision;
- Promoting early intervention and prevention in delivering services for children, young people and families
- Emphasising and ensuring all plans and strategies reflect the importance of reducing child poverty in the area.

2.9 Section 6 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (as amended by the Children's Act 2004) requires the Council to appoint a **Director of Adult Social Services** who is accountable for the delivery of local authority social services functions listed in Schedule 1 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (as amended), other than those for which the DCS is responsible, in respect of adults. The Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive is currently designated as the Director of Adult Social Services and they are responsible for the County Council's functions in respect to adult social services including:-

- Accountability for assessing local needs and ensuring availability and delivery of a full range of adult social services;
- Professional leadership, including workforce planning;
- Leading the implementation of standards;
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults;
- Promoting local access and ownership and driving partnership working;
- Promoting social inclusion and wellbeing.

2.10 Under Section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 requires the Council to appoint a **Scrutiny Officer**. The Democracy Manager – Scrutiny and Governance is currently designated as the Scrutiny Officer and the functions of the Scrutiny Officer are as follows:-

- To promote the role of the authority's scrutiny function and committees;
- To provide support to the scrutiny committees and members of those committees.
- To provide support and guidance to Members, Cabinet Members and Officers of the authority in relation to the functions of the authority's scrutiny committees.

2.11 The Scrutiny Officer post cannot be held by the Head of Paid Service, Chief Financial Officer or Monitoring Officer.

2.12 Section 30 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires the Council to appoint a Director of Public Health who will be accountable for the delivery of the authority's duties. This is a joint appointment between the authority and the Secretary of State.

The Director of Public Health is the principal adviser on all health related matters and this role covers all three domains of public health: health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health. The Director of Public Health will also play a key role in reducing health inequalities.

The key statutory functions and responsibilities of the Director of Public Health are:-

- All of the local authority's duties to take appropriate steps to improve public health of the people who live in the area (this is known as the Public Health Improvement duty)
- Any of the Secretary of State's public health protection or health improvement functions that are delegated to the local authority, either by arrangement or under regulations – these include services mandated by regulations made under section 6C of the NHS Act 2006, inserted by section 18 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Exercising the local authority's functions in planning for and responding to emergencies that present a risk to public health
- The local authority's role in co-operating with the police, the probation service and the prison service to assess the risk posed by violent or sexual offenders
- To sit as a statutory member of the local authority's Health and Wellbeing board
- To write an annual report on the health of the local population
- To have responsibility for the local authority's public health response as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003, such as making representations about licensing applications¹
- Responsibility for providing Healthy Start Vitamins if the local authority provides (or commissions) a maternity or child health clinic
- Such other public health functions as the Secretary of State specifies in regulations

3. Conduct

- 3.1 Officers will comply with the Officers' Code of Conduct in Appendix 2 and the Protocol on Officer/Member Relations in Section 4.

4. Employment

- 4.1 Subject to Paragraph 4.3 below, The recruitment and selection, dismissal of and the taking of disciplinary action against, an officer of the Council shall be discharged by the Chief Executive as Head of the Paid Service or by a Chief Officer or other officer nominated by the Chief Executive exercising delegated powers in accordance with, and subject to, the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in Appendix 3.
- 4.2 The taking of personnel decisions will comply with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules.

¹ This function is given to local authorities by s5(3), 13(4) 69(4) and 172(B) of the Licensing Act, as amended by Schedule 5 of the 2012 Act

4.3 The recruitment and selection, dismissal of and taking of disciplinary action against, the following officers will be undertaken in accordance with, and subject to the specific provisions in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules:-

- The officer designated as the Head of the Paid Service.
- The Officer designated as the Monitoring officer
- The officer designated as the Chief Financial Officer
- The Officer designated as the Director of Children's Services
- The Officer designated as the Director of Adult Social Care
- Other Officers included in the Senior Leadership Team
- Officers included in the Wider Leadership Team
- A person appointed in pursuance of section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (assistants to political groups)
- Director of Public Health

4.4 The recruitment, selection and dismissal procedure outlined at paragraph 4.1 above, does not apply to the Officer designated as the Director of Public Health. However, the taking of disciplinary action against the Director of Public Health will be in accordance with Section 11 (Officers) paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of the Constitution.

Specific provisions in respect of recruitment, selection and dismissal apply to the Director of Public Health and are set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules at Appendix 3, Paragraph 6 of the Constitution.

5. Powers Exercisable by Officers

5.1 Officers may exercise functions of the Council, the Cabinet and committees of the Council to the extent and subject to the conditions specified in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers set out in Appendix 1.

5.2 The Chief Executive's, Directors' and other officers' powers conferred by this Section and its Appendices, including any proper officer functions, may be exercised by other officers designated in writing by the Chief Executive, relevant Director or other officer, either generally or in specific circumstances.

6. Financial management

6.1 The management of the Council's financial affairs will be conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulations set out in Section 14 of this Constitution.

7. Contracts

7.1 Every contract made by the Council will comply with the Procurement Policy and Contract Standing Orders set out in Section 14 of this Constitution.

8. Legal proceedings

8.1 A Chief Officer is authorised to institute, defend or participate in or withdraw from any legal proceedings in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council or in any case where such Chief Officer considers that such action is necessary to protect the Council's interests.

9. Authentication of documents

- 9.1 Where any document is necessary to any legal procedure or proceedings on behalf of the County Council, it will be signed by the Director of Transformation, Law and Democracy or other person authorised by them, unless any enactment otherwise authorises or requires, or the Council has given delegated authority to some other person.

10. Entry on to land or premises

- 10.1 A Chief Officer may exercise any statutory power conferred on the County Council to enter land or premises for purposes connected with the service or function for which the Chief Officer is responsible and may authorise named officers to do so on the Chief Officer's behalf.

11. Information about interests in land

- 11.1 A Chief Officer may exercise any statutory power conferred on the County Council to require information as to interests in land and may authorise named officers to do so on the Chief Officer's behalf.

12. Common Seal of the County Council

- 12.1 The affixation of a Common Seal of the County Council shall be attested by an Authorised Signatory who shall be the Chief Executive or the Director of Transformation, Law and Democracy or a Head of Service nominated in writing by the Director of Transformation, Law and Democracy.
- 12.2 In any transaction relating to land to which The Regulatory Reform (Execution of Deeds and Documents) Order 2005 applies, the Common Seal shall be attested by a Member of the County Council and an Authorised Signatory.
- 12.3 Both Common Seals of the County Council shall be kept in the custody of the Director of Transformation, Law and Democracy and secured by lock and key.
- 12.4 Any resolution or decision of the Council (or of the Cabinet in respect of the discharge of executive functions, or of a Committee or Sub-Committee or Officer acting under powers delegated in accordance with this Constitution) authorising the acceptance of any tender; the purchase, sale, letting or taking of any property; the issue of any stock; the presentation of any petition, memorial, or address; the making of any contract; or the doing of any other thing, shall be sufficient authority for sealing any documents necessary to give effect to that resolution or decision.
- 12.5 Details of every deed and other document to which the Common Seal is to be affixed shall be entered prior to the time of its sealing or as soon as practicable thereafter by the Director of Transformation, Law and Democracy in a book to be provided for that purpose and the book shall be signed by the person attesting the affixation of the Common Seal.

SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

INTRODUCTION

1. In order to support the day to day running of the County Council and its services, Senior Leadership Team members have been given delegated powers to exercise some of the County Council’s functions and services. Powers are delegated by the Council under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 101) and by the Executive under the Local Government Act 2000 (section 15)

2. Subject to certain conditions* Cabinet members have delegated powers to take decisions on any matter which falls within their portfolio and which is not delegated to officers under this scheme of delegation.

Because this scheme of delegation does not itemise every type of decision which officers can take there will be occasions when responsibility for decision making could rest with either the cabinet member or the officer.

The following criteria are suggested to help distinguish between cabinet member and officer level decisions.

NOTE this criteria is intended to provide a guide and is not exhaustive:

Officer Decision	Uncontroversial
	Related to ‘internal’ matter
	Covered by Scheme of Delegation to officers
	In accordance with agreed policy and budget provision
	Related to current/existing service provision
Cabinet Member Decision	Controversial
	Direct impact on ‘Customers’
	Politically Sensitive
	Not covered by policy or budget provision
	Related to new service provision/innovation

3. Table 1 of this Appendix sets out the general powers delegated to all Senior Leadership Team members.

4. Tables 2 to 7 set out the specific delegations to individual Senior Leadership Team members relating to their areas of responsibility

5. The following matters may not be delegated to a Senior Leadership Team member:-
 - Any matter reserved to the full Council;

- Any matter which by law may not be delegated to an officer;
 - Any matter reserved to the Cabinet or a Committee or Panel;
 - Any matter which constitutes a key decision;
 - Any power to make a formal response on behalf of the County Council to any White Paper, Green Paper, Government Consultation Paper or draft European Union Directive without reference first to the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader of the Council or the Chairman of the Committee concerned, except where timescales do not allow it, when the Chief Executive is authorised to respond after discussion with them.
6. All Senior Leadership Team members (or any successors appointed under any re-organisation) are authorised to exercise the powers of the Council (both Executive and Non-Executive) relating to their areas of responsibility including professional and managerial functions relating to his/her service subject to the limitations and reservations of the scheme.
 7. In the event of the relevant Senior Leadership Team member not being available for any reason his/her Deputy or the next most appropriate senior officer included in the Wider Leadership Team shall be authorised to exercise the delegated powers.
 8. Every Senior Leadership Team member may authorise officers in his/her department/service area to exercise on his/her behalf functions delegated to him/her, *provided the delegatee holds any qualifications necessary for the exercise of the power*. The Senior Leadership Team member shall remain accountable and responsible for any decisions taken in his/her name. All Sub-Delegation schemes shall be in writing, with copies deposited with the Monitoring Officer.
 9. At the total discretion of the relevant Senior Leadership Team member any officer may have the delegated authority suspended, reviewed or limited in specific circumstances (ie a specific exclusion) (*NB this is not to be considered as a disciplinary matter*).
 10. When exercising delegated powers, Senior Leadership Team members must ensure that any actions are in accordance with the policies and decisions of the County Council, this Constitution, Financial Regulations and Procurement Regulations and not outside the powers and duties of the Council under law.
 11. When exercising delegated powers, Senior Leadership Team members are delegated to consult such other officers and/or the Chief Executive, the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Director of Finance and Resources as may be appropriate in the circumstances and shall have regard to any advice given.
 12. Senior Leadership Team members may consult the appropriate Cabinet Member, Cabinet or a Committee before exercising delegated powers and, following this consultation, elect not to exercise their delegated powers.

13. Senior Leadership Team members must consult the Local Member(s) for an area affected by a proposed decision prior to making that decision
14. Senior Leadership Team members must keep Local Members informed of events being organised in their area in connection with the exercise of their delegated powers (eg Public meetings, meetings with campaign groups)
15. Before taking any decisions Officers are under a duty to satisfy themselves that they have delegated power to do so and that they have undertaken appropriate consultation
16. The Cabinet and Committees and Panels of the Council reserve the right to take decisions on any matter delegated to an officer, provided that the subject matter is within their area of responsibility
17. The advice of the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Director of Finance and Resources must be sought when a Senior Leadership Team member proposes to exercise delegated powers on behalf of the Cabinet if there is doubt as to whether the proposed exercise is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget.
18. Where a Senior Leadership Team member is of the opinion that any matter delegated to him/her may involve the payment of compensation for which no specific budgetary provision has been made no decision shall be made without reference to, and approval by, the Cabinet or a Committee (as appropriate)
19. The Senior Leadership Team member must ensure that decisions made under this Scheme are supported by relevant documentation and evidence
20. Where the delegated power specifies whether the function is an Executive responsibility, Non-Executive (ie Council) or a Local Choice function; any misattribution of a function shall not prevent the exercise of the delegated power.
21. In addition to the delegations set out in this scheme, the Council or Cabinet can arrange for specific delegations on a particular matter

***For a detailed explanation of Cabinet Member delegated powers see Section 6 of this Constitution**

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TABLE 1**DELEGATIONS TO ALL SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS**

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
1.	<p>To exercise, within the approved budget, the day to day administrative and operational management of those services, staff and resources placed under the control of the Senior Leadership Team member. Any decisions made as part of this delegation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall not be key decisions • Shall relate to maintaining the operation or effectiveness of those services or incidental to the discharge of the Council's functions • Shall comply with the Council's Policy Framework or a policy decision taken by Council 	COUNCIL/ CABINET
2.	To take all steps to implement any decisions taken by the Council or under delegation.	COUNCIL/ CABINET
3.	<p>To take all steps as may be required to maintain the operation and effectiveness of services; such steps to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution, defence, withdrawal or compromise of claims or legal proceedings (civil or criminal) connected with any function or service for which the Senior Leadership Team member is responsible • The commencement of criminal proceedings for any breach of any law/by-law within the services and functions for which the Senior Leadership Team member is responsible • The pursuance of the recovery of costs incurred by the County Council as part of any legal proceedings • The exercise of statutory powers to enter land or premises and/or carry out inspections for the purposes connected with the services or functions for which the Senior Leadership Team member is responsible • To exercise the County Council's statutory powers to require information as to the ownership, occupation or use of land or premises or otherwise • To incur expenditure on repairs and maintenance within the limits established via the Council's Strategic Property Board. • To select applicants for inclusion, or vary the terms of approval for, and suspend firms from, 	COUNCIL/ CABINET

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	any list of approved contractors for the maintenance of which that Senior Leadership Team member is responsible (Any proposal to delete a firm from a list of approved contractors must be the subject of consultation with the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation).	
4.	To appoint staff below Wider Leadership Team level within structures and budgets approved by the Council and to take decisions relating to staffing and personnel matters in accordance with the Council's agreed policies and personnel procedures <i>(Senior Leadership Team members' involvement in specific Wider Leadership Team appointments is as specified at section 11 of this Constitution)</i>	COUNCIL
5.	To implement, in the areas for which they are responsible, corporate personnel policies and nationally and locally determined conditions of service adopted by the Council	COUNCIL
6.	Following consultation with the relevant cabinet member to enter into agreement for the provision of services to a third party and make charges therefore subject to confirmation by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation that the activity is not ultra vires	COUNCIL/ CABINET
7.	Following advice from the Head of Human Resources, to enter into agreements with other local authorities for the placing of staff at the disposal of other authorities	COUNCIL
8.	To authorise the acquisition of assets or services necessary for the day to day performance of the Council's business or fulfilment of any matter authorised by a cabinet member for which a budget has been approved	CABINET
9.	To determine adjustments to annual fees and charges in line with the provisions of Financial Regulations	COUNCIL
10.	To maintain record of all complaints made in respect of the services for which the Senior Leadership Team member is responsible and deal with them in accordance with the complaints procedure approved by the County Council or as required by specific legislation	CABINET
11.	To incur expenditure of up to £3000 in making an ex-gratia payment in order to resolve a complaint made against the County Council; any proposal to pay an sum in excess of that amount to be reported to Cabinet or Committee as appropriate.	CABINET
12.	To prepare and maintain plans to give effect to the provisions of any County or District Emergency Plan	COUNCIL
13.	To implement decisions made by or on behalf of the County Council in its capacity as trustee of any charity or	COUNCIL

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	trust.	

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TABLE 2**DELEGATIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
1	To be the Council's Head of Paid Service.	COUNCIL
2	Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, after discussion, if practicable, with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Portfolio Holder and/or Chairman, as the case may be, to take action not involving a key decision as he deems to be necessary in matters requiring urgent consideration and which, because of the timescale involved, or the need to safeguard the interests of the County Council, cannot wait for the next following meeting of the Council, the Cabinet or Committee, as the case may be. Any action taken under this delegation shall be reported to the next meeting of the Council, Cabinet or Committee as necessary.	COUNCIL/CABINET
3	To appoint from time to time, for such duration and in such circumstances and subject to such conditions as the Chief Executive may specify, a Chief Officer to act as Deputy to the Chief Executive, such Deputy to have (when authorised to act) all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Chief Executive as the County Council's Head of Paid Service. Notification of such appointment and its applicable duration, circumstances and conditions shall be given in writing by the Chief Executive to the Leader of the Council, Monitoring Officer and Director of Finance and Resources.	COUNCIL
4	To be the Proper Officer and the County Council's Returning Officer for the purpose of the election of County Councillors and to undertake all the duties of those offices pursuant to the Representation of the People Act 1983, and the Local Government Act 1972.	COUNCIL
5	To give public notice of any vacancy in the office of Councillor pursuant to Sections 86 and 87 of the Local Government Act 1972.	COUNCIL
6	To approve and implement national and provincial pay awards, after consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, as soon as possible after agreement and notification from the appropriate body, subject to any element of discretion being referred to the Cabinet for consideration.	COUNCIL
7	To decide exceptional cases and any question about the interpretation or administration of the County Council's Long Service Awards Scheme.	COUNCIL

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TABLE 3

DELEGATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRACY, LAW AND TRANSFORMATION

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
1.	To be the Council's Monitoring Officer	COUNCIL
2.	To take and implement any decision which he is empowered to take in accordance with Financial Regulations in his capacity as Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.	COUNCIL
3.	To be the County Council's Solicitor and Head of Legal Services and to take all necessary steps, including the obtaining of Counsel's advice, in connection with any matter concerning the County Council.	COUNCIL
4.	To be the Senior Responsible Officer on behalf of the Council in relation to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 including responsibility for approving and authorising officers to act as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An Authorising Officer in relation to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 b) A designated person and single point of contact in relation to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 	COUNCIL
5.	To be the Proper Officer for any purpose for which the County Council has not designated another officer to be Proper Officer.	COUNCIL
6.	In consultation with the relevant Director(s), to make amendments to the Scheme of Sub-Delegations to reflect future changes in organisational structures, working practices, and future changes in relevant legislation and regulations.	COUNCIL
7.	To be (along with the Director of Finance and Resources) the County Council's authorised officer for the purpose of giving certificates under the Local Government(Contracts) Act 1997. <i>* The County Council has indemnified the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Director of Finance and Resources against any claims made against them (including costs incurred by and awarded against them) and will not itself make claims against them for any loss or damage (other than claims falling within the cover provided to their officers under any policy of insurance taken out by the officer) occasioned by neglect, act, error or omission committed by such officer in the course of or in connection with signing a certificate within the meaning of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997. This indemnity will not apply where the loss or damage results</i>	COUNCIL

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	<i>directly or indirectly from the commission of a criminal offence of which the officer is convicted, or results directly or indirectly from the fraud or dishonesty of the officer, or where the officer disregards a decision by the County Council that the certificate should not be given.</i>	
8.	To sign any documentation or take appropriate steps to implement or effect compliance with any Council, Cabinet or Committee resolution or an elected member or officer acting under delegated powers.	COUNCIL
9.	To be the Authorised Signatory for the purpose of attesting the affixation of the Common Seal of the County Council.	COUNCIL
10.	To maintain the registers of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial and other interests of members and co-opted members of the County Council as required by the Local Government Act 2000 • Officers' declarations of interest in contracts and other pecuniary interests • Any other matter relating to the interests of members and co-opted members which the County Council from time to time establish. 	COUNCIL
11.	To approve (but not refuse) applications from members submitted under the Staffordshire Local Community Fund	COUNCIL
12.	To approve in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council and the Leader of the Council amendments to the Council's list of events, functions, meetings, outside bodies, conferences and courses at which attendance is authorised as an approved duty; or as within Section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the purpose of payment of travelling and subsistence allowance to that member	COUNCIL
13.	To approve in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council and the Leader of the Council a member's application for attendance at an event, function, meeting, outside body, conference or course not on the County Council's lists referred to in item 9 above as an approved duty or as within Section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the purpose of payment of travelling and subsistence allowance to that member	COUNCIL
14.	To authorise, after consultation with the Chairman of the County Council and the Group Leaders, the payment of members' expenses claims made more than two months after the date of a meeting	COUNCIL
15.	To authorise, on the nomination of the Group Leaders, the filling of vacancies, or the interchange of members on Committees	COUNCIL
16.	To agree changes to appointments to outside bodies arising from changes in Cabinet, members or group	COUNCIL

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	nominations	
17.	To prosecute, withdraw, defend, compromise, appeal and appear in proceedings on behalf of the County Council in any Court of Law, whether criminal or civil, tribunal, inquiry, chamber or other hearing or before any Judge, Registrar, Recorder, Magistrate, Coroner, Inspector, Arbitrator, Mediator, or Expert (subject to prior consultation with the Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive in any case where court proceedings are to be instituted in respect of the alleged abandonment of assets in the context of the assessment of charges for residential care) and to authorise officers to exercise any such powers.	COUNCIL
18.	To consider and decide upon individual cases relating to the alleged abandonment of assets in the context of an assessment of charges for residential care where it is inappropriate for the Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive and/or the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing to deal with the matter (for example by reason of a potential conflict of interest).	COUNCIL
19.	To designate officers of the County Council as being authorised under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 to institute, prosecute, defend or appear on the County Council's behalf in proceedings before a Magistrates Court and to conduct such proceedings notwithstanding that the officer concerned may not be a solicitor holding a current practising certificate	COUNCIL
20.	To appoint officers to represent the County Council at the County Court in proceedings in chambers generally or in the small claims court under the provisions of section 19 of the Legal Services Act, 2007, and to represent the County Council at such other court venues including the High Court sitting in chambers, where permitted, and at Tribunals	COUNCIL
21.	To support Complaints Review Panels comprising three independent persons (ie not elected members) with expert knowledge of Children's Services to consider complaints under the Children's Services Act 1989 and the Local Authority Act 1970 which Panel is to make recommendations to the County Council on the course of action to be taken about any such complaint	COUNCIL
22.	To make arrangements for dealing with the following kinds of appeal under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission appeals • Appeals against exclusions • Appeals by Governing Bodies 	CABINET (LOCAL CHOICE)
23.	To submit all planning and planning related applications,	COUNCIL

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	including those for the County Council's own operational development and highway schemes; for the disposal of surplus land/property; for Conservation Area consent; and for Listed Building consent	
24.	In consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive to decide the final form of the conditions which the County Council would wish to be attached to, and the framework of, any section 106 Agreement, if the Secretary of State for the Environment was minded to grant permission for a particular development following an appeal in relation thereto	COUNCIL
25.	In consultation with the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive, to enter into agreements for the execution of highway works under the Highways Act, 1980	CABINET (LOCAL CHOICE)
26.	To exercise the powers and duties of the Council in connection with Common Land and Town/Village Greens (with the exception of the determination of applications – such decisions to be made by the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel of the Planning Committee) (Officers to have discretion to refer the matter to the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel for decision) (Appeals against an Officer decision to be referred to the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel)	COUNCIL
27.	On behalf of the County Council to appoint or ratify, as appropriate, all members of the Joint Local Access Forum	COUNCIL
28.	To determine claims made under section 36(6) of the Highways Act 1980 for the addition of alleged public highways to the list of publicly maintainable highways kept by the County Council under that section	COUNCIL
29.	To determine claims made under Section 56 of the Highways Act 1980 for the admission by the County Council of liability to maintain a highway	COUNCIL
30.	To determine applications for Modification Orders under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 unless, after consultation with the local County Councillor(s) for the area concerned and the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive, they decide that the matter in question ought properly to be determined by the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel	COUNCIL
31.	To make Gating Orders under Section 129A of the Highways Act 1980, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Public Health and Community Safety	COUNCIL
32.	The power to determine whether an applicant's details should be removed from the Register of Applications made under Paragraph 2(3) of the Public Rights of Way (Register of Applications under Section 53(5) of the	COUNCIL

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)(England) Regulations 2005	
33.	In the role of Health and Safety 'Champion' for the County Council, to be responsible for the monitoring of the County Council's Corporate Health and Safety policies.	COUNCIL
34.	To enter into all necessary agreements for the provision of vehicles required by the Council including those under the corporate staff car leasing scheme	CABINET
35.	To deal with alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct in line with the Council's published arrangements.	COUNCIL

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TABLE 4

DELEGATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
1.	To be the responsible officer for the management of the Council's financial affairs in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972	COUNCIL.
2.	To carry out all Treasury Management activities within the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Treasury Management Strategy approved from time to time by the Cabinet and in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Local Authorities and Financial regulations.	COUNCIL/CABINET
3.	To take and implement any decision which he/she is empowered to take in accordance with Financial Regulations and Procurement Regulations in his/her capacity of Director of Finance and Resources	COUNCIL/CABINET
4.	To take any decision relating to the investment or management of the Pension Fund which is within the framework of the strategic or policy decisions of the Pensions Committee or the Pensions Panel which cannot reasonably await the next meeting of the Pensions Committee or the Pensions Panel after taking advice from a Consultant or Adviser as appropriate	COUNCIL
5.	To administer the car loans scheme and approve the grant and amount of car loans where the requirements of the County Council's scheme are not fully met	COUNCIL/CABINET
6.	To be (along with the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation) the County Council's authorised officer for the purpose of giving certificates under the Local Government(Contracts) Act 1997. <i>* The County Council has indemnified the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Director of Finance and Resources against any claims made against them (including costs incurred by and awarded against them) and will not itself make claims against them for any loss or damage (other than claims falling within the cover provided to their officers under any policy of insurance taken out by the officer) occasioned by neglect, act, error or omission committed by such officer in the course of or in connection with signing a certificate within the meaning of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997. This indemnity will not apply where the loss or damage results directly or indirectly from the commission of a criminal offence of which the officer is convicted, or results directly or indirectly from the fraud or dishonesty of the officer, or where the officer disregards a decision by the County Council that the certificate should not be given.</i>	COUNCIL
7.	To make decisions on the management of all funds held by charities and trusts for which the County Council is a trustee.	

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	PROPERTY	
8.	To administer all general asset management of the Council's property estate	COUNCIL/CABINET
9.	To approve the terms of all disposals where sold at best consideration up to and including £1m.	COUNCIL/CABINET
10.	To approve the terms of all acquisitions valued up to and including £1m.	COUNCIL/CABINET
11.	To approve the terms of all disposals by way of leases, tenancies, licences etc where they are at best consideration.	COUNCIL/CABINET
12.	To approve the terms of all acquisitions by way of leases, tenancies, licences etc in accordance with the requirements established via the Council's Strategic Property Board	COUNCIL/CABINET
13.	To take all necessary steps to secure the cessation of any unauthorised use or occupation of the County Council's land and property assets.	COUNCIL/CABINET
	ICT	
14.	To take and implement any decision which he/she is empowered to take in accordance with the ICT Strategy in his/her capacity as Director of Finance and Resources	COUNCIL/CABINET
	HUMAN RESOURCES	
15.	To take and implement any decision he/she is empowered to take in accordance with County Council HR policy in his /her capacity of Director of Finance and Resources	COUNCIL
16.	To take and implement any decision on employment legislative matters in his/her capacity as Director of Finance and Resources	COUNCIL
	HEALTH AND SAFETY	
17.	To be responsible for the preparation, maintenance and review of the County Council's Corporate Health and Safety policies.	COUNCIL

TABLE 5

**DELEGATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR FOR PLACE AND
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	HIGHWAYS	
1	To exercise all the powers and duties of the County Council under the Highways Act 1980 (other than Sections 90A to 90i), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Rights of Way Act 1990 and the Traffic Management Act 2004 in relation to roads, highways, footpaths, bridleways and byways open to all traffic and to serve all notices and take all steps as the Acts may require in connection with the exercise of such powers and duties	COUNCIL
2	After seeking the views in each case of the local member(s) of the County Council affected thereby and the relevant District Council and Parish Council, and provided the local member(s) of the County Council so consulted do not object thereto, to exercise, the powers and duties of the County Council under Sections 90A to 90i of the Highways Act 1980 (Road Humps and other Traffic Calming Works); and under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) or any subsequent re-enactment thereof	COUNCIL
3	To determine objections to proposed Traffic Regulation Orders under paragraph 2 above (other than those made by the local members of the County Council affected thereby)	COUNCIL
3 a	After seeking the views in each case of the local member(s) of the County Council affected thereby and provided the local member(s) so consulted do not object thereto, to authorise: (a) Neighbouring Authority to discharge the County Council's Highway functions and powers on 'cross boundary' contiguous sections of road (b) To authorise the County Council to discharge a neighbouring Authority's Highways functions and powers on 'cross boundary' contiguous sections of road	COUNCIL
4	In consultation with the Chief Constable, District Councils, County Teachers (and other representatives of organisations concerned with road safety) to maintain, monitor, review and implement a road safety strategy within the County Council's road safety policies	COUNCIL
5	To approve District Councils' proposals under Sections 23 (market places) and 38 (cycling in pedestrian areas) of the Staffordshire Act 1983	COUNCIL

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
6	To approve District Councils' applications for Orders to amend charges for parking places in accordance with the powers contained in Section 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984	COUNCIL
7	To take action on behalf of the County Council, after consultation where appropriate with District Councils, under Sections 5 (traffic signs), 6 (damage to footways), 7 (plans of new streets), 8 (vesting of former highway land) & 10 (grass verges etc) of the Staffordshire Act 1983	COUNCIL
8	To grant street works licences under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991	COUNCIL
9	To issue Fixed Penalty Notices under Section 95 of the New Roads and Street Works Act as amended by Section 41 of the Traffic Management Act 2004	
10	To deal with individual cases where an altered highway produces a significant and obvious hardship either by the alteration directly or by a substantial increase in traffic which has been triggered by the alteration and where the total cost of providing discretionary noise insulation does not exceed the current cost of £5,000 per scheme (index linked in subsequent years by the national GDP)	COUNCIL
11	To take and implement any decisions necessary to fulfil the obligations of the County Council pursuant to, and in accordance with, a Service Level Agreement relating to the Council's participation in the Staffordshire Road Safety Partnership, including approving the annual operational plan for the Partnership.	COUNCIL
12	To adopt new streets and private streets as highways maintainable at public expense, subject to public record being kept of the date of the adoption	COUNCIL
13	To make temporary closure orders for public paths under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because of works on, or near, the path or because of the likelihood of danger or damage	COUNCIL
14	To authorise the stopping up of parts of the highway network under the provisions of Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	COUNCIL
15	To exercise all the powers and duties of the County Council under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009	COUNCIL
	PLANNING	
16	Unless the observations which the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive proposes to give would represent a material departure from a planning policy for which the County Council is responsible:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give the County Council's observations to District Councils, adjoining authorities, Government Departments and Statutory Undertakers/Public Utilities in response to consultations on planning, planning-related or 	COUNCIL/ CABINET (LOCAL CHOICE)

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	<p>environmental applications or policy documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give the County Council's observations to District Councils on highway and highway-related matters • To give the County Council's observations to the Environment Agency in response to consultations on Environmental Permits and policy documents. 	
17	To refer to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government any District Council's proposal for its own development which would be detrimental to the County Council's interests or which would be contrary to the County Council's views	COUNCIL
18	To authorise the Peak Park Authority to discharge the County Council's powers and functions under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 in respect of that part of the Peak District National Park which is within Staffordshire, without prejudice to the exercise concurrently by the County Council within that area of their powers under the Act	COUNCIL
19	<p>Where there is no objection to the application or matter in question from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman of the Planning Committee or the nominated opposition spokesperson; or • The relevant District Council or Parish Council; or • The Local Member of the County Council; or • A statutory consultee other than Sport England and no more than four representations raising objections on material planning grounds have been received, then the Director may (subject to the director's discretion to consult with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee) decide to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant planning permission for the County Council's own development • Grant planning permission for minerals and waste developments, including the approval of Schemes of Conditions under the Environment Act which do not involve the development of a substantial new site or the significant extension of an existing site • Refer applications to the Secretary of State when necessary in accordance with the relevant regulations where the application involves Green Belt development, development outside town centres, world heritage sites development, playing fields development or flood risk area development in accordance with the relevant statutory consultation arrangements • To refuse planning permission or not approve the matter in question, except in the case of a substantial new site. 	COUNCIL/ CABINET (LOCAL CHOICE)

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	The significant extension of an existing site	
20	<p>Subject to first consulting the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To grant or refuse a Certificate of Lawfulness (CLU) for minerals and/or waste development. • To determine whether or not to take formal action • To issue or withdraw an Enforcement Notice, or waive or relax any requirements of the Notice • To serve a Planning Contravention Notice • To serve a Breach of Condition Notice • To seek an Injunction in respect of an actual breach or an apprehended breach of planning control • To serve a Notice relating to replacement of trees • To serve a Temporary Stop Notice • To issue notices seeking details of the ownership of a site • To approve the commencement of legal proceedings for non-compliance with any notice 	COUNCIL
20a	To sign decision notices following the decision of the Planning Committee or (as authorised) by officers.	COUNCIL
21	To authorise the serving of a Stop Notice in conjunction with an Enforcement Notice, subject to the approval of the Chairman or (in his absence) the Vice-Chairman of Planning Committee and to consultation with the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Local Member. Sub delegated only to the Commissioner for the Sustainable County.	COUNCIL
22	To consider any representations or offers received from any person upon whom a Planning Contravention Notice has been served and to make decisions as to what action should be taken in response to those representations.	COUNCIL
23	<p>In relation to County Council planning permissions, to approve, subject to the limitations referred to in 19 above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserved Matters following the grant of outline planning Permission • Details submitted pursuant to conditions imposed by the planning permissions • Minor material amendments and non-material amendments to planning permissions 	COUNCIL
24	To approve submissions by mineral undertakers and the Coal Authority under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and subsequent orders and applications for prior notification under Parts 6, 19, 20 21, 22, 23 and 31 of that order, and to determine applications for prior approval	COUNCIL
25	In relation to a particular application/scheme of conditions/planning or enforcement appeal to	COUNCIL

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue a 'screening opinion' on the need for an environmental impact assessment • Issue a 'scoping opinion' on the range of matters to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment 	
26	In the case of extreme urgency and in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee to issue directions under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 with regard to a restriction of permitted development	COUNCIL
27	To give, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee, a Direction that a Tree Preservation Order shall have immediate effect without previous confirmation, subject to and under Section 201 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	COUNCIL
28	To arrange for a site visit to be held in connection with any development control matter where in the opinion of the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive the consideration of that matter would be facilitated or enhanced by such visit; and on any such site visit to arrange for the attendance of the Chairman of the Planning Committee and such Members of the Planning Committee as may be appropriate, and the local member(s) of the County Council affected by the matter, and where the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive considers it appropriate, for the relevant District Council and/or Parish Council to be represented, provided that no decision in relation to that matter shall be taken on the site visit	COUNCIL
29	In relation to Schemes of Conditions under the Environment Act 1995, in accordance with government guidance, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to requests to postpone the date for the submission of Schemes of Conditions; or • Make requests to extend the date for determination of Schemes of Conditions 	COUNCIL
	FOOTPATHS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY	
30	To exercise all the powers and duties of the County Council under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 in relation to the operation and management of its country parks and public access lands	COUNCIL
31	To designate a footpath as a cycle track under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984	COUNCIL
32	To keep the register of prescribed information with respect to applications under Section 53(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	COUNCIL
33	To enter into agreements with respect to means of access to any access land under Section 35 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and to provide access in the absence of such agreement under Section 37 of that Act	COUNCIL

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
34	To authorise the stopping up or diversion of a footpath or bridleway and to extinguish public rights of way over land held for planning purposes under Sections 257 and 258 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	COUNCIL
35	To determine, in the case of non-contentious applications and those arising at the County Council's own volition, applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, subject to consultation with the Local Member(s), and referral to the Countryside Rights of Way Panel if the matter becomes contentious	COUNCIL
36	To exercise all the powers and duties of the County Council under the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the Mines and Quarries Act 1954 in relation to the management of the Reservoirs and water bodies on its country parks and public access lands	CABINET
	W2R	
37	To make any decisions classified as "Authority Representative Matters" on behalf of Staffordshire County Council and the Contract Management Board in connection with the operation of Project W2R except where such matters have been specifically reserved for Cabinet decision	CABINET
38	The Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive and the Contract Manager be authorised to make any decisions on "Contract Board Matters" on behalf of Staffordshire County Council in connection with the operation of Project W2R except where such matters are reserved for Cabinet decision	CABINET
	LAND AND PROPERTY	
39	To take all steps in connection with the administration and management of the County Farms Estate including the purchase and disposal of land, the acquisition and granting of tenancies, licences and wayleaves, the serving of notices in connection with either estate, the granting of consent for alterations in the property or its use, and the settlement of rents, rent reviews, compensation and/or valuations where relevant	CABINET
40	Jointly with the Director of Finance and Resources, the approval of short term licences (up to three months) for car parking	CABINET
41	To authorise the Peak Park Authority to discharge the County Council's functions, as contained in the Countryside Act 1968, in relation to land at the former Waterhouses Railway Station	CABINET
	PUBLIC PROTECTION	
42	To appoint qualified person(s) to hold the following statutory offices:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Analyst for the purposes of the Food Safety Act 1990 and Agricultural Analyst for the purposes of the Agriculture Act 1970 	COUNCIL

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Public Analyst for the purposes of the Food Safety Act 1990 • Deputy Agricultural Analyst for the purposes of the Agriculture Act 1970 • Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the purposes of the Weights and Measures Act 1985 	
43	To be the Proper Officer to undertake the council's function under Section 23 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, with regard to the appointment of senior, area (deputy) and assistant coroners and to have responsibility for financial expenditure by the Coroner Service.	COUNCIL
44	To designate staff of the service as Inspector, Authorised Officer and/or Sampling Officer, as the case may be, for all purposes under legislation conferring powers or duties on the County Council in respect of the protection of the public, consumers, animals both wild and domestic, or the environment, and the enforcement of which the County Council are empowered to undertake; and to confer on them all powers which the County Council may confer for the purposes of determining whether or not the provisions of such legislation and any Orders and Regulations are being complied with and all powers of enforcing the same in accordance with the relevant legal provisions for doing so	COUNCIL
44a	By virtue of section 19 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, to appoint as inspectors such persons having suitable qualifications as necessary for carrying into effect the relevant statutory provisions, and may terminate any appointment under this section. (Every appointment of a person as an inspector under this section shall be made by an instrument in writing specifying which of the powers conferred on inspectors by the relevant statutory provision shall be exercisable by the person appointed)	COUNCIL
45	To designate staff of the service as being authorised, after receipt of the necessary information, to issue or where so authorised to refuse or to revoke any licences or to register any persons or premises or to issue certificates and collect any fees pursuant to legislation referred to in paragraph 43 above upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate in each case	COUNCIL
46	To refuse to renew licences where licensees have failed to submit the appropriate petroleum spirit storage tank test certificate and/or the appropriate petroleum spirit store electrical installation test certificate by the due date	COUNCIL
47	To authorise, in cases of urgency and subject to consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application to a court under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 to prohibit or restrict the admission of 	COUNCIL

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	spectators; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of a prohibition notice under the Fire Safety and Safety of places of Sport Act 1987 when the risk to spectators at a ground is so great that until steps have been taken to reduce it to a reasonable level, the admission of spectators ought to be restricted or prohibited • The serving of a preliminary notice to enforce safety at outdoor sports grounds where it is confirmed that a stand provides cover for more than 500 people 	
48	To make technical amendments to Safety Certificates	COUNCIL
48a	To designate staff to appear in court in relation to applications for the use of surveillance and information gathering techniques for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime	COUNCIL
49	To commence as a Responsible Authority a review of a premise licence where the circumstances reveal that there has been a breach of Licensing Objectives	COUNCIL
50	To make an application to a court for a warrant pursuant to legislation referred to in paragraph 44 above	COUNCIL
51	To approve information sharing protocols with other agencies	COUNCIL
52	To authorise officers and persons appointed by the Proper Officer from outside the authority to act under Trading Standards legislation as specified in any formal joint working arrangements	COUNCIL
	CULTURE AND LEISURE	
53	To take decisions on the allocation of grants from the County Council's Arts Grants Scheme	CABINET
54	To authorise the disposal of artefacts from the County Museum collection	CABINET
55	To sign off grant applications for grants over £50,000	CABINET
	TRANSPORT	
56	To exercise all the powers and duties of the County Council under the Transport Acts 1985 and 2000, Local Transport Act 2008 and Competition Act 1998, and any subsequent re-enactment thereof, in the provision of transport services within the county.	COUNCIL
	MISCELLANEOUS	
57	To be the host Chief Executive for West Midlands Councils.	CABINET

TABLE 6

DELEGATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

	DELEGATION	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
1.	To approve premises as a venue for marriage in pursuance of section 26(1)bb of the Marriage Act 1949 and as a venue for Civil Partnerships in pursuance of Section 6 (3A) (a) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004.	COUNCIL
2.	To carry out the County Council's duties under the Marriage Act 1949 and the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (other than those relating to fees and appeals)	COUNCIL

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TABLE 9**DELEGATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR FOR PEOPLE AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

No.	Delegation	
1	Under Section 6 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to be the Council's appointed Director of Adult Social Services and to be accountable for the delivery of local authority services functions listed in Schedule 1 of that Act (as amended).	CABINET
2	To be the Council's appointed Director of Children's Services in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Children's Act 2004, with responsibility for the discharge of the local authority's education and children's social services functions as set out in section 18(2) of that Act.	CABINET
3	In accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act 2006 to undertake joint collaborative action, as appropriate, with the National Health Service and other partner organisations for the planning and provision of jointly operated services within the County Council's area, including the development of Co-operation Agreements and Partnership Agreements for joint working arrangements.	CABINET
4	To be responsible for functions exercisable on behalf of an NHS body so far as it relates to adults, children and young people.	CABINET
5	To be accountable for assessing local needs and ensuring availability and delivery of a full range of adult social services.	CABINET
6	To be responsible for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children	CABINET
7	To implement or determine, subject to any right of review or appeal which may apply, all matters concerning the provision of mental health services including acceptance and exercise of guardianships and receivership under the Mental Health Act 2007.	CABINET
8	To implement or determine, subject to any right of review or appeal which may apply, all matters concerning the provision of services provided under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.	CABINET

9	To formally approve and authorise Mental Health Professionals who are eligible and qualified to be considered as Approved Mental Health Practitioners.	CABINET
10	To set and vary rates for providers of all forms of social care in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources.	CABINET
11	To provide, operate, commission and vary payments to external providers in respect of services arranged for Adult's and Children's care.	CABINET
12	To meet the requirements as set down by regulatory bodies in relation to the operation of services within Adult's Services and Children's Services.	CABINET
13	To protect and promote the welfare of vulnerable young adults including vulnerable young people moving into adulthood and gypsies and travellers.	CABINET
14	To co-ordinate the transition of service provision for children who will require services in adulthood.	CABINET
15	To meet the requirements as set down by regulatory bodies in relation to the employment , registration and training of all registerable staff.	CABINET
16	To produce, in consultation with the Director for Public Health, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment pursuant to the Council's responsibilities set out in Section 116 Local Government and Public Involvement in health Act 2007 for Health and Social Care needs.	CABINET
17	To develop with partners a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Council's area	CABINET
18	To lead and coordinate the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership and the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board in accordance with legislation and guidance.	CABINET
19	To appoint Proper Officers for Social Services functions.	CABINET
20	To be responsible for the functions conferred on or exercisable by the Local Authority in its capacity as a local education authority particularly: (1) its strategic duties under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice • Diversity 	CABINET

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High standards • The fulfilment of every child's educational potential <p>(2) its responsibilities under the Education Act 1996 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure School Places • Secure excellence in education, promoting high standards and fulfilment of potential <p>(3) its responsibilities under the Education Act 1996 or any subsequent legislation in relation to the provision of education for children and young people with Special Educational Needs</p>	
21	To be the Lead Strategic Commissioner for EnTrust and any other partnership or joint working relationships entered into by the local authority in relation to the provision of education services (Authority to be delegated to the Commissioner for Learning and Skills)	CABINET
22	To ensure compliance with the local authority's statutory responsibilities in relation to Raising the Participation Age (RPA)	CABINET
23	To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Department for Education In relation to the preparation and submission of budgetary and other data in relation to education, children's social services and youth service functions; the format of such data to be compliant with the Department for Education CCIS (Client caseload Information System).	CABINET
24	To licence the employment of children under Part II of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and Bylaws made under that part, and Part II of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963.	COUNCIL
25	To be responsible for social services functions as they relate to children within the meaning of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.	CABINET
26	To be responsible for functions relating to persons leaving care	CABINET
27	To be responsible for functions in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • co-operation to improve well-being with partner agencies; • multi agency arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare; • information databases; • the Children and Young People and Families Strategic Partnership of the Health and Wellbeing Board 	CABINET
28	To be responsible for functions in respect of the	CABINET

	improvement of young people's well-being; provision of childcare ; information, advice, and assistance and training to child care providers	
29	To be responsible for such other functions conferred on or exercisable by the authority as may be prescribed by the secretary of State by regulations.	CABINET
30	To manage the local authority's children's services with professional responsibility and accountability for their effectiveness, availability and value for money.	CABINET
31	To safeguard and promote the welfare of children	CABINET
32	To meet all requirements set down for the provision of Youth Offending Services in Staffordshire	CABINET
33	To exercise the Council's duties and responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and ensure that crime and disorder implications of the council's decisions are properly considered.	CABINET
34	In conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire to support and develop the County's Police and Crime Plan	CABINET
35	To ensure that the Council effectively fulfils its roles and responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 including acting as Chairman of Staffordshire's Prevent Group	CABINET
36	To fulfil the Council's duty to cooperate with Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)	CABINET

TABLE 8

DELEGATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
1.	To be the officer responsible for improving public health and ensuring that the local authority discharges and thereby performs its new public health duties appropriately and in accordance with the national objectives.	COUNCIL
2.	To be the principal / lead adviser on all health related matters to elected members and officers of the local authority, covering all three domains of public health namely: health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health whilst also playing a key role in the reduction of health inequalities.	COUNCIL
3.	To have the day to day responsibility for the ring fenced public health grant along with overall responsibility for ensuring that this is invested in order to improve health locally	COUNCIL
4.	<p>Section 73A(1) of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 30 of the 2012 Act, gives the Director of Public Health statutory responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all of the local authority's duties to take appropriate steps to improve the public health of people in their area (the exercise by the authority of its functions under section 2B, 111 or 249 of Schedule 1 to, the 2006 Act), including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) providing information and advice ii) providing services or facilities designed to promote healthy living (whether by helping individuals to address behaviour that is detrimental to health or in any other way) iii) providing services or facilities for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness iv) providing incentives to encourage individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles v) providing assistance (including financial assistance) to help individuals to minimise any risks to health arising from their accommodation or environment vi) providing or participating in the provision of training for persons working or seeking to work in the field of health improvement • any of the Secretary of State's public health protection or health improvement functions that are delegated to the local authorities, either by 	COUNCIL

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	<p>arrangement or under regulations - these include services mandated by regulations made under section 6C of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 18 of the 2012 Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Secretary of State’s public health functions exercised by local authorities in pursuance of arrangements under section 7A of the 2006 Act • exercising the local authority’s functions in planning for and responding to emergencies that present a risk to public health • the local authority’s role in co-operating with the police, the probation service and the prison service to assess the risks posed by violent or sexual offenders • such other public health functions as the Secretary of State specifics in regulations • to be responsible for the preparation of the annual report on the health of the population in the local area. 	
5.	<p>The Director of Public Health will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be the officer who provides leadership, expertise and advice to the elected members and senior officers on a range of issues, including outbreaks of disease and emergency preparedness to improving local peoples health and concerns around access to health services • to provide expert and objective advice to the public on health matters • to have a knowledge and understanding of how to improve the local populations health by understanding the factors that determine health and ill health and how to promote health and wellbeing, change people’s behaviour and to reduce health inequalities • work to protect the local population from risks to public health and to work with NHS colleagues and local authority colleagues such as the Director of Children’s Services and Director of Adult Social Care to promote action across the life course and to meet the needs of vulnerable children • to work with the police and crime commissioner to promote safer communities and to work with and influence the work of 	COUNCIL

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	<p>NHS commissioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be a member of the Health & Well Being Board as well as advising and contributing to the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to act on information received in relation to all local health protection incidents and outbreaks 	
6.	<p>Subject to the publication of Regulations, from April 2013 the Director of Public Health will also have responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the local authority's public health response as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003, such as making representations about licensing applications (a function given to local authorities by sections 5(3), 13(4), 69(4) and 172B(4) of the Licensing Act, as amended by Schedule 5 of the 2012 Act) If the local authority provides or commissions a maternity or child health clinic, then regulations made under section 73A(1) will also give the Director of Public Health responsibility for providing Healthy Start vitamins (a function conferred on local authorities by the Healthy Start and Welfare Food Regulations 2005 as amended) 	COUNCIL
7.	<p>The Director of Public Health is responsible for the following mandatory services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Health Check assessments delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme (Weighing and measuring) securing the provision of appropriate access to sexual health services ensuring that NHS Commissioners / Clinical Commissioning Groups receive the public health advice they need steps to be taken to protect the health of the local population 	COUNCIL
8.	<p>The Director of Public Health is responsible for the non-mandatory public health services. These programmes are not nationally prescribed thereby allowing local flexibility on how they are commissioned and / or delivered based on local need:</p>	COUNCIL

	DELEGATED POWER	OVERALL RESPONSIBLE BODY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tobacco control and smoking cessation services • alcohol and drug misuse services • interventions to tackle obesity and community nutrition initiatives • increasing levels of physical activity in the local population • public mental health services • dental public health services • accidental injury prevention • population interventions to reduce and prevent birth defects • behavioural and lifestyle campaigns to prevent cancer and long-term conditions • local initiatives to reduce excess deaths as a result of seasonal mortality • local initiatives on workplace health • public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response • public health aspects of local initiatives to tackle social exclusion • local initiatives that reduce public health impacts of environmental risks. 	

APPENDIX 2 – OFFICERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Government intend to publish an Officers’ Code of Conduct which the County Council will consider once it is available.
- 1.2 Under section 82(7) of the Local Government Act 2000 the terms of appointment or conditions of employment of every officer to whom the section applies are to be deemed to incorporate the Officers’ Code of Conduct for the time being in force.
- 1.3 The County Council has put in place a Local Code of Conduct (what the Council expects of its employees) and guidance to support them. This Code of Conduct is supported by the Whistle-Blowing Policy, which sets standards for employees and those with whom the Council deals to bring to attention concerns they may have about the Council’s conduct in the performance of its business and the Integrity Policy which sets the public standards with which the Council and its employees will comply.

LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES

INTRODUCTION

1. All employees must, as a matter of law, declare their interests in contracts with which the County Council (or a Governing Body) is concerned. This includes where the County Council is acting in partnership or as the Authorising Body for another organisation or body such as DAAT. Details of this obligation appear in the “Standards of Conduct – Guidance for Employees” which is appended. Nothing in this document detracts from the need to comply with that legal obligation.
2. As a Condition of Service, all employees are expected to maintain conduct of the highest standard such that public confidence in their integrity is maintained (see, for example, the NJC for Local Government Services Conditions of Service). This employment obligation is also reinforced, in relation to certain posts, by a duty to comply with other external standards – as applies, for example, to Social Workers under the BASW Code of Ethics, or the requirements of professional bodies such as the Law Society. The NJC standard is also to be supported by Local Codes of Practice to cover the official conduct and the obligations of employees and employer.
3. The County Council has put in place three policies to give public confidence in the Council’s ethical arrangements and to support its employees in meeting those standards:
 - 3.1 Integrity Policy (to set the public standards with which the Council and its employees will comply).
 - 3.2 Whistle-Blowing Policy (to set standards for public and employees and those with whom the Council deals (such as agency staff, contractors and partners) to bring to attention concerns they may have about the probity of the Council’s conduct in the performance of its business).
 - 3.3 This Local Code of Conduct (what the Council expects of its employees) and Guidance to support them.
4. This Local Code sets out the Council’s expectation of the way in which its employees will notify interests of theirs which could – however, inadvertently – be seen by the public as affecting the integrity of the Council’s employees and the arrangements for the Council’s business to be carried out.
5. Employees whose salary grade is PO Special 1 of above, and those employees identified by Chief Officers as exercising delegated powers to take decisions for and on behalf of the County Council, are required to submit a completed declaration of interest (including a ‘nil’ return where appropriate) within one month of appointment to post (or being identified by the Chief Officer as exercising such delegated powers). Thereafter such

employees shall submit a fresh declaration annually, and shall update their declaration as soon as practicable after a change of circumstances occurs which requires the declaration to be updated.

6. Employees taking decisions for or on behalf of the County Council would include those:
 - Procuring contracts, and/or placing orders for works, goods or services with outside suppliers or playing a significant part in the procurement, such as tender evaluation.
 - Securing the provision of places for education, for care or for social or other personal support.
 - Involved in the provision disposal or design of land, buildings and infrastructure schemes (such as roads).
7. Where the Code of Conduct is mandatory in relation to a particular post, reference to this will be included in the job description when recruitment to the post is being undertaken.
8. For other employees the Code is voluntary, though the Council encourages all employees to register as a matter of good public sector practice.
9. The Code requires employees to register their own personal interest. Where a close associated person of the employee e.g. spouse, partner or family and friends or those living with the employee has an interest in a company or organization which may be affected by a decision of the County Council (award of a contract etc) the employee may wish to discuss with them and register that there is an interest of a close associated person. e.g. if the answer would be 'yes' to the question 'Could an independent person who did not know me, but knew about the interest think that my decision or the decision of the County Council may have been influenced by the fact a close associated person had this interest?'
10. The Code is supported by the Council's Guidance "Standards of Conduct – Guidance for Employees" referred to above.
11. It is not intended that the register will be subject to public scrutiny, as it will contain personal data protected under the Data Protection Act.
12. The Government have said that they will introduce a Mandatory Officer Code of Conduct. This Code – and related documents such as the supporting guidance – will need to be reviewed when they do.
13. Declarations (including 'nil' returns) must be registered with the Monitoring Officer.
14. Access to the database of registered interests is restricted to senior officers authorised by Chief Officers for that purpose, on a need to know basis, and information will only be made available for County Council purposes, subject to any overriding legal obligation with which the Council are

required to comply. Data entry will be undertaken by officers of the Resources Directorate on a confidential basis.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT – GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYEES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The public is entitled to expect of local government employees conduct of the highest standard. Public confidence in the integrity of the County Council would be undermined if there were the least suspicion, however ill-founded, that those who work for it could be influenced in any way by improper motives. Employees should also be protected against unjustified allegations or wrongdoing.
- 1.2 It is important therefore that employees should know the standards of conduct expected of them. This booklet is designed to help to bring together a number of existing provisions and guidelines. It also includes clarification of some areas where there may have previously been some doubt.
- 1.3 It is impossible to cover every eventuality in a document such as this and there will always be some room for interpretation. It is not a definitive statement of the law nor does it take away the requirement for individuals to comply with the law. It is intended as a guide which will assist employees to reach a decision in any particular case. Rules or Codes of Conduct do not of themselves create the standards but they are an indispensable factor in achieving the standards required.

Application to Schools

- 1.4 The Education Reform Act requires the governors of schools with delegated powers to establish the disciplinary rules which apply to the employees of the school. This has the effect of transferring an obligation which exists in general employment law from the County Council, as the employer, to the governors. However, Staffordshire County Council remains the employer of all staff of schools. The standards which are set out in this document are commended for adoption by governors. If this is done (and unless otherwise stated) the reference to 'County Council' in this guidance should read 'the governors of the school' reference to 'the Chief Officer' should read 'the Headteacher' and reference to "a department" should read "school".
- 1.5 In cases where information is to be provided to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation direct, a copy of the information should be provided to the Commissioner for Education and Skills. Further advice on the scheme can be obtained from the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

2. Pecuniary Interests

- 2.1 The law (Local Government Act 1972 section 117) specifically requires employees to disclose any "pecuniary" interest they may have (whether direct or indirect) in any contract with which the authority is concerned. Not

to do so may be a criminal offence. With financial delegation to schools and colleges this will extend to any contract with which a governing body is concerned.

- 2.2 A declaration under section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 should be made where employees (or their spouse) receive any form of remuneration from a firm or person(s) which they know has had, has or is likely to have dealings with the County Council even through the remuneration may be quite properly payable. This includes for example payment for work done, commission, honoraria, dividends, interest, agency or other fees.
- 2.3 An interest could include, for example, any of the following:-
 - 2.3.1 Holding shares in the company (even a very small number).
 - 2.3.2 Employment by the company or acting as agent for the company.
 - 2.3.3 Being Chairman or Secretary of a body or organisation doing business or seeking grants from the County Council.
 - 2.3.4 Where the employee is in a position to influence or initiate contracts or where such relationship could be seen by others to place the employee of the County Council in a position to exercise influence for improper motives. The intention of this provision is to ensure that employees do not knowingly or otherwise place themselves in a position where doubts can be raised about their relationship with any other body concerned.
- 2.4 Certain kinds of relationships or memberships can sometimes influence a person's judgement or give the impression that the individual is acting for personal motives. A good test of whether an interest should be declared is to consider whether others would think the interest is of a kind which could make this view possible. It is difficult to define every possible case but an example is employees who, during the course of their duties, have dealings with an organisation in which they or any of their relatives hold an office or position of influence.
- 2.5 If any employee has any interest which falls within the broad outlines, then full details must be provided in writing to the Chief Officer. This information will also be passed to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation to be recorded in a Register which she maintains. If the interest changes, the employee should also notify this in the same way.
- 2.6 If an employee has an interest in any particular matter, it will normally be undesirable for that employee to deal on behalf of the County Council with anything appertaining to it. In such cases the instructions of the Chief Officer must be sought.
- 2.7 If employees have any questions or doubts about what constitutes "an interest" they are advised to discuss the position with their Chief Officer.

3. GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

3.1 The Prime Minister's Committee on Conduct in Local Government (1974) identified offers of gifts and hospitality as a particular source of conflict between private and public interests where these are offered in connection with official duties. They said:-

“a nice exercise of judgement may sometimes be necessary to decide how the public interest, and an authority's good name, may best be served. A reasonable amount of entertainment is a normal part of the courtesies of public life, and extreme strictness can give unnecessary offence to people and organisations with whom the authority's relationships should be cordial. But an appearance of improper influence is easily created and with it encouragement of cynicism about the motive of those who serve in local government”.

The best general advice which can be given about offers of gifts or hospitality is to seek the advice of the Chief Officer and “when in doubt, opt out”. This is a good principle to follow since in law, the receipt of a gift in certain circumstances can impose a presumption of guilt which the ‘accused’ has to rebut.

3.2 Gifts

3.2.1 The general convention should be that gifts offered by persons who are providing or seek to provide goods or services to the County Council or who are seeking decisions from the County Council should be politely refused and returned. So should gifts (other than those of a minor nature) offered by those receiving services from the County Council (eg presents offered to home helps and teachers). This applies particularly to personal gifts offered to employees or members of their families. However, there is a need to recognise and provide for items of a very minor nature which come into the work-place as a consequence of normal commercial practice or as a token of appreciation. These are the items of a promotional character which are given to a wide range of people and not personally only to the employee. These gifts are usually given at Christmas time and include calendars, diaries, desk sets, flow charts, tape measures and other minor articles of use in the office or job.

3.2.2 Gifts may also be offered, for example, at the conclusion of a courtesy visit to a factory or firm. If these are of the type normally given by that firm to visitors and of a minor nature (eg small free sample or an ashtray) they can be accepted. Similar arrangements apply where the refusal of a small gift would give needless offence. However, this should not be done if the giver is currently seeking a decision of the County Council. The small gift should only be accepted if the giver merely wishes to express thanks for advice, help or co-operation received.

3.2.3 In all cases of this nature it is wise to err on the side of caution: an obviously expensive gift should be tactfully declined. If a gift is simply delivered it should be returned to the donor and the Chief Officer advised of the action taken. A note of the action taken should be placed on file by the Chief Officer. If there is a problem in returning it, the Chief Officer's advice should be sought.

3.3 Hospitality

3.3.1 Hospitality of differing levels might be offered to the County Council and accepted at official level because that course of action is reasonable in all the circumstances. However, an offer of hospitality to individual employees calls for special caution particularly if the "host" is doing or trying to do business with the County Council or hoping to obtain a decision from it. It is very important to avoid any suggestion of improper influence. It is difficult to give fixed guidelines to be followed on all occasions. It is clearly a matter of individual judgement but the following paragraphs may indicate what is acceptable and what is not.

3.3.2 A working lunch of modest standards to allow the parties to continue to discuss business already started would normally be acceptable: this is a case where the modest hospitality is secondary to a specific working arrangement. The employee should be careful not to claim subsistence allowance unless the money claimed has actually been spent on, for example, the purchase of drinks to accompany the meal. On the other hand, it would not be acceptable conduct for an employee to accept a holiday (at home or abroad), or tickets for concerts, theatre or sporting events, the use of a company flat or hotel suite, or expensive hotel meals not connected with official business.

3.3.3 There are occasions when an offer of hospitality of any kind should be declined, e.g. when the person offering the hospitality has a matter currently at issue with the County Council such as a tender under consideration or a contract dispute.

3.4 Promotional Offers

3.4.1 There has been a lot of publicity about unethical sales promotion techniques adopted by some companies. Purchasing inducements are offered in various forms; gifts, vouchers to be used against future orders, the 'buy one get one free' type of offer and the misleading offers which results in more goods being ordered than are required.

3.4.2 It is important to remember that when purchasing for the County Council, the best possible deal for the County Council must be obtained. Any commission vouchers, cash discounts etc offered by a contractor in connection with the order belong to the County Council (they may, depending on the circumstances, be credited to the department's budget) and should be paid to the Director of Finance and Resources.

3.4.3 If employees receive an approach from a supplier (or prospective supplier) which seems to be unauthorised in any way, or if they receive a gift or voucher from such a supplier, they should immediately inform the Chief Officer who should ensure that the Director of Finance and Resources's Audit Section is made aware of the approach.

4. OTHER EMPLOYMENT

4.1 It has been established as a basic principle, and included in some of the conditions of service, that whilst employees' off-duty hours are their personal concern, they should not subordinate their duty to their private interests nor should they place themselves in a position where their duty and their private interests conflict. Where an employee takes up any additional employment, such employment should not in any way conflict with or react detrimentally to the authority's or department's interests or in any way weaken public confidence in the conduct of the authority or department.

4.2 With the above in mind, the County Council does not preclude all employees from taking additional employment but has decided that in certain circumstances employees should not engage in any business or paid employment other than that for which they are employed by the County Council, unless the County Council has agreed in writing to such business or employment. The general rule is that employees should seek permission to take on a second employment

- When their salary is above a specified figure (at present spinal column point 28), or
- They wish to take on a second employment which is for an organisation which provides services to or similar to those provided by the County Council, or
- There is likely to be a conflict of interest with or other effect on their employment with the County Council.

4.3 Before committing themselves to any such second employment employees should seek permission in writing from the Chief Officer giving full details of the proposed employment and identifying the name of the proposed employer. This policy applies irrespective of whether or not the proposed business or employment is similar to the employment with the County Council. It is clearly undesirable for employees to undertake certain types of outside work for payment, at whatever level they are employed in the authority.

4.4 Employees at all levels should avoid getting into a position of conflict by undertaking outside work even if unpaid. For this purpose it is considered that a conflict arises when an employee is to be employed by a member of the public or an outside organisation or body for work which is in any way connected with the scope of the employee's duties with the County Council. Such work should not be accepted.

4.5 Another area which can lead to difficulties is where an employee has business interests (direct or indirect) outside the employment with the County Council. This would arise, for example, where an employee is a major shareholder or 'sleeping partner' in a business where the work experience of the employee is of prime importance to the business. In such a situation, there will arise a clear conflict of loyalties between the needs of the County Council employment and the needs of the 'other business'. There may also be circumstances where such an interest could provide an element of competition where the 'private business' seeks to provide a service which is one normally also provided by the local authority.

4.6 This advice does not preclude any employee from undertaking voluntary unpaid work outside normal hours for a charitable or similar organisation. In fact, the County Council encourages employees to become involved with bodies of this nature but subject to the advice contained elsewhere in this document.

5. LECTURES, PRESS ARTICLES, RADIO/TV APPEARANCES ETC.

5.1 Many employees are invited to give lectures/talks, prepare articles or to appear on radio or TV. Employees are encouraged to do this, particularly on uncontroversial matters relating to their employment which it is thought may be of interest either professionally or to the public. The County Council out of courtesy would expect the employee to notify the Chief Officer before becoming involved, and also to clear, if necessary, the material to be used. For the purposes of this paragraph "the material to be used" covers confidential documents or reports etc., to which the employee has access solely because of being an employee of the Council (eg. a report in the confidential part of an Agenda). Employees would not expect to use such confidential information unless they had cleared it with their Chief Officer. There is nothing in this paragraph which would prevent them from using, for example, a Cabinet or Committee report which appeared in the public part of an agenda.

5.2 Employees must request the advice of their Chief Officer before becoming involved in controversial discussions or statements on matters of County Council policy (or matters of policy in the process of formulation) or matters under current consideration by the County Council. The position of employees expressing views on behalf of a professional body or trade union is covered by the provisions of paragraph 5.4 below.

5.3 Employees who write articles or appear in broadcasts in a personal capacity should make this clear and that the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the County Council.

5.4 Employees are of course free to express their views as representatives of trades unions or professional bodies but they are not entitled to use in this capacity confidential information received solely as an employee.

5.5 In many cases, employees undertaking any of the above, will be offered a fee. Where all the work (including preparation) is undertaken in the employee's own time, the employee may retain the whole fee. However, where the event or preparation for it takes place in County Council time and/or involves the use of County Council resources, it will be necessary to seek approval to use such resources and agree the proportion of any fee to be paid to the County Council for such use. Where a payment is not negotiated then the normal arrangement would be for the employee to pay over to the County Council 50% of the fee received.

5.6 There are occasions when fees are paid to employees for acting as an examiner for a university or college or other examining body. These fees may be retained by the employee. When an employee gives an occasional lecture on a subject appertaining to the local government service for which a fee is offered, the employee may retain the fee unless there has been substantial use of County Council resources in the preparation work in which case the arrangements under 5.5 above will apply.

6. USE OF COUNTY COUNCIL FACILITIES, RESOURCES, ETC.

6.1 Any facilities, equipment, tools etc. provided by the County Council for use in an employee's duties should be used only for those duties and for no other purpose except where the County Council has agreed to private use. This applies to all facilities and property, including the use of telephones, photocopiers, vehicles or other similar equipment. There are approved arrangements for some of these services to be used for private purposes on payment of charges determined by the County Council – for example, private telephone calls from the work place; photocopies.

6.2 It is also important to ensure that there is no suggestion that an employee uses his position to gain the use of County Council services without payment. The approved arrangements for the use of equipment, services etc. for private purposes should always be followed and the appropriate charges paid.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIRMS WHO HAVE DEALINGS WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL

7.1 Employees should exercise caution about using the services of firms which have dealings with the County Council.

7.2 No employee should purchase for private purposes goods or services from a firm which has dealings with the County Council where the firm is offering preferential terms to the employee (directly or indirectly) because of a contractual, business or other relationship with the County Council. This would equally apply to the ordering of extra supplies against a contract where the intention is to use the goods privately and pay for them at the authority's contract price, particularly if the employee is aware that the price is not available to the ordinary customer. It would also apply to the use of the services of a contractor with whom employees have official

contact as part of their employment with the County Council. It would also preclude employees from using, for private purposes, any special trading cards which the County Council may hold. This would not be the case, of course, if the County Council negotiates a particular scheme for employees and has an agreement covering it (eg. preferential loans).

8. USE OF CONFIDENTIAL, PRIVATE OR PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 8.1 Many employees obtain information in their official position which has not been made public and/or is confidential. Such information acquired in the course of official duties must not be used for the personal advantage of the employee or a relative or an acquaintance or friend or any other organisation.
- 8.2 The same rules apply to personal information about other employees. This type of information may only be disclosed to a third party where there is a legal responsibility to provide it (for example, on a request from the Inspector of Taxes; or the DSS) or where the employee provides a written authority for the information to be provided (for example, to a building society or a bank). The rules would not apply to information disclosed to a trade union under the provisions of the Employment Acts relating to the disclosure of information for collective bargaining purposes but, in such cases, individual employees would not be identified.
- 8.3 The restrictions in paragraph 8.2 apply equally to information which an employee may obtain from his employment about a contractor, debtor or creditor of the Council. Such information should be disclosed to a third party only in the circumstances set out.
- 8.4 Some information about employees is safeguarded by statute (for example, by the Data Protection Act or the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) and any employee who discloses such information could be liable to criminal prosecution and dismissal for gross misconduct. There is a separate Code of Practice dealing with this particular aspect – employees should be aware of its contents. A copy of this code is available from the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.
- 8.5 No employee may communicate to the public or press, information about the discussions in, or decisions of, the County Council, the Cabinet or any Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee, taken following the exclusion of public and press unless authorised to do so.
- 8.6 As a general rule employees should not enter into any public correspondence or debate on a matter with which they are dealing officially or in which they have a direct involvement or in respect of which they hold official information, unless this is done with the consent of the Chief Officer concerned. Similar considerations exist covering the position of employees invited to participate in radio broadcasts, television programmes, etc., where the subject of the programme relates directly or indirectly to the work of the County Council. Employees invited to take part in such programmes

should discuss the position with their Chief Officer before accepting the invitation. (See also paragraph 5 above).

8.7 Nothing in paragraph 8.6 above prevents employees from exercising their rights as a Trade Union Officer or as citizens eg objections to a planning application; signing a petition against a school closure.

9. POLITICAL INTEREST/ACTIVITY

9.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 has the effect of imposing restrictions on public political activity by certain staff of local authorities. These restrictions do not apply to teachers or lecturers but they do apply to certain non-teaching staff in educational establishments.

9.2 Four different categories of employee are caught by the restrictions:-

9.2.1 Those whose posts are specified in the Act. This means that within the County Council, the Chief Executive and all Chief Officers and Deputy Directors are automatically caught. In addition, the restrictions will also catch any person who reports directly to the Chief Executive or a Chief Officer (except in a secretarial or clerical role).

9.2.2 Any officer who occupies a post which has delegated authority to discharge a function of the County Council – in effect this will catch all employees who are included in the County Council's arrangements for the delegation of functions to officers referred to in Appendix 1 of the Constitution.

9.2.3 Those posts not covered by 9.2.1 or 9.2.2 above but for which the annual rate of remuneration is Spinal Column Point 44 or over for a full-time post or, if the post is part-time, with an annual rate of remuneration which pro rata equates to SCP44 or above.

9.2.4 Posts not covered by 9.2.1 or 9.2.2 or 9.2.3 above but where the duties consist or involve either or both of the following giving advice on a regular basis to the authority, to any Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee of the authority (which will include member working parties etc) or to any joint committee on which the authority is represented and speaking on behalf of the authority on a regular basis to journalists or broadcasters. (These posts are called "politically sensitive").

9.3 The job description for any post will indicate if the post is included in the list the County Council holds under the Act.

9.4 The effect of the inclusion of a post in the list is that the postholder will be prevented from becoming a member of a local authority (except a Town or Parish Council), or a member of the House of Commons or of the European Parliament. In addition, regulations prevent them from:

- Holding office in a political party.
- Canvassing at elections.

- Speaking or writing publicly on matters of party political controversy.

9.5 The Act provides that the terms of appointment and conditions of employment of employees included in the list of politically restrictive posts, will be deemed to incorporate the restrictions on public political activity as outlined above.

9.6 In certain circumstances postholders may appeal to an independent adjudicator for the post to be deleted from the list. Such an appeal may only be made against inclusion in the lists under paragraph 9.2(c) or 9.2(d) above. In the case of posts included in the list on salary grounds (paragraph 9.2(c)), anyone wishing to appeal to the adjudicator must obtain from the Chief Executive a certificate of opinion of the authority as to whether they consider that the post meets the criteria under paragraph 9.2(d) for political sensitivity and must send this to the adjudicator with the application for removal from the list. If the appeal is against inclusion in the lists in paragraph 9.2(d) above no certificate of opinion of the authority is needed (since the authority will have already indicated its views by including the post in the list on the grounds of political sensitivity). It is also possible to complain to the adjudicator that the post has been wrongly omitted from a list.

The name and address of the independent adjudicator is available from the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation at the County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford. ST16 2LH (01785 – 278310).

9.7 An employee proposing to apply for removal from the list of politically sensitive posts should send a copy of the application to his Chief Officer and to the Chief Executive.

10. GENERAL

10.1 The various provisions included in legislation, in the various National Conditions of Service and in the County Council's Constitution are intended to ensure that the standards of conduct in public service are maintained at a high level. It is not possible to provide rules which cover every possible situation but the guidance included in this note is intended to give employees a clear indication of the standards of conduct the County Council expects of an employee in a situation where there may be a conflict between the employee's private and public interests. The decision in each case is one for employees to make individually but in so doing they must ensure that the rights and expectations of the public are secured on the one hand and, at the same time, safeguard their own position. In any case of doubt, employees should seek advice from their Chief Officer.

10.2 Whilst this code is for the guidance of employees, wilful disregard of any part of it could lead to action under the approved disciplinary procedures; but disregarding the code is not of itself a disciplinary offence.

- 10.3 In addition to this guidance to employees, there are other codes and procedures which whilst designed for specific purposes also have implications as to the standards of conduct required of employees. These will include rules, regulations, codes of practice and guidance relating to health and safety, and those covering discipline which will relate to matters such as timekeeping, conduct at work and any similar issues which could be in conflict with the standards required by the County Council.
- 10.4 This code is inevitably fairly lengthy. However, County Council employees who act in accordance with 'normal practice' should not find anything in it which should cause them concern.

Staffordshire County Council			HR Policy Handbook				
Reference Number	HR 99	Approved By	Draft 1	Issue	01	Date	08/01/04
Policy Title	Whistleblowing						

Legislative Framework

***The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1999** – sets out a framework of protection against victimisation or dismissal for workers who blow the whistle on ("disclosure") criminal behaviour and other specified forms of malpractice.*

The Act does not provide a general protection for whistleblowers that applies in all circumstances. It applies to making a 'protected' disclosure in respect of specific types of malpractice, which are:

- criminal behaviour
- failure to comply with a legal obligation
- miscarriage of justice
- endangering someone's health and safety
- damage to the environment
- deliberate concealment of information relating to any of the above
-

The Act covers internal disclosures to the employer, disclosures to prescribed 'persons' such as regulatory bodies (e.g. for health and safety, the Health and Safety Executive), and wider disclosures, for example to the police and the media.

Policy Statement

The Council expects employees, and others that we deal with, (such as contractors, agency staff and partners), who have serious concerns about any aspect of the Council's work to come forward and voice those concerns. If and when they do, provided they act in good faith and follow the laid down procedures, the Council will do everything it can to ensure that they are not victimised in any way.

The Council will, at its discretion, consider disclosures that are made anonymously, although such disclosures are inevitably much less powerful. The Council will also treat every disclosure in confidence, and only reveal the identity of the person making it if absolutely necessary (e.g. if required in connection with legal action).

The Council will keep people who make disclosures informed about the progress and (subject to legal constraints) outcome of any investigation carried out.

However frivolous, malicious, or allegations made for personal gain, may result in disciplinary action against the person making them.

Trade Union

There are many trade unions working within Staffordshire County Council who can assist with this process. It is recommended that a trade union representative be contacted at the earliest stage so that appropriate advice, guidance and support can be offered to the employee.

HR Units

Directorate HR units can assist with the interpretation and application of this process. It is recommended that an HR representative be contacted at the earliest stage so that appropriate advice, guidance and support can be offered to both the manager and employee.

Guidance On How To Apply The Policy

Making a Protected Disclosure

To make a 'protected' disclosure the whistleblower has to meet certain conditions.

- Disclosure to the **employer** will be protected if it is made in good faith and the whistleblower has a reasonable suspicion that the alleged malpractice has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur.
- Disclosure to a **regulatory body** will be protected where, in addition, the whistleblower honestly and reasonably believes that the information they provide and any allegation contained in it are substantially true.
- Disclosure to other external bodies will be protected if, in addition, making it is in all respects reasonable. "In all respects reasonable" means, in effect:
 - the disclosure is not made for personal gain
 - the whistleblower reasonably believed that they would be victimised if they raised the matter internally
 - there is no relevant regulatory body
 - they reasonably believed that evidence was likely to be concealed or destroyed
 - the concern has already been raised with the employer and/or relevant regulatory body

- the concern is of an "exceptionally serious" nature – which in a local government setting could include, say, the alleged abuse of children or vulnerable adults in an authority's care or corruption.

Having taken advice as appropriate, an employee of the Council, or any other person covered by the Act, who has serious concerns about any aspect of the Council's work, should in the first instance inform one of the Contact Officers whose details are given in Appendix A.

The initial contact can be by telephone or in writing, and if the latter should be in a sealed envelope addressed to the officer concerned and marked: 'PIDA – Strictly Private and Confidential'. E-mail is not a secure medium and must not be used.

The Contact Officer who has received a disclosure will: (a) acknowledge its receipt, in writing, within 5 working days; (b) seek further information if need be, including by personal interview, at which the individual can be accompanied by an official of their trade union or professional association, or by a fellow employee; (c) when the precise nature of the alleged malpractice is established, refer the disclosure to the Monitoring Officer; (d) in liaison with the Monitoring Officer, keep the individual informed regarding the progress and (subject to legal constraints) outcome of any investigation.

On receipt of a disclosure from a Contact Officer the Monitoring Officer will determine what further action, if any, is needed, which may comprise:

- internal investigation
- report to the Police
- report to external audit
- independent enquiry
- any combination of the above

The Monitoring Officer will also ensure that the Contact Officer is advised of progress and outcome.

If at the end of the process an employee of the Council, or any other person covered by the Act, is not satisfied with how a disclosure has been dealt with, they may refer to one of the regulatory bodies/other external agencies whose details are listed in Appendix B. As with the internal disclosure, before referring to one of these bodies the individual should consider: do I honestly and reasonably believe that my concerns are well founded and that any allegations I am about to make are substantially true?

Exceptionally, the Act offers protection in respect of disclosures made to people or bodies not listed in Appendix B but only when, all things considered, it is reasonable to do this and the disclosure is not made for personal gain. In addition, one of the following must apply:

- The matter has been raised already with the employer and/or relevant regulatory body, or

- The person reasonably believed that they would be victimised if they raised the matter internally; or
- There is no relevant regulatory body, and they reasonably believed that evidence was likely to be concealed or destroyed; or
- Their concern is of an "exceptionally serious" nature, which is for them to determine.

Levels of Authority

Throughout this policy document, there are many references to Contact Officer. For the purposes of this policy ‘Contact Officer’ is the person delegated by the Director to perform the task. The Contact Officer’s are listed in Appendix A.

Other considerations

The Council will monitor the application of this policy and, in conjunction with the recognised trade unions, review and revise it as necessary.

Accountabilities

Monitoring Officer – has overall responsibility for the proper application of the policy. The Monitoring Officer is also responsible for deciding, in respect of **ALL** disclosures, whether there will be a formal investigation, what form it will take and who will carry it out.

Contact Officers – Heads of Service designated by Chief Officers to receive disclosures, obtain further information if need be, refer disclosures to the Monitoring Officer, carry out investigations as required, and keep the whistleblower informed regarding the progress and (subject to legal constraints) outcome of any investigation.

Further Advice and Information

This policy document is for general guidance only. If you need any further advice on how to apply this policy please contact your departmental HR Manager.

Independent advice on ‘whistleblowing’ can also be obtained from the charity Public Concern at Work and from the Audit Commission. Contact details for these organisations are:

Public Concern at Work
 Suite 306
 16 Baldwins Gardens
 London EC1N 7RJ
 Helpline: 020 7404 6609
 E-mail: helpline@pcaw.co.uk

Audit Commission
 1 Vincent Square
 London SW1P 2PN
 Telephone: 020 7828 1212
 E-mail: enquiries@audit-commission.gov.uk

Further information and Advice

Further background information on this topic is available on the following

Websites:

www.dti.gov.uk

www.acas.org.uk

www.lg-employers.gov.uk

www.audit-commission.gov.uk

www.pcaw.co.uk

See also national conditions of service and local agreements before determining or issuing advice.

Other Contacts

Please note that the County Council takes no responsibility or liability for any material produced by or contained in external sites or for any advice or services given by external organisations. It is the responsibility solely of each person to decide whether or not they use any such material, advice or service.

Standard Documents

This information can be made available in a range of formats and languages, including Braille and large print. If this would be useful to you or someone you know, please contact your Directorate HR Manager.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

The Council acknowledges that anyone who is not satisfied with its response to a disclosure they have made under this policy is entitled in law to disclose elsewhere. **Appendix B** lists the names and addresses of bodies to whom disclosures can be made, including bodies prescribed by the Government.

EXTERNAL/PREScribed BODIES

Health & Safety Exec.
Area Office
Marches House
The Midway
Newcastle under Lyme
(Info line tel: 08701 545500)

Environment Agency
(no local address)
Tel: 0845 933 3111 (enquiries)
0800 807060 (to report
accidents)

Staffordshire Police HQ
Cannock Road
Stafford
ST17 0QG
Tel: 0185 257717

Inland Revenue
Greyfriars House
Greyfriars
Stafford
Tel: 01785 256222

Customs & Excise
Newcastle under Lyme Business
Centre
Blackburn House
Newcastle under Lyme
ST5 1UT
Tel: 01782 753600
(Enqs: 0121 697 4295)

Citizens' Advice Bureau
131 North Walls
Stafford
Tel: 01785 258673

Data Protection Registrar
Local Govt. Ombudsman
Pensions Ombudsman
11 Belgrave Road
London
SW1V 1RB
Tel. 0171 834 9144

Audit Commission
1 Vincent Square
London
SW1P 2PN

District Auditor
Eastgate House
Eastgate Street
Stafford

One's local Councillor

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INTEGRITY IN STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. INTRODUCTION

The County Council fully recognises its responsibility for spending public money and is committed to the fullest support for members and employees in upholding the reputation of the Council and maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the Council.

The culture and procedures of the Council are therefore intended to ensure that high standards in public life apply throughout the Authority. The Council is aware of the importance of ensuring that members and employees are fully aware of their personal responsibilities.

The key documents which encompass those personal responsibilities are referred to below and can be found on the County Council's Intranet. Those found within the Constitution are indicated with an asterisk.

- [Financial Regulations](#)***
- Financial Administration and Control Polices
- Financial Instructions
- [Contract Standing Orders](#)***
- [Delegations to Directors](#)***
- Delegation from Directors
- [Members Code of Conduct](#)***
- [Employee Code of Conduct](#)***
- Computer Security Policy
- E-mail and Internet Use Policy
- [Whistleblowing Policy](#)***

2. SCOPE

This Statement is specifically aimed at Councillors and senior managers of the County Council. A separate leaflet will be produced for employees, summarising key points.

It is acknowledged that special arrangements apply to schools. Governors and headteachers are encouraged to adopt the principles and processes detailed within this Statement.

In relation to suppliers and contractors, reference to the Statement will be made in Council contract documents. The Policy Statement will also be included on the County Council's Internet web site.

3. CULTURE

Where there are concerns about possible fraud or corruption or financial malpractice, the County Council encourages those concerns being raised.

This can be achieved by raising those concerns in accordance with this Policy Statement OR in accordance with the policy guidance and procedures which have been produced in response to the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

Irrespective of the route chosen, anyone raising such concerns can be assured that they will be treated in confidence and properly investigated.

Unless there are good reasons to the contrary, any allegation received by way of anonymous letter or telephone will be taken seriously and investigated in an appropriate manner.

The Council will deal firmly with those who defraud the Council or who are corrupt, or where there has been financial malpractice. There is, of course, a need to ensure that any investigation process is not misused and, therefore, any abuse (such as staff raising unfounded malicious allegations) may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

When it is found that fraud or corruption has occurred owing to a breakdown in the Council's systems or procedures, Chief Officers will ensure that appropriate improvements in systems of control are implemented in order to prevent a re-occurrence.

4. RAISING AND REPORTING CONCERNS

Staff can raise their concerns in the first instance with their line manager or, if necessary, anonymously and via other routes, for example:

- Heads of Service, Chief Officers, or the Chief Executive, who will report such concerns to the Director of Finance and Resources (Internal Audit Section)
- Directly to the Director of Finance and Resources (Internal Audit Section) including use of the Integrity Freephone Answerphone Service
- The External Auditor, who depending upon the nature of the concern will liaise with the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and/or the Director of Finance and Resources (Internal Audit Section).

Elected members, suppliers and contractors, and the general public are also encouraged to report concerns through any of the above routes.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

Members

Elected members are required to operate within:

- Sections 49 and 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Regulations and Codes of Conduct having effect under those sections;
- The Members' Code of Conduct (In Section 3 of the Constitution); and
- The County Council's Constitution.

These matters are specifically brought to the attention of elected members as part of their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and at their induction and subsequent training. A declaration and registration must be made with the Chief Executive, and updated regularly, of any potential areas of conflict between members' Council duties and responsibilities, and any other areas of their personal or professional lives.

Senior Managers

In addition to those responsibilities detailed below, Senior Managers are responsible for supporting and promoting strong counter fraud and counter-corruption cultures within their respective sections / business units including specifically internal control and associated training and development.

Employees

Employees are required to comply with those key documents detailed at Section 1 in so far as such documents impact upon individual duties, responsibilities and workloads. Attention is drawn to Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires any interests in contracts that have been or are proposed to be entered into by the Council to be declared. The legislation also prohibits the acceptance of fees or rewards other than by means of proper remuneration

In addition, employees are expected to comply with all codes of practice or other relevant professional obligations issued by professional Institutes of which they may be members. The Council will report known impropriety to the relevant Institution for them to consider appropriate disciplinary action.

6. SYSTEMS

The Council recognises that a key preventative measure in the fight against fraud and corruption is to take effective steps at the recruitment stage to establish, as far as possible, the propriety and integrity of potential employees. In this regard, temporary employees and contracted staff will be treated in the same manner as permanent employees.

Employee recruitment is required, therefore, to be in accordance with procedures laid down by the Council. Written references covering the known honesty and integrity of potential employees and staff will always be obtained. Where appropriate, relevant qualifications will be checked and CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks undertaken.

The role that appropriate employees are expected to play in the Council's framework of internal control will be included in employee induction procedures and subsequent training, as appropriate.

The Director of Finance and Resources has a statutory responsibility under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to ensure the proper arrangement of the Council's financial affairs. Regulations and accounting instructions are in place governing the procedures and responsibilities of staff in relation to the key financial activities.

The Council has developed and is committed to systems and procedures which incorporate efficient and effective internal controls and which include adequate separation of duties. Chief Officers are required to ensure that such controls, including those in a computerised environment, are properly maintained and documented. Their existence and appropriateness is independently monitored by Internal Audit.

Internal Audit assesses regularly the levels of risk within the Council with a view to preventing fraud and corruption. Such assessments are discussed with Chief Officers and, where appropriate, incorporated into work plans.

The Council has established formal procedures to respond to complaints received about any aspect of service delivery. Issues relating to fraud and corruption will be passed directly to the Director of Finance and Resources (Internal Audit).

Combining with Others

Arrangements are in place and will be developed to encourage the exchange of information between the Council and other agencies on national and local fraud and corruption activity. This includes the exchange of computer based information (in accordance with the County Council's notification under the Data Protection Act) such as payroll records. The bodies involved in such exercises would include:

- Police
- Other local and statutory authorities
- Treasurers' Associations and Societies
- Local regional and national Auditor Networks
- External audit
- Audit Commission

Detection and Investigation

The Council's preventative systems, particularly internal control systems, provide indicators of fraudulent activity and are designed to deter any fraudulent activity.

It is often the alertness of elected members, Council employees, and the general public to the possibility of fraud and corruption that enables detection to occur and appropriate action to take place.

Despite the best efforts of financial managers and auditors, frauds are often discovered by chance and the Council has in place arrangements to enable such information to be properly and promptly dealt with.

Chief Officers are required by Financial Regulations to report all suspected instances of fraud and corruption to the Director of Finance and Resources (Internal Audit). Reporting is essential to the success of this Statement, and:

- ensures the consistent treatment of information regarding fraud and corruption
- facilitates a thorough investigation of any allegation received

Depending on the nature of an allegation, the Director of Finance and Resources (Internal Audit) will normally work closely with the Chief Officer concerned to ensure that all allegations are thoroughly investigated and reported upon.

The Council's Disciplinary Procedures will be used to facilitate a thorough investigation of any allegation of improper behaviour.

The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will decide, based on advice from the Director of Finance and Resources and the appropriate Chief Officer, whether there are sufficient grounds for the matter to be reported to the Police. The

Council will normally wish the Police to be made aware of, and investigate independently, offenders where financial impropriety is discovered.

The Council's External Auditor will examine the Council's arrangements for the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and corruption and will report accordingly.

Training

The Council recognises that the continuing success of its integrity policies will depend largely on the effectiveness of programmed training and responsiveness of employees throughout the organisation.

To facilitate this, the Council supports the concept of induction and refresher training for all employees involved in key control systems to ensure that their responsibilities and duties in this respect are regularly highlighted and reinforced.

The possibility of disciplinary action against employees who ignore such training and guidance is, therefore, quite clear.

The investigation of fraud and corruption centres on the work of the Director of Finance and Resources (Internal Audit). It is apparent, therefore, that staff involved in this work should also be properly and regularly trained. The training plans of audit staff will reflect this requirement.

Regular training seminars will also be provided for elected members on a wide range of topics including declarations of interest and the Members Code of Conduct (Appendix 10 of the Constitution).

7. CONCLUSION

The Council has in place a clear network of systems and procedures to prevent and detect fraud and corruption. These arrangements will change as techniques for preventing and detecting fraud and corruption develop.

To this end, the Council will ensure a regular review of its key policy documents including this Policy Statement.

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APPENDIX 3 – OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES

1. Recruitment and appointment

- 1.1 The Council require any candidate for appointment as an officer under the Council to state in writing whether they are the parent, grandparent, partner, child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of an existing Member or senior officer of the Council; or the partner of such persons.
- 1.2 Any candidate who fails to make any disclosure required under subparagraph (i) above shall be disqualified for such appointment and, if appointed, shall be liable to dismissal without notice.
- 1.3 Every member and senior officer of the Council shall disclose to the Council any relationship known to him to exist between himself and a candidate for an appointment of which he is aware.
- 1.4 It shall be the duty of every Chief Officer and senior officer to whom such relationship is disclosed to record the disclosure and to notify the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation accordingly.
- 1.5 No candidate so related to a Member of the County Council or a senior officer will be appointed without the authority of the relevant Chief Officer or an officer nominated by him.
- 1.6 Where such relationship to a member of the Council exists the Member of the Council concerned shall not take part in the consideration, or discussion of, or vote on, any question with respect to the appointment.
- 1.7 For the purpose of this paragraph 1.1 'senior officer' means the holder of any politically restricted post.
- 1.8 The Council will disqualify any applicant who directly or indirectly seeks the support of any Member of the County Council or Chief Officer for any appointment with the Council.
- 1.9 No Member will seek support for any person for any appointment with the Council.
- 1.10 Nothing in paragraph 1.9 shall preclude a Member of the County Council from giving a written testimonial on a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission with or in connection with that candidate's application.
- 1.11 The content of paragraphs 1.1 to 1.11 will be stated in the advertisement inviting applications for appointment and/or in any form of application supplied for use by candidates.

2. Recruitment of Head of Paid Service and Chief Officers and Wider Leadership Team

- 2.1 Where the Council proposes to appoint the Head of Paid Service or a Chief Officer or a member of the Wider Leadership Team and it is not proposed that the appointment will be made exclusively from among their existing officers, the Council will:
- 2.1.1 Draw up a statement specifying the duties of the officer concerned and any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed.
- 2.1.2 Make arrangements for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it.
- 2.1.3 Make arrangements for a copy of the statement mentioned in paragraph 2.1.1 to be sent to any person on request.
- 2.2 For the purpose of this Appendix the term 'Chief Officer' and 'Wider Leadership Team' mean the holders of posts of Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer within the meaning of those terms in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

3. Appointment and Dismissal of Head of the Paid Service – Special Provisions

- 3.1 Where a Special Committee of the Council referred to in paragraphs 4.4 or 5.2 below is discharging, on behalf of the Council, the function of the appointment or dismissal of an officer designated as the Head of the Paid Service, the Council must approve that appointment before an offer of appointment is made to him or, as the case may be, must approve that dismissal before notice of dismissal is given to him.

4. Appointment of the Head of the Paid Service, Chief Officers and Wider Leadership Team

- 4.1 Subject to paragraphs 3.1 above and 4.5 below, the Committee of the Council referred to in paragraph 4.4 below will be responsible for appointing the Officers referred to in Paragraph 4.3 of Section 11 of the Constitution.
- 4.2 Where an appointment is to be made to a post referred to in Paragraph 4.3 of Section 11 of the Constitution and the post has been advertised as provided for in paragraph 2.1.2 above, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, the Leader of the Council, the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s), and the Chairman of the appropriate Committee(s) shall, after preliminary interview or otherwise, select a long list of such qualified applicants for short listing and interview by the Special Committee of the Council referred to in paragraph 4.4 below.

- 4.3 Where no qualified person has applied for the appointment; or no qualified applicant is selected for interview, or the Special Committee referred to in paragraph 4.4 below do not make an appointment then the Chief Executive shall (unless no appointment to the post is to be made) readvertise the appointment under paragraph 2 above.
- 4.4 For the purpose of an appointment to which paragraph 4.2 applies, a Special Committee of the Council shall be established comprising the Chairman of the County Council (or a member of the County Council nominated by him to represent him), together with; (a) not less than one nor more than four Cabinet members nominated by the Leader of the Council; and (b) an equal number of non-Cabinet members of the County Council nominated by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders and shall have power, subject to paragraphs 3.1 above and 4.5 below, to make that appointment.
- 4.5 An offer of an appointment as an officer referred to in Paragraph 4.3 of Section 11 of the Constitution shall not be made by or on behalf of the Special Committee of the Council referred to in paragraph 4.4 above until:-
- 4.5.1 The Committee has notified the Proper Officer of the name of the person to whom the Committee wishes to make the offer and any other particulars which the Committee considers are relevant to the appointment.
- 4.5.2 The Proper Officer has notified every Cabinet Member of the name of the person to whom the Committee wishes to make the offer, any other particulars relevant to the appointment which the Committee has notified; and the period within which any objection to the making of the offer is to be made by the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Cabinet to the Proper Officer.
- 4.5.3 The Leader of the Council has, within the period specified under subparagraph notified the Proper Officer that neither he nor any other Cabinet Member has any objection to the making of the offer; or the Proper Officer has notified the Committee that no objection was received by him within that period from the Leader of the Council; or the Committee is satisfied that any objection received from the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Cabinet within that period is not material or is not well-founded.
- 5. Dismissal of, and disciplinary action against, the Head of the Paid Service, Chief Officers and Wider Leadership Team**
- 5.1 Subject to paragraphs 3.1 above and 5.5 below, the Committee of the Council referred to in paragraph 5.2 below will be responsible for taking disciplinary action against an Officer referred to in Paragraph 4.3 of Section 11 of the Constitution.
- 5.2 For the purposes of this Section 5 of this Appendix the term 'disciplinary action' is limited to dismissal for any reason other than redundancy, permanent ill-health or infirmity of mind or body; and such other disciplinary

action not amounting to dismissal as requires the involvement of the Committee in order to meet the County Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of service of that officer; but not further or otherwise

- 5.3 Where disciplinary action is proposed to be taken against, or the dismissal is proposed of, an officer referred to in Paragraph 4.3 of Section 11 of the Constitution a Special Committee of the Council shall be established comprising the Chairman of the County Council, and such Cabinet Members, being not less than one and up to four in number, as the Leader of the Council shall nominate and such other members of the Council, being not less than one and up to four in number, as the Council may appoint.
- 5.4 In cases of urgency the Special Committee referred to in paragraph 5.3 may be appointed by the Chairman of the County Council on behalf of the Council and the action of the Chairman of the County Council shall be reported to the next following meeting of the Council.
- 5.5 Notice of the dismissal of an officer referred to in Paragraph 4.3 of Section 11 of the Constitution must not be given by or on behalf of the Special Committee referred to in paragraph 5.2 above until:–
- 5.5.1 The Committee has notified the Proper Officer of the name of the person who the Committee wishes to dismiss and any other particulars which the Committee considers are relevant to the dismissal.
- 5.5.2 The Proper Officer has notified every Cabinet Member of the name of the person who the Committee wishes to dismiss, any other particulars relevant to the dismissal which the Committee has notified and the period within which any objection to the dismissal is to be made by the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Cabinet to the Proper Officer.
- 5.5.3 The Leader of the Council has, within the period specified under paragraph 5.5.2 notified the Proper Officer that neither he nor any other Cabinet Member has any objection to the dismissal; or the Proper Officer has notified the Committee that no objection was received by him within that period from the Leader of the Council; or the Committee is satisfied that any objection received from the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Cabinet within that period is not material or is not well-founded.

6. **Recruitment, selection and dismissal of the Officer designated as the Director of Public Health**

Appointment

- 6.1 A Director of Public Health must be appointed jointly by the Council and the Secretary of State (acting by Public Health England), however employment will be exclusively with the Council.

- 6.2 The role of the Secretary of State in the appointment of a Director of Public Health is to provide additional assurance of the Directors competency.
- 6.3 The Council must design a job description that includes specialist public health leadership and an appropriate span of responsibility for improving and protecting health, advising on health services and ensuring that the impact on health is considered in the development and implementation of all policies.
- 6.4 The Council must make considerable effort to agree the job description with the Faculty of Public Health and the Public Health England Regional Director, to ensure that the job description covers all the necessary areas.
- 6.5 An Advisory Appointments Committee must be set up by the Council which will make recommendations on the appointment to the leader of the Council.
- 6.6 The Advisory Appointments Committee should be chaired by a lay member, such as an elected member of the Council (e.g the cabinet member of the Health and Well Being Board). It should also include:
- a. an external professional assessor, appointed after consultation with the Faculty of Public Health
 - b. the chief executive or other head of paid service of the appointing Council
 - c. senior local NHS representation
 - d. the Public Health England regional director, or another senior professionally qualified member of Public Health England acting on his or her behalf
 - e. in the case of appointments to posts which have teaching or research commitments, a professional member nominated after consultation with the relevant university.
- 6.7. Public Health England will also assist the Council in offering advice in relation to the recruitment and selection process, and will also confirm to the Council the Secretary of State's agreement to the appointment.
- 6.8 The Council must assure themselves of the Director of Public Health's competency before appointing by ensuring that he/she:
- a. Undertakes a Faculty of Public Health continuing professional development programme;

- b. Maintains a portfolio of training that demonstrates competence with all aspects of public health accepted by the UK Public Health Register.

Dismissal

- 6.9 The Council must consult the Secretary of State before dismissing the Director of Public Health.
- 6.10 The Council should contact Public Health England for advice on how to proceed with the consultation. Public Health England will then provide the Secretary of States formal response within 21 days.
- 6.11 During the consultation period with the Secretary of State, the Council may suspend the Director of Public Health from his or her duties following the Council's standard rules and procedures.
- 6.12 Although the Council has a duty to consult with the Secretary of State regarding the dismissal of the Director of Public Health, the Secretary of State cannot refuse the Council permission to dismiss a Director of Public Health.
- 6.13 During the Director of Public Health's employment with the Council, if the Secretary of State believes that Director of Public Health is not properly carrying out any Secretary of State function that has been delegated to the Council, they can direct the Council to review the Director of Public Health's performance, and to consider taking particular steps and reporting back to the Secretary of State.

Interim Appointments

- 6.14 In addition to paragraph 2.2 of Section 11, before designating another officer as an Interim Statutory Officer, the Chief Executive (or in his absence Chief Finance Officer) and the Monitoring Officer must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Interim Statutory Officer meets the requirements of paragraph 6.8.

7. Other appointments

- 7.1 Appointments of officers who are not within the scope of paragraph 4.3 of Section 11 of the Constitution are, in accordance with paragraph 9.2 below, the responsibility of the Head of the Paid Service or the Chief Officer responsible for the Department to which the appointment is to be made, and may not be made by members of the County Council.
- 7.2 The appointment of an assistant to a political group shall be made in accordance with the wishes of that political group.

8. Disciplinary Action in respect of the Head of the Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer – further provision

8.1 The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer may be suspended whilst an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct. That suspension will be on full pay and last no longer than two months beginning on the day on which the suspension takes effect.

8.2 No other disciplinary action may be taken in respect of any of those officers except in accordance with the applicable Regulations and a recommendation in a report made by a designated independent person.

9. Dismissal and other disciplinary action – Involvement of Members

9.1 Subject to the provisions of Section 5 of this Appendix, Members will not be involved in the dismissal of, or other disciplinary action against, any officer except where such involvement is necessary to assist any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct, though the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures, as adopted from time to time may allow a right of appeal to a Panel of the Audit and Standards Committee in respect of dismissals or other disciplinary action.

10. Powers of Chief Officers in relation to employment matters

10.1 The powers set out in paragraph 9.2 below are in all cases subject to the preceding paragraphs of this Appendix, to the provisions of The Scheme of Delegation in Appendix 1 of Section 11 of the Constitution, and are in addition to the powers of the Chief Executive under the relevant Regulations.

10.2 Chief Officers, and those members of staff designated as having sub-delegated powers relating to staffing and personnel matters under sub-delegation schemes approved The Scheme of Delegation in Appendix 1 of Section 11 of the Constitution, are nominated by the Chief Executive for the purpose of taking and have delegated authority to take, decisions relating to staffing and personnel matters, (including disciplinary action which does not require the involvement of the Cabinet or a Committee in order to meet the County Council's obligations under the applicable terms and conditions of service of the employee in question) unless:-

10.2.1 The decision relates to the early retirement or redundancy of one or more employees, in which case the arrangements set out in 'Early Retirement Policy – Notes of Guidance' apply.

10.2.2 The decision relates to a variation in the grade or rate of pay of a post where the current grade or rate of pay was determined following the application of a formal scheme of job evaluation. In this regard:-

10.2.2.1 Head of Service posts and PO Special graded posts above SCP 53 must be submitted to the Head of Corporate HR, who will arrange for the post to

be re-evaluated. Where this produces a higher grade or rate of pay the Chief Officer concerned may authorise the increase from such date as he determines.

- 10.2.2.2 Posts covered by the 1987 national Manual Worker job evaluation be reviewed in accordance with the procedures agreed by the County Council at that time.
- 10.2.2.3 Posts which are evaluated using the new JNC scheme will be dealt with in accordance with such arrangements as the County Council agrees with the relevant trade unions at the due time, having regard to the advice set out in Part 4 of the Green Book.
- 10.3 The decision relates to a variation in the number and/or deployment of posts graded Head of Service Band 4 and above. Where such is intended the Chief Officer concerned must refer to the Chief Executive. The approval of the Cabinet is required for variations in the number and/or deployment of posts at this level. For the purpose of this paragraph 'deployment' means the replacement of one post by another post which is sufficiently different to require a fresh appointment.
- 10.4 Before exercising delegated authority in respect of the following, the Chief Officer must consult as indicated:-
 - 10.4.1 Decisions taken by Chief Officers using the powers delegated to them must be consistent with County Council staffing policy and the relevant legislation. Where a Chief Officer is unclear on policy or on the interpretation or application of legislation, or is concerned that a particular course of action may have implications for other Departments or attract public comment, then before taking a decision he must consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation the Head of Human Resources and the Director of Finance and Resources. This applies whether or not the decision relates to one of the areas listed in 9.4.2 to 9.4.6 below.
 - 10.4.2 Before including in fixed term contracts clauses requiring the waiver of the right to claim unfair dismissal and/or entitlement to redundancy pay/compensation lump sum, Chief Officers should consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation as to the efficiency of this course of action and, as appropriate, the form of wording to be used.
 - 10.4.3 The Head of Human Resources shall be consulted where it is proposed to pay honoraria/ex-gratia payments other than in circumstances where the employee is carrying out the duties of a higher graded post.
 - 10.4.4 Overseas visits by officers must be approved in advance and before departure by the relevant Chief Officer personally.
 - 10.4.5 Before authorising discretionary payments to staff under the Local Authority (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996, the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, the Injury Benefits Scheme or the scheme

for the reimbursement of legal costs (violence against staff), Chief Officers must consult the Director of Finance and Resources.

- 10.4.6 Redundancy excepted, Chief Officers shall consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation before dismissing an employee in circumstances which could give rise to the right to claim unfair dismissal.

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Chief Executive

SLT

Director for Place and Deputy CX

Director for People and Deputy CX

Director of Public Health

Director of Finance & Resources

Director of Democracy, Law & Transformation

Director of Strategy & Customer Services

Wider Leadership Team

Housing and Planning
Rural Development
Environment Sustainability
Transport, Highways & Connectivity
Business and Enterprise
Economic Planning & Development
Tourism & Culture

Learning & Skills
Safety
Health & Care
Families First
Business Partner

Improvement & Wellbeing
Planning and Partnerships
Care and Quality
Intelligence & Wellbeing

Financial & Commercial Services
Financial Strategy & Support
IT
HR
Strategic Property

Law
Democracy
Information Governance
Transformation
Executive Support

Insight & Research
Communications
Customer Services
Organisational Development
Policy & Performance

Strategic Leadership Group

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PROCEDURAL STANDING ORDERS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 These Procedural Standing Orders apply to the business and conduct of meetings of the Council and its Committees. (Standing Orders relating to Contracts are set out in Section 14 – Financial Procedure Rules).
- 1.2 These Standing Orders are divided into two sections, **Part A** deals with the procedure for meetings of the County Council and **Part B** deals with the procedure for meetings of Committees.
- 1.3 Meetings of the Cabinet, any Cabinet Sub-Committees and of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are subject to their own procedure rules outlined elsewhere in this Constitution.

Part A – Procedure for Meetings of the County Council

2. Meetings of the Council

- 2.1 Meetings of the Council will usually take place at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Stafford unless otherwise fixed by Statute or where they are Extraordinary Meetings convened in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.2 There are three types of Council Meetings, the Annual meeting, Ordinary meetings and Extraordinary Meetings. These are dealt with in more detail below. Notice of meetings of the Council will be given by the Chief Executive five clear working days before the date of the meeting.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive is authorised to cancel a meeting where the agenda has already been issued if it is considered expedient. Before exercising this authority, the Chief Executive will consult with the Chairman and the Leader of the Council. Any outstanding business will be held over to the next scheduled meeting or on a date to be arranged.
- 2.4 Before the start and end of each meeting, Members and Officers will stand whilst the Chairman and Vice Chairman enter and leave the chamber. The meeting will also commence with prayers.
- 2.5 Meetings of the Council may be broadcast live and made available to the public for viewing on the Council's website. When a meeting is webcast, Members will sit in their allocated seat.

3. Quorum

- 3.1 No business will be dealt with at a Council meeting if there are less than one quarter of the total number of Members (currently 16 of 62) present. Where the meeting has started, and the number of Members present reduces to less than one quarter, the Chairman will adjourn the meeting. Where the Chairman does

not give a date and/or time for a resumption, all business not completed will be considered at the next Ordinary meeting.

3.2 Every Member will sign their name in a book which will be available at every meeting of the Council, from which attendances of the Members will be recorded.

4. The Annual Meeting of the Council

4.1 The Annual Meeting of the Council will usually be held in May. In a year when there is an ordinary election of Councillors, the Annual Meeting will take place within 21 days of the retirement of the outgoing councillors.

4.2 In a year when there is an ordinary election of Councillors, the Annual meeting will elect the Leader of the Council and be notified by the Leader of the Council of the number of Members appointed to the Cabinet, their names, portfolios and which of them is to be the Deputy Leader.

4.3 Every annual meeting of the Council will:-

- Elect a person to preside if the Chairman of the County Council is not present.
- Elect the Chairman of the County Council.
- Elect the Vice-Chairman of the County Council.
- Approve the minutes of the last meeting of the County Council.
- Consider any items brought forward by the Chairman.
- Decide the allocations of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules and appoint the Committees referred to in Standing Order 20 and/or such other Committees as the Council considers appropriate.
- Elect Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees in accordance with Standing Order 23.
- Agree, if necessary, any changes to any part of the Constitution.
- Approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year.
- Consider any other business set out in the summons convening the meeting.

5. Ordinary Meetings

5.1 Ordinary meetings of the Council will take place in accordance with a programme decided at the Council's Annual Meeting.

5.2 The Chairman will determine the order of business at Meetings of the Council and (other than an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council) the following items will be considered:-

- Election of a Member to preside if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent or otherwise unable to preside.
- Approval the minutes of the last meeting of the County Council.
- Any items specially brought forward by the Chairman.
- (As necessary) To appoint or remove the Leader of the Council.
- Disposal of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting.
- The Leader's Statement.
- Members' questions asked under Standing Order 8.

- Reports (if any) of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer.
- Topical issues brought before the Council for debate.
- Notices of motion (in the order in which they have been received).
- Reports (if any) on Scrutiny activity.
- Reports and/or recommendations of the Cabinet, Corporate Review Committee and non-Scrutiny Committees.
- Reports (if any) of the Staffordshire Police Authority and the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority.
- Petitions presented under Standing Order 13.
- The authorisation the sealing of documents so far as the Council's authority is required by statute or the Standing Orders.
- Any other business specified in the summons to the meeting.

5.3 The Chairman may at any time call upon the Chief Executive or any Chief Officer (or their representative) to advise the Council.

6. Extraordinary Meetings

6.1 The Chief Executive will call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council following either:-

- A resolution of the County Council to request an extraordinary meeting;
- A request from the Chairman of the Council;
- A request from the Monitoring Officer, or
- A request signed by any five Members of the Council who have asked the Chairman of the County Council to call an Extraordinary meeting and they have refused or failed to do so within seven days of the presentation of the request.

6.2 Any request made under paragraph 6.1 must specify the particular item of business for which the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council is to be called.

6.3 The only business to be conducted at an Extraordinary Meeting of the County Council will be to choose a person to preside if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent or otherwise unable to preside and to consider the matter specified in the request to call an Extraordinary Meeting. No other business may be conducted at the meeting unless the Council otherwise resolve.

7. Minutes

7.1 The Minutes of the preceding Council Meeting will usually be circulated to each Member of the Council not later than five clear working days before the meeting and they will be taken as read and the Chairman will move that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

7.2 If the Minutes have not been circulated prior to the meeting but have been deposited in the Council Chamber at least half an hour before the time fixed for the meeting the Chairman will move that the Minutes be taken as read and the Chairman will move that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

7.3 There will be no motions or discussion on the Minutes, except on their accuracy, and any question of their accuracy will be raised by motion. If there are no

questions, or once any questions have been dealt with, the Chairman will sign the Minutes.

7.4 The minutes of the preceding meeting of the Council will not be submitted to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council for approval but will be submitted to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

8. Questions from Members

8.1 Members may submit questions, in writing or by email on the prescribed form to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation , to be asked at the Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meetings of the Council by no later than 1:00 pm on the third working day before the Council Meeting.

8.2 Questions may be addressed to the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council, any Cabinet Member or a Committee Chairman. The Leader of the Council may refer questions asked of them to the relevant Cabinet Member if they consider it appropriate.

8.3 Each Member may submit a maximum of two questions each, however only the first 15 questions received by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation before the deadline will be dealt with at the meeting. All other questions will receive a written answer.

8.4 Each question will be read out at the meeting and must be no more than 150 words in length. A written response of no more than 400 words will be circulated at the beginning of the meeting and will also be read out.

8.5 Each questioner will be entitled to ask up to one supplementary question on each question/answer and the time limit for supplementary questions and answers will be at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

8.6 Representatives of the Staffordshire Police Authority and the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority may be invited to attend meetings of the County Council from time to time and Members will be entitled to ask them questions under these provisions.

9. Leader's Statement

9.1 At each ordinary meeting of the Council the Leader of the Council will submit a report (the Leader's Statement) summarising important developments and their activities since the preceding meeting of the Council. This will include a summary of items considered by the Cabinet.

9.2 The Leader will introduce the statement and Members may ask the Leader questions on the content of both his introductory remarks and the written statement itself. All questions will be answered immediately by the Leader or the relevant Cabinet Member if the Leader refers any question to them unless sufficient information to give an answer is not available. In these circumstances the Member asking the question will, where practicable, receive a response in writing within five working days of the Council meeting at which the question was raised.

- 9.3 Once all questions have been dealt with, the Chairman will open the Leader's Statement to the Council to debate. After any debate on the Statement, the Leader of the Council will have the right of reply and the Chairman of the Council will then formally put to the Council the motion that the Leader's Statement be received.
- 9.4 During the debate on the Leader's Statement, a Member of the Council may speak on any matter relating to the work of the Executive including any matter not referred to in the Leader's Statement, whether or not they move anything in relation to it.
- 9.5 A Member of the Council may move that a particular matter raised during the debate be referred back to the Cabinet or to the Corporate Review Committee or the appropriate Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- 9.6 The length of the debate on the Leader's Statement shall be at the discretion of the Chairman.

10. Reports of Committees

- 10.1 Committees will not be required to submit a report to each meeting of the Council, but will bring any matters of particular significance before the Council.
- 10.2 Any reports will be brought before the Council by the Chairman of the Committee or, in his absence, by the Vice-Chairman or, in the absence of both, by a Member of the Committee called upon by the Chairman of the Council.
- 10.3 During the debate on the report, Members may speak on any particular paragraph of the report, whether or not they move anything in relation to it, and their remarks will be confined to the subject matter of the paragraph on which they speak.
- 10.4 Members may move that a particular paragraph of the report be referred either to the Cabinet, back to the Committee or to a Scrutiny Committee but no other motion may be moved in relation to individual paragraphs.

11. Motions on Notice

- 11.1 Any Member may give notice of a motion (other than a motion which may be moved without notice see Standing Order 12) to be moved at a Meeting of the Council, in writing to the Monitoring Officer nine clear days before the meeting.
- 11.2 All notices of motion and the name(s) of the Member giving notice will be entered in the order received in a book to be kept in the Monitoring Officer's office. This book will be open to the inspection of every Member of the Council.
- 11.3 Unless the motion is withdrawn by the Member(s) giving the notice, all notices will be placed in the summons for the next Meeting of the Council. The Member giving notice will move the motion at the Council meeting and may, subject to the Chairman's discretion, vary the precise terms of the motion but not change its substance.

11.4 Notices of motion may relate to any issue that affects those who live or work in the Council's area but will not propose any decision or action by the Council which it is the responsibility of the Cabinet to take.

12. Motions that may be moved without notice

12.1 The following motions may be moved at a Council Meeting without giving notice:-

- Appointment of a Chairman for the Meeting.
- Motions relating to the accuracy of the Minutes.
- Any motion relating to any item currently under discussion on the Council Agenda.
- Reference to a Committee, sub-Committee or the Cabinet.
- Amendment to motions.
- Withdrawal of motions.
- Extending the time limit for speeches.
- That the question be now put.
- That the debate be now adjourned.
- That the Council be adjourned.
- That the order of business be varied.
- That the Council do proceed to the next business.
- Authorising the sealing of documents.
- Suspension of these Standing Orders.
- Motion under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public.
- Giving consent of the Council where the consent of the Council is required by these Standing Orders.
- Relating to action to be taken in consequence of a report made under Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

13. Petitions

13.1 A Member of the Council or a Member of the public may, with the leave of the Chairman, present to the Council a petition which will be handed to the Chairman;

13.2 The Chairman may permit the local Member to whose division the petition relates (or a Member nominated by them) to address the Council on the petition for no more than 2 minutes.

13.3 Petitions with more than 5,000 signatures which have been received under the petition scheme in Section 4 of this Constitution will be debated by the Council. The petition organiser will be entitled to address the Council for five minutes and then the Council will debate the issue raised by the petition for a period of fifteen minutes, which may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman.

13.6 Following the debate, the Council may, if it is able to do so, decide whether or not to take the action referred to in the petition or to refer the petition to the Cabinet or a Committee to take the matter forward.

14. Rules of Debate

14.1 Motions and Amendments

- 14.1.1 No motion or amendment will be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. Every motion involving an amendment or reference back will be put in writing, signed by the mover and will be handed to the Chairman.
- 14.1.2 When seconding a motion or amendment a Member may, if they then declare their intention to do so, reserve their right to speak until a later period of the debate.

14.2 Speaking at Council Meetings

- 14.2.1 A Member of the Council when speaking will stand and address the Chairman. Other Members will remain seated, unless rising on a point of order or in personal explanation. Whenever the Chairman stands up no Member will continue standing and no Members will rise until the Chairman is seated.
- 14.2.2 If two or more Members stand at the same time to speak, the Chairman will determine the order of speeches.

14.3 Content and Length of Speeches

- 14.3.1 Subject to Paragraph 14.3.2 below, no Member may speak for more than five minutes during debates by the Council unless the Chairman gives an extension.
- 14.3.2 When the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members nominated by the Leader or Committee Chairmen propose reports to the Council they may speak for up to ten minutes. Members who have been nominated by the Leaders of minority political groups as spokesmen on a report discussed by the Council may also speak for up to ten minutes.
- 14.3.3 Members will confine their speeches to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or a point of order. No Member may question another Members motives or use offensive expressions to any Member of the Council or Officer.
- 14.3.4 The Chairman may call the attention of the Council to continued irrelevancy and tedious repetition or any breach of order by a Member and may direct them to discontinue their speech. If the Member continues to disregard the authority of the Chairman, the Chairman may ask them to retire for the remainder of the sitting. Should a Member refuse to retire the Chairman may order their removal from the Council Chamber.

14.4 Number of Speeches

- 14.4.1 A Member will not speak more than once on any motion except to make a point of order, personal explanation or in the exercise of a right of reply.
- 14.4.2 The proposer of a motion or amendment will have a right of reply immediately before it is put to the vote. A Member exercising a right of reply will not introduce any new matters.

14.5 Points of Order and Personal Explanation

- 14.5.1 A Member may rise at any time to make a point of order or a personal explanation and will be entitled to be heard immediately.
- 14.5.2 A point of order must relate to an alleged breach of a Standing Order or statutory provision and the Member must state the Standing Order or statutory provision and the alleged breach. A personal explanation must be confined to some material part of a former speech either by or relating to the Member, at the same meeting which may have been misunderstood.

14.6 Amendments

- 14.6.1 Amendments to a recommendation contained in a report or other motion must be relevant to the motion and will be either:-
- (i) To leave out words;
 - (ii) To leave out words and insert or add others;
 - (iii) To insert or add words;

but such amendments must not have the effect of negating the paragraph or other motion before the Council.

- 14.6.2 All amendments must be moved and seconded and no second or following amendment can be moved until the previous amendment has been disposed of. Notice of any number of amendments may be given and the Chairman may allow discussion (but not voting) on a number of amendments if deemed appropriate.
- 14.6.3 If an amendment is lost, another amendment may be moved on the original motion. If the amendment is carried, the motion as amended will become the motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.

14.7 Withdrawal and Alteration of Motions

- 14.7.1 An amendment or other motion may be withdrawn by the proposer with the consent of the seconder and the Council, which will be signified without discussion.
- 14.7.2 A Member may, with the consent of the seconder and of the Council signified without discussion, alter any motion they have proposed during the Council Meeting. Motions on Notice under Standing Order 12 which appear on the Council Agenda may not be altered.

14.8 Motions for Adjournment, Closure etc.

- 14.8.1 A Member who has not spoken on the motion under discussion, may, at the conclusion of another Member's speech, move without comment "That the question be now put", "That the debate be now adjourned", "That the Council proceed to the next business", or "That the Council do now adjourn".
- 14.8.2 If such a motion is seconded the Chairman will, if in his opinion the question before the meeting has been sufficiently discussed, put the motion to the vote. If it

is carried then subject only to the right of reply given by Standing Order 14, the question before the meeting will be put to the vote, the Council will proceed to the next business or the meeting will stand adjourned as the case may be.

- 14.8.3 Should such a motion not be carried, a second motion “That the question be now put”, “That the Council do now adjourn”, “That the debate be now adjourned”, or “That the Council do now proceed to the next business”, must not be made within a period of half an hour after the first unless in the opinion of the Chairman the circumstances of the question are materially altered.
- 14.8.4 No Member may move or second more than one motion for adjournment of the same debate or for the adjournment of the Council.
- 14.8.5 The Chairman may adjourn a meeting of the Council at any time until a time and/or date specified. If the Chairman does not fix a time for resumption and subject to the statutory provisions with regard to the calling of Extraordinary Meetings of the Council, any further business to be considered will be dealt with at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

14.9 Voting

- 14.9.1 With the exception of votes referred to at paragraph 14.9.5 below, voting will, in the first instance be determined by voice ‘aye’ or ‘no’, but the Chairman may and, if the decision is challenged must, take a show of hands.
- 14.9.2 For votes other than those referred to at 14.9.5 below, fifteen Members may stand and request a ‘named vote’, meaning that the names for and against the motion or amendment be recorded in the Minutes. The Chief Executive will call the name of each Member present who will then vote ‘aye’ or ‘no’. There is no requirement for Members to participate in named votes and they can abstain.
- 14.9.3 A Member may, immediately after a vote which is not a named vote is taken, request that a record of whether the Member voted for, or against, the motion, or abstained be made in the minutes of that meeting.
- 14.9.4 Where there are equal votes cast for a motion or amendment the Chairman or the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- 14.9.5 Where the Council is voting on the setting of the Budget and/or Precept a named vote MUST be taken, recording the names of those members who voted for a decision, or against the decision or abstained from voting.

14.10 Conduct of Members of the Public Admitted to Meetings

- 14.10.1 No member of the public may bring into or display in the part of the Council Chamber open to the public any banner, placard, flag or similar device.
- 14.10.2 If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting the Chairman will warn them. If the interruption continues, the Chairman will order their removal from the Council Chamber. In the case of general disturbance in any part of the Chamber open to the public the Chairman will order that that part be cleared.

14.11 Decision of the Chairman

- 14.11.1 The decision of the Chairman on all points of procedure and order, and his interpretation of these Standing Orders will be final.
- 14.11.2 The Chairman will have discretion to vary the procedure at any meeting where they consider it would be conducive to the effective management or conduct of business at the meeting.

15. Reconsideration of Previous Resolutions

- 15.1 Subject to Standing Orders 15.2 and 15.3, no motion or amendment may be moved to overturn any resolution of the Council passed within the preceding six months, or which is to the same effect as any motion rejected within the preceding six months.
- 15.2 Such a motion may be moved if notice has been given under Standing Order 12 by twenty-four Members and when any such motion has been disposed of by the Council no Member may propose a similar notice within a further period of six months.
- 15.3 Such a motion may also be moved by the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council in relation to the Leader's Statement, or by the Chairman of a Committee in relation to a report or recommendation of that Committee.

16. Members Interests in Contracts and Other Matters

- 16.1 Every Member and co-opted Member of the Council will at all times comply with the principles specified in law and the County Council's Local Code of Conduct including those specified by the Secretary of State under Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 which are to govern their conduct.
- 16.2 Any Member who has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined in Regulations under Section 30 of the Localism Act 2011) in a matter under consideration at a meeting must notify the Chairman of the interest (including the nature of the interest) prior to the item in question being considered and leave the room until consideration of the matter in question is concluded.
- 16.3 If a Member only becomes aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in an matter under consideration at a meeting after the discussion on that matter has begun they must notify the Chairman of the interest (including the nature of the interest) immediately the interest becomes apparent and must also immediately leave the room.
- 16.4 Any notifications of interests in matters under consideration will be recorded in the minutes for the meeting and a register of notifications made by Members will be maintained on the County Council's website.
- 16.5 Whenever the County Council is purchasing, selling or leasing any legal or equitable interest in land or property in which a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an officer has directly or indirectly a pecuniary interest, a valuation of the said legal or equitable interest for the purposes of the transaction

will be undertaken by the District Valuer unless in the opinion of the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation the fee chargeable by the District Valuer for undertaking a valuation exceeds the likely value of the interest in question.

- 16.6 A Member of the Council, or of any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof will not, unless authorised to do so by the Council or the Cabinet or the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee, inspect any lands, premises or works which the Council have the right or duty to inspect, or enter upon or issue any order in respect of any works which are being carried out by or on behalf of the Council.

17. Suspension of Standing Orders

- 17.1 A Member of the Council may move, or the Leader may recommend, that any one or more of these Standing Orders be suspended at any meeting of the Council. When making such a motion or recommendation the paragraph or paragraphs proposed to be suspended and the reasons for the suspension will be specified.
- 17.2 If such a motion or recommendation is carried the reason for such suspension will be recorded in the Minutes.

18. Signature of Documents

- 18.1 Without prejudice to any provision in Section 14 (Procurement Policy and Contract Standing Orders) about the signature of contracts the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and such other officers as may be authorised to do so in writing may sign: –
- 18.1.1 Any document (including a contract or instrument relating to the sale purchase or other disposition of land) which is designed to give effect to a decision of the Council unless that document is one which is required to be under seal; and
- 18.1.2 Any document which is a necessary step in legal proceedings on behalf of the Council unless any enactment otherwise requires, authorises or the Council has given the necessary authority to some other person for the purpose.

19. Inspection of Documents

- 19.1 Subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and the exclusion of documents which would involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 13 (Access to Information Rules) of this Constitution and subject to the provision of that Section, a Member of the Council may inspect any document (other than a document which is in draft) which is to be considered by the Council or the Cabinet or a Committee or Sub-Committee and, if available, will be supplied with a copy it on request.
- 19.2 A Member will not knowingly inspect or call for a copy of any document relating to a matter in which they are professionally interested, or has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 19.3 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation may decline to allow inspection of any document which is, or in the event of legal proceedings, would be, protected by privilege arising from the relationship of solicitor and client.

Part B – Rules of Procedure for Committees

20. Committees

20.1 The County Council will appoint the following Committees, which will have the following number of Members:-

<u>Non Scrutiny Committees</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
Planning Committee	15
Pensions Committee	9 (& non-voting Co-optees)
Audit and Standards Committee	15
<u>Select Committees</u>	
Corporate Review Committee	13
Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee	10
Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee	10 (& Statutory Co-optees)
Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee	13 (& 8 District and Borough Members)

20.2 No Member of the Cabinet may be eligible for appointment to, or membership of, the Corporate Review Committee, a Select Committee or Sub-Committee thereof.

20.3 The County Council may also appoint a Special Committee for the purposes of making or recommending an appointment, proposed disciplinary action or dismissal in relation to the posts of Head of the Paid Service, Chief Officers and Deputy Directors. Further details can be found in the Officer Employment Rules in Section 11 of this Constitution.

20.4 The County Council may appoint such other Committee(s) as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions.

20.5 The Audit and Standards Committee may appoint special Sub-Committees for a specified task and finish time-limited purpose and comprising such number of Members as the Committee will decide.

20.6 Special Sub-Committees appointed by non-Scrutiny Committees will not have any delegated powers unless specifically delegated to them by the County Council.

20.7 No Member other than the Chairman of the Council or the Leader of the Council may propose the appointment of a Committee under Standing Order 20.4 unless notice has been given under Standing Order 11.

20.8 Subject to any statutory provision the Council may, at any time, dissolve a Committee or special Sub-Committee or alter the number of Members on it.

21. Quorum

21.1 The quorum of a Committee will be one quarter of the membership. Where the membership is not a multiple of four the quorum will be the whole number next above one quarter of the membership.

21.2 The quorum for Sub-Committee/Panels shall be two members.

22. Terms of Office of Membership of Committees and Other Bodies

22.1 An appointment to a Committee will ordinarily be for a period expiring at the next Annual Meeting of the Council except no appointment will be for a period which expires after the day of retirement of County Councillors in a year with an election for County Councillors.

22.2 In a year with an election of County Councillors, re-elected Councillors who have previously been elected as Leader of the Council or appointed to serve on the Cabinet, Committees or other bodies will continue those roles and responsibilities until new appointments have been made.

22.3 If the person previously elected as Leader of the Council is not re-elected as a Councillor, any Councillor previously appointed to the Cabinet will cease to hold such appointment.

22.4 In any year other than a year of an election of County Councillors where the specified period of any appointment has expired and no new appointment has been made, the appointed Councillor will continue to act in that capacity until a new appointment is made.

22.5 Nothing in this paragraph will be taken as continuing the appointment of a person as a representative of the County Council on any body when such continuation would be in conflict with the constitution of that body or when the person so appointed has ceased to be a Member of the County Council.

23. Chairmen of Committees etc.

23.1 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Committee will be elected by the County Council at the Annual Meeting of the County Council from amongst the appointed Committee Membership.

23.2 In the event of any office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman becoming vacant during the year the vacancy will be filled by the Council at their next meeting. Pending an appointment being made by the Council, the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, the Leader of the Council, and the minority political Group Leaders, will have power to appoint a temporary Chairman to that vacancy to hold office until the next meeting of the Council.

23.3 No Member of the Council (except the Chairman of the County Council) will be Chairman of more than one Committee of the Council.

23.4 The Chairman of any Sub-Committee will be appointed by the Committee from which the Sub-Committee is derived.

23.5 Unless they cease to be a Member of the County Council for any reason the Chairman of a Committee will continue in office until the appointment of his successor.

24. Application of Council Procedural Rules to Committees and Sub-Committees.

24.1 The following Procedural Standing Orders will, with necessary modifications, apply to all meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees:-

Standing Order 5: Ordinary Meetings

Standing Order 7: Minutes

Standing Order 12: Motions that may be moved without notice

Standing Order 14: Rules of Debate (except motions put in writing, standing to speak and only speaking once)

Standing Order 15: Reconsideration of Previous Resolutions (amended from 6 to 3 months)

Standing Order 16: Members' Interests in Contracts and Other Matters

Standing Order 18: Signature of Documents

Standing Order 19: Inspection of Documents

24.2 The Statutory Powers of the Chairman of the Council to summon a meeting of the Council will apply to meetings of Committees and the Chairman of each Committee and Sub-Committee will also have the power to summon a meeting of the Committee or Sub-Committee and must do so on a requisition in writing of one quarter (or where the membership is not a multiple of four the whole number next above one quarter) of the Committee Membership which will be delivered to the office of the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation .

24.3 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will, following consultation, draw up a programme for meetings of the Council's Committees and give notice of all meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees which, unless otherwise specified will take place in County Buildings, Stafford.

24.4 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation is authorised to cancel a meeting where the agenda has already been issued if it is considered expedient to do so. Before exercising this authority, the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation will consult with the appropriate Chairman. Any outstanding business will be held over to the next scheduled meeting or on a date to be arranged.

25. Local Member Interest

25.1 Where any item of business coming before the Cabinet, Cabinet Sub-Committee or a Committee or a Sub-Committee is considered to have a significant effect on a particular electoral division the Local Member for that division, if they are not a Member of the Cabinet or Committee or Sub-Committee in question, will be invited to attend and may speak on the item in question but will not vote.

25.2 Should the Local Member be unable to attend the meeting in question they may submit written representations for consideration at the meeting in question if they

wish. Any written representations will be circulated and drawn to the Committee's attention by the Chairman or person presiding at the meeting.

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SECTION 13

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RULES

1. Scope

- 1.1 These rules apply to all meetings of the Council, Committees, Panels and public meetings of the Cabinet (together called meetings).
- 1.2 Each Chief Officer shall be the Proper Officer for the purposes of all statutory and regulatory provisions relating to the identification listing and availability of background papers for any report where such report is within the scope of those provisions and that Chief Officer is responsible or a contributing author.
- 1.3 Each Chief Officer shall be responsible for securing compliance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the data and information within the purview of those Acts held in his Department and shall make all necessary arrangements within his Department for that purpose.

2. Additional Rights to Information

- 2.1 These rules do not affect any more specific rights to information contained elsewhere in this Constitution or the law.

3. Rights to attend Meetings

- 3.1 Members of the public may attend all meetings subject only to the exceptions in these rules.

4. Notices of Meeting

- 4.1 The Council will give at least five clear days notice of any meeting by posting details of the meeting at the County Buildings, Stafford (the designated office) and on the Council's website.

5. Access to Agenda and Reports before the Meeting

- 5.1 The Council will make copies of the agenda and reports open to the public available for inspection at the designated office at least five clear days before the meeting. If an item is added to the agenda later, the revised agenda will be open to inspection from the time the item was added to the agenda and where reports are prepared after the summons has been sent out, the designated officer shall make each such report available to the public as soon as the report is completed and sent to councillors.
- 5.2 The designated officer for all meetings is the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation .

6. Supply of Copies

- 6.1 The Council will supply copies of:

- 6.1.1 Any agenda and reports which are open to public inspection.
- 6.1.2 Any further statements or particulars necessary to indicate the nature of the items in the agenda; and
- 6.1.3 If the designated officer thinks fit, copies of any other documents supplied to councillors in connection with an item to any person on payment of a charge for postage and any other costs.

7. Access to Minutes etc after the Meeting

- 7.1 The Council will, for six years after a meeting, make available copies of the following:-
 - 7.1.1 The minutes of the meeting (or records of decisions taken, together with reasons, for all meetings of the Cabinet), excluding any part of the minutes of proceedings when the meeting was not open to the public or which disclose exempt or confidential information;
 - 7.1.2 A summary of any proceedings not open to the public where the minutes open to inspection would not provide a reasonably fair and coherent record;
 - 7.1.3 The agenda for the meeting; and
 - 7.1.4 The reports relating to items when the meeting was open to the public.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 The Proper Officer will set out in every report a list of those documents (called background papers) relating to the subject matter of the report which in his/her opinion:-
 - 8.1.1 Disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
 - 8.1.2 Which have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report but does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in paragraph 10 below) and in respect of Cabinet reports, the advice of a political advisor.
- 8.2 The Proper Officer will publish the background paper(s) to a report at the same time that the report is made available for public inspection.
- 8.3 The Council will make available for public inspection for four years after the date of the meeting one copy of each of the documents on the list of background papers.

9. Summary of Public's Rights

- 9.1 A written summary of the public's rights to attend meetings and to inspect and copy documents will be kept at, and available to the public, at the designated office.

10. Exclusion of Access by the Public to Meetings

10.1 Confidential information – requirement to exclude public

The public must be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed.

10.2 Meaning of confidential information

- a) information furnished to the council by a Government department upon terms (however expressed) which forbid the disclosure of the information to the public; and
- b) information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under any enactment or by the order of a court.

10.3 Exempt information – discretion to exclude public

The public may be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that exempt information would be disclosed.

Where the meeting will determine any person's civil rights or obligations, or adversely affect their possessions, Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 establishes a presumption that the meeting will be held in public unless a private hearing is necessary for one of the reasons specified in Article 6.

10.4. Meaning of Exempt Information

Exempt Information means information falling within any of the following 10 categories (subject in each case to the Public Interest Test (below) and the Planning Restriction (below) and, in the case of Categories 3, 8, 9 and 10 to the additional conditions specified in the table:-

Category		Additional Conditions
1	Information relating to any individual	
2	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual	
3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the local authority holding that information)	Information is not exempt, if it is required to be registered under: (a) the Companies Act 1985 (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974 (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992 (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978 (e) the Building Societies Act 1986, (f) the Charities Act 1993
4	Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Authority	

Category	Additional Conditions
or a Minister of the Crown and employee of, or office holders under, the Authority	
5 Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings	
6 Information which reveals that the authority proposes - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment	
7 Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.	Categories 8, 9 and 10 are exempt information only where a meeting of a Standards Committee is convened to consider a matter referred under the provisions of sections 60(2) or (3), 64(2), 70(4) or (5), or 71(2) of the Local Government Act 2000
8 Information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality	
9 Information which relates in any way to matters concerning national security	
10 The deliberations of a Standards Committee or of a Sub-Committee of a Standards Committee established under Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 in reaching any finding on a matter referred under the provisions of sections 60(2) or (3), 64(2), 70(2) or (5), or 71(2) of that Act.	

Public Interest Test

Information in categories 1 to 7 in the table above is only exempt if the information is not prevented from being exempt under the condition to Category 3 or the Planning Restriction and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Planning restriction

Information falling within categories 1 to 7 in the table above is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General) Regulations 1992.”

Investigatory and Enforcement Functions (see below)

For the purposes mentioned in paragraphs (g) and (h) of category 4 are:

- a) The purpose of ascertaining whether any person has failed to comply with the law
- b) The purpose of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper
- c) The purpose of ascertaining whether circumstances may exist or may arise which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment
- d) The purpose of ascertaining a person's fitness or competence in relation to the management of the authority
- e) The purpose of ascertaining the cause of an accident
- f) The purpose of securing the health safety and welfare of persons at work, and
- g) The purpose of protecting persons, other than persons at work, against the risk to health or safety arising out of or in connection with the actions of persons at work.

11. Exclusion of Access by the Public to Reports

If the designated officer thinks fit, the Council may exclude access by the public to reports which in his or her opinion relate to items during which, in accordance with paragraph 10 above, the meeting is likely not to be open to the public. Such reports will be marked "Not for publication" together with the category of information likely to be disclosed.

12. Application of Rules to the Cabinet

12.1 Paragraphs 13 – 24 apply to the Cabinet. If the Cabinet meet to take a key decision then it must also comply with paragraphs 1 – 11 above unless paragraph 15 (general exception) or paragraph 16 (special urgency) apply. What is a key decision is defined in Article 7 of this Constitution.

12.2 If the Cabinet meet to discuss a key decision to be taken collectively, with an officer other than a political assistant present, within 28 days of the date according to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions by which it is to be decided, then it must also comply with Rules 1 – 11 unless paragraphs 15 (general exception) or paragraph 16 (special urgency) apply. This requirement does not include meetings whose sole purpose is for officers to brief members of the Cabinet.

13. Procedure before taking key decisions

Subject to paragraph 15 (general exception) and paragraph 16 (special urgency), a key decision may not be taken unless:

- (a) a notice (called here a Forward Plan of Key Decisions) has been published in connection with the matter in question;
- (b) at least 28 clear days have elapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- (c) where the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with Rule 4 (notice of meetings).

14. The Forward Plan of Key Decisions

14.1 Period of The Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Notices of Intention to take Key Decisions will be prepared by the Leader of the Council to cover a period of four months, beginning with the first Cabinet meeting included in the notice. They will be prepared on a monthly basis and subsequent notices will cover a period beginning with the date of the second Cabinet Meeting covered in the preceding notice.

14.2 Contents of The Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The notice will contain matters which the Leader of the Council has reason to believe will be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Cabinet, in the course of the discharge of an Cabinet function during the period covered by the notice. It will describe the following particulars in so far as the information is available or might reasonably be obtained:

- (a) the matter in respect of which a decision is to be made;
- (b) the names and details of membership of the Cabinet;
- (c) the date on which, or the period within which, the decision will be taken;
- (d) the identity of the principal groups whom the decision taker proposes to consult before taking the decision;
- (e) the means by which any such consultation is proposed to be undertaken;
- (f) the steps any person might take who wishes to make representations to the Cabinet or decision taker about the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made, and the date by which those steps must be taken; and
- (g) a list of the documents submitted to the decision taker for consideration in relation to the matter.
- (h) whether the decision will be made in public or in private.

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions must be published at least 28 days before the start of the period covered.

15. General Exception

15.1 If a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions, then subject to paragraph 16 (special urgency), the decision may only be made:

- (a) where the proper officer has informed the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee or, if there is no such person, each member of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee by notice in writing, of the matter about which the decision is to be made;

(b) where the proper officer has made a copy of the notice available for inspection by the public at the County Council's offices and published it on the County Council's website.

(c) after five clear days have elapsed following the day on which the proper officer made the notice available.

15.2 Where such a decision is taken collectively, it must be taken in public, unless paragraph 10.1 or paragraph 10.3 (Exclusion of the Public) applies.

16. Special Urgency

16.1 If by virtue of the date by which a key decision must be taken paragraph 15 above (general exception) cannot be followed, then the key decision can only be taken if the Leader of the Council obtains the agreement of the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee that the taking of the decision cannot reasonably be deferred. If there is no Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, or if the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee is unwilling or unable to act, then the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, or in his absence the Vice Chairman of the Council will suffice.

16.2 As soon as reasonably practicable after the decision maker has obtained agreement under paragraph 16.1 that the decision is urgent, the decision maker must:

(a) make a notice available at the County Councils Offices that sets out the reasons why the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred; and

(b) publish the notice on the County Council's website.

17. Report to Council

17.1 When Scrutiny Committees can require a report

If a Scrutiny Committee thinks that a key decision has been taken which was not:

(a) included in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions; or

(b) the subject of the general exception procedure under paragraph 15; or

(c) the subject of an agreement under paragraph 16;

the Committee or Panel may require the Cabinet to submit a report to the Council within such reasonable time as the Committee specifies.

17.2 Cabinet's report to Council

The Cabinet will prepare the report referred to in paragraph 17.1 for submission to the next available meeting of the Council. However, if the next meeting of the Council is within 14 days of the resolution of the Committee, then the report may be submitted to the meeting after that. The report to Council will set out particulars of the decision, and by whom it was taken and if the Leader of the Council is of the opinion that it was not a key decision the reasons for that opinion.

17.3 Quarterly reports on Special Urgency decisions

In any event the Leader of the Council will submit quarterly reports to the Council on the Cabinet decisions taken in the circumstances set out in paragraph 16 (special urgency) in the preceding three months. The report will include the number of decisions so taken and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken.

18. Record of Decisions

After any meeting of the Cabinet or any Cabinet Sub-Committee whether held in public or private, the designated officer will produce a record of every decision taken at that meeting as soon as practicable. The record will include a statement of the reasons for each decision and any alternative options considered and rejected at that meeting.

19. Cabinet Meetings Relating to matters which are not key decisions

19.1 The Cabinet will from time to time decide whether meetings relating to matters which are not key decisions will be held in public or private.

19.2 The Cabinet will normally hold in public any meetings at which a decision which is not a key decision is to be taken.

20. Notice of Private Meeting of the Cabinet

Members of the Cabinet or any Cabinet Sub-Committee will be entitled to receive five clear days notice of a meeting to which they are summoned, unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice as a matter of urgency.

21. Attendance of Officers at Meetings of the Cabinet

21.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Director of Finance and Resources or their nominees are entitled to attend any meeting of the Cabinet or a Cabinet Sub-Committee. The Cabinet may not meet unless each of them has been given reasonable notice that a meeting is to take place.

21.2 A private Cabinet meeting may only take place in the presence of the designated officer or her nominee.

22. Key decisions by individual members of the Cabinet

No provision is made for key decisions to be taken otherwise than by the Cabinet acting collectively.

23. Scrutiny Committee Access to Documents

23.1 Rights to copies

Subject to paragraph 23.2 below a Scrutiny Committee (and any of its Scrutiny Sub-Committees) will be entitled to copies of any document which is in the possession or control of the Cabinet or its Sub-Committees (if any) and which contains material relating to any business transacted at a public or private meeting of the Cabinet or its Sub-Committees.

23.2 Limit on rights

A Scrutiny Committee will not be entitled to:

- (a) any document that is in draft form;
- (b) any part of a document that contains exempt or confidential information unless that information is relevant to an action or decision the Committee are reviewing or scrutinising or intend to scrutinise; or
- (c) the advice of a political adviser.

24. Additional Rights of Access for Members

24.1 Material relating to previous business

All members will be entitled to inspect any document which is in the possession or under the control of the Cabinet and contains material relating to any business previously transacted at a private meeting of the Cabinet unless either (a) or (b) or (c) below applies.

- (a) it contains exempt information falling within the categories of confidential or exempt information in paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2 or 10.3 and 10.4; or
- (b) it contains the advice of a political adviser; or
- (c) it is a document which the member is not entitled to inspect by reason of paragraph 18.2 or paragraph 18.3 of Appendix 2 (Procedural Standing Orders) of this Constitution.

24.2 Material relating to key decisions

All members of the Council will be entitled to inspect any document (except those available only in draft form) in the possession or under the control of the Cabinet which relates to any key decision unless paragraph 24.1 (a) or (b) or (c) above applies.

24.3 Additional rights of access to documents for members

Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 18.2 and 18.3 of Appendix 2 (Procedural Standing Orders) of this Constitution, Members of the Council are not entitled to inspect any document which appears to the Proper Officer to disclose exempt information as referred to in paragraph 10.4 above, but a member is entitled to inspect a document if the information falls within category 3 therein (except to the extent that the information relates to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract); or if it falls within category 6 therein.

24.4 Nature of rights

The rights of a member are additional to any other right he may have.

25. Confidentiality

No member of the Council, nor any co-opted member of any Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee, shall without the permission of the Council or the Cabinet (in respect of Cabinet functions) or the appropriate Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee (in respect of functions which are not Cabinet functions) disclose any exempt or confidential matter unless and to the extent only that that matter shall have been placed in the public domain by the Council the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee (as the case may be).

Financial regulations

Approved by the Audit Committee on 24 March 2011



Financial regulations 2011

Introduction by the Director of Finance and Resources

Any major organisation needs a set of clearly understood rules and regulations to manage its financial affairs. So, in line with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for dealing with these affairs.

Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 places a duty on the Director of Finance and Resources to report to Council about:

- (a) whether the proposed reserves will be enough for our purposes; and
- (b) how robust the budget is.

Under Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Director of Finance and Resources has a duty to report to Council if any of our officers or members, have:

- (a) made, or are about to make, a decision which involves illegal spending;
- (b) taken, or are about to take, an unlawful action which has or would result in a loss to the authority; or
- (c) made, or are about to make, an unlawful entry in our accounts.

The Director of Finance and Resources must also report under section 114 if it appears that our spending (or proposed spending) in a financial year is likely to be more than our resources (including amounts borrowed).

These financial regulations are part of the county council's constitution and set the framework for dealing with our financial affairs. The parts of the framework are as follows:

Financial regulations - Approved by Council

Schemes of delegation

Delegations to senior leadership team (SLT) members (as set out in the constitution) - Approved by Council

Delegations by SLT members - In line with the framework set by the corporate governance working group.



Financial regulations for schools - Approved by the Director of Finance and Resources (following a consultation with the Schools Forum)

All documents within the financial regulations try to achieve four main aims. These are to:

- (a) make sure there are sound and proper financial procedures and arrangements for dealing with our financial affairs;
- (b) make sure that proper controls are in place;
- (c) provide a framework for managing our finances and delivering services which will allow, wherever possible, us to link together managerial and financial responsibilities; and
- (d) protect our members and employees.

The last point is most important as without clearly defined financial procedures and arrangements, members and employees could find themselves in difficult and vulnerable situations. It is very important that we keep to these policies. If a member or employee breaks them, it may mean a complaint is made against us or disciplinary proceedings are taken against a member or employee.

If you are in any doubt about keeping to these procedures, please consult either your Joint Finance Unit, the Corporate Finance Section or the Internal Audit Section for guidance.

Andrew Burns
Director of Finance and Resources



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Financial regulation A – general

- A1 These financial regulations form part of the overall financial regulatory framework approved by Council. They apply to the whole organisation, apart from schools. The financial regulations for schools will apply in this case.
- A2 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for reviewing all matters relating to our financial rules and regulations and so will produce, from time to time, updates to these financial regulations.
- A3 Where appropriate, SLT members must set out in guidance notes the detailed arrangements for putting the financial regulations into practice. The Director of Finance and Resources must approve guidance notes before they are applied.
- A4 These regulations will be reviewed by Council at least once every two years after consideration by the Audit and Standards Committee. In the meantime, minor changes can be made by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Director of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee.
- A5 If a member or employee fails to keep to the conditions in all documents shown in paragraphs A1 to A3 above (including our Credit Management Strategy and anti-money-laundering strategy), we may take disciplinary action against them. This will be dealt with in line with our disciplinary policy and procedure.



Financial regulation B – Financial planning, budgeting and reporting

Definition

- B1 The procedures shown in this section apply to all spending and income. They apply to all our activities (including trading and support services) except for spending and income delegated to schools and any partnerships where we have agreed separate guidance notes.

Principles

- B2 Both the budget strategy and how we manage the revenue and capital budgets are based on the principle that the budgets are simply a statement of the strategic plan in financial terms. Any spending we agree to make should be identified through the strategic plan, plans for delivering outcomes and service plans. Using the revenue budget and capital programme, we will decide how and when we meet those needs.
- B3 SLT members are responsible for organising how services are delivered to achieve the aims set out in these plans within the resources they have available. Further approval will only be needed if there is a change in how we share the resources between services or if spending proposals involve a new policy or a change to the policy.

Financial planning

- B4 Cabinet will put forward a recommendation to Council, after taking the advice of the Director of Finance and Resources, for a medium-term financial strategy (MTFS). This will be developed at the same time as we prepare the strategic plan, plans for delivering outcomes and service plans.
- B5 We will prepare these plans after taking account of:
- a legal requirements;
 - b medium-term planning prospects;
 - c the resources available;
 - d spending pressures, investment needs and savings options;
 - e government guidelines;
 - f cross-cutting issues (where relevant); and
 - g possible risks.

Budget process

- B6 Cabinet will decide how to use the resources and budget process in a way that takes account of our strategic plan. As well as the revenue budget, these recommendations will also consider the arrangements for deciding our strategy for spending capital funds, including preparing the capital programme and the processes for assessing and prioritising individual projects.



- B7 In preparing the budget, SLT members must keep to the rules, procedures and timetables set by Cabinet.
- B8 Following advice from the Director of Finance and Resources, and after consulting the appropriate scrutiny committee, Cabinet will put forward recommendations to Council on:
- a the net revenue budget, including setting money aside for unexpected events (contingencies);
 - b how much is to be spent on each service;
 - c the programme for spending capital and the capital strategy, including financing arrangements;
 - d an assessment of whether the reserves and balances will be enough and how we will use the reserves and balances to support the budget; and
 - e council tax levels and the precept charge to be made to individual billing authorities (district and borough councils).
- B9 The report will include comments from the Director of Finance and Resources on how robust the budget is and whether the level of reserves are in line with section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- B10 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for making sure that, as part of the capital strategy, we prepare a capital budget, capital programme and financing plan each year for Cabinet to consider.
- B11 The capital strategy will make recommendations on:
- a the overall level of the proposed capital budget;
 - b how we use capital to reflect the needs of individual services;
 - c how we use capital to tackle our corporate priorities;
 - d individual projects;
 - e prudential indicator measures including the overall affordability of proposed plans; and
 - f the financing arrangements including borrowing levels, using reserves and using capital receipts.
- B12 Within the capital programme framework, Cabinet can consider funding projects from specific centrally held corporate budgets.
- Plans for delivering outcomes, service plans and budgets
- B13 Producing an appropriate plan is an essential part of good management. Plans need to set clear aims and actions for the future and should include details of the resources needed to deliver the aims set out in the plan. Plans for delivering outcomes will set out how the strategic plan aims will be delivered. These plans will be approved by Cabinet. At service level, SLT members will need to produce plans which set out the main actions, as well as a resourcing plan and budget for that service for the relevant period, which must be agreed by the Director of Finance and Resources.



- B14 Portfolio holders and SLT members will consult the Director of Finance and Resources and produce plans for delivering outcomes . These individual plans will then be presented to members of the relevant scrutiny committee.
- B15 SLT members will produce service plans in a format suitable for that service. The plans will include details of the proposed budget and capital investment plans for the services within the relevant areas of responsibility.
- B16 The plans should identify investment (or capital) needs as well as the revenue implications associated with delivering the stated aims. Capital spending will normally include spending on buying items, construction, preparation, reclamation, replacing or improving land, roads, buildings and other structures, and (if not paid for from the revenue budget) buying, installing and replacing plant, machinery, apparatus and vehicles. We normally also include furniture and equipment, information technology, landscaping and professional fees if related to a project with a capital budget.
- B17 Trading and support services must set out the basis of charges to other services and the planned trading 'surplus' or 'deficit'. For charges to our own services, any increase should be no more than inflation (not including inflation on pay) assumed in the medium term financial strategy (MTFS). If services want to increase charges above this level, Cabinet will need to approve them. The service plan for the trading or support service must also include proposals for tackling a budget shortfall or for any extra money (surplus). We will need to take account of the effects of any planned shortfall or surplus for a trading or support service as part of the overall plans for the portfolio area.

Project appraisal and prioritisation processes

- B18 We need to carry out a project appraisal for all capital spending no matter where that money is coming from. We cannot include a scheme in the capital programme unless it has been through the agreed appraisal and prioritisation processes.
- B19 SLT members are responsible for making sure there is an appropriate appraisal and prioritisation process for all new investment schemes. This process must be agreed with the Director of Finance and Resources.
- B20 The project appraisal should show how the project meets the following conditions. It must:
- a be supported by a well thought-out brief which defines the aims of the project and specifies any issues which must be carried out within a certain time;
 - b be part of an appropriate business case for the proposal including an analysis of options;
 - c meet the principles set out in the HM Treasury Treasury's Guide to Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government (The Green Book) as



appropriate for the project by the SLT member – see http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_guidance.htm or http://www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/download/green_book_briefing.pdf for more guidance;

- d meet one or more of our strategic priorities set out in the strategic plan in terms of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the people of Staffordshire;
 - e meet one or more of the priorities identified in the relevant plan for delivering outcomes, or be needed to help meet our legal responsibilities or new legal requirements;
 - f improve one or more of the services' performance measures identified in the strategic plan, plans for delivering outcomes or the service plans;
 - g clearly show whether it is affordable and improves value for money, including any tax implications it may have (for example, VAT, stamp duty and land taxes);
 - h show how the project has been assessed against the agreed prioritisation process;
 - i take account of relevant cross-cutting policies (for example, sustainability, social inclusion, Local Agenda 21); and
 - j prove that it can be supported by a clear and achievable funding strategy.
- B21 A project may relate to a proposal to tackle a specific theme or issue such as disabled access or traffic calming. It may include a general project on minor improvements or a group of low-value schemes. However, we must be able to produce one project appraisal for each 'grouped proposal', which should include a shared aim. In these cases, an SLT member must have in place a clear process for using resources on individual schemes.

Taking responsibility

- B22 We have to have a system in place which sets out the operational responsibilities of our staff. SLT members are responsible for making sure that staff responsibilities are clearly shown in schemes of delegation.
- B23 SLT members and the Director of Finance and Resources will jointly issue 'accountability statements', which budget holders must sign and return.

The power to spend

- B24 Under these financial regulations, SLT members have the power to spend money from the approved revenue budget and capital programme.
- B25 SLT members cannot spend money without approval by Council if the



spending is not in line with the strategic plan or approved budget. By this we mean spending:

- a on creating a new policy;
- b which goes over approved budget levels (see B30 and B31 below);
- c which is basically transferring resources between budget heads (unless this is covered in the scheme of virement as shown in B37 to B39);
- d if it involves a major change in the nature of a project as set out in the original project appraisal; or
- e if it will count against our borrowing limit or will affect the revenue budget if no specific provision has been made in the budget for that service.

B26 SLT members are responsible for making sure that any increase in an estimate for a capital project that happens during the course of the project can be kept within the overall capital budget for that service.

B27 SLT members cannot agree any spending that involves the specific approval of a government department or agency, the European Union or any other funding organisation until we have received that approval or written assurance that we will get that approval shortly.

B28 We cannot enter into a lease, hire, rental or similar arrangement that may count against our borrowing limit without the approval of the Director of Finance and Resources.

B29 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation can decide on urgent matters not relating to a 'key decision' which cannot wait until the next council or cabinet meeting. This also applies to spending in relation to an emergency or disaster to which section 138 of the Local Government Act 1972 applies.

Monitoring and reporting

B30 SLT members are responsible for making sure they regularly monitor revenue and capital budgets. They must also investigate any variations and take appropriate action to deal with them.

B31 SLT members must report to Cabinet if they cannot balance spending and resources within the approved budget. Cabinet will consider these reports and, where appropriate, make recommendations to deal with the shortfall.

B32 SLT members will send monitoring and outturn reports to Cabinet in line with timetables and procedures set by Cabinet.

B33 Unless Cabinet decide otherwise, any underspending or overspending will be carried forward to the following financial year and the approved budget will be adjusted as a result.



- B34 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for producing the annual statement of accounts and for sending it to the Audit and Standards Committee for approval.
- B35 Reports will be made to scrutiny committees on specific issues SLT members feel are appropriate, after consulting the Director of Finance and Resources.
- B36 As well as reporting the final position to Cabinet, SLT members must, within six months of a significant project or programme finishing, carry out a review. The review must include an assessment of how far we achieved the project or programme aims, as shown in the project appraisal. The review should assess the process we used to manage the project or programme and report on the final cost. We will also need to consider longer-term assessments, including value for money evaluations and any relevant feedback from any satisfaction surveys, as part of the review.

Scheme of virement and in-year changes to the budget

- B37 SLT members can carry out virements between their budget heads as long as:
- a it does not involve a new policy or policy change;
 - b it does not result in an increasing commitment in future years which cannot be met within the existing approved budget; and
 - c it does not transfer resources between services.
- B38 Cabinet can agree to carry out virements which transfer resources between services as long as:
- a it does not involve a new policy or policy change; or
 - a it does not result in an increasing commitment in future years which cannot be met from existing approved budgets.

- B39 Cabinet is responsible for approving virements from contingencies.

Staffordshire Local Community Fund

- B40 We cannot agree any spending unless the proposed initiative has been approved in line with the Fund Scheme.

Partnerships

- B41 SLT members are responsible for making sure that partnership arrangements are approved, carried out, monitored and evaluated in line with our partnership policy. We give a link to the policy below. (Last revision date 19th January 2009).



[Partnerships](#)



Financial regulation C – financial standards and systems

Financial management standards

- C1 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for setting our financial management standards and for making sure they are kept to.
- C2 The Director of Finance and Resources is also responsible for making sure we keep to proper professional practices and accounting policies. He will act as head of profession in relation to standards, performance and development of finance staff throughout the authority.

Systems and procedures

- C3 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for keeping our main accounting records. These records will be kept on our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system – SAP. SLT members will not use any other system for keeping accounting or other records relating to our finances unless they have written permission from the Director of Finance and Resources.
- C4 The Director of Finance and Resources, along with SLT members, will make sure that all systems and processes related to SAP are fully documented and that staff are trained in using them. These systems and processes will include the controls needed to make sure that the information used to update SAP is complete, accurate, timely and not previously processed.
- C5 SLT members must consult the Director of Finance and Resources before introducing or changing any book, form, record, administrative procedure or system used for keeping accounting or other records relating to our finances. They should then act on any advice given.
- C6 The Director of Finance and Resources and SLT members will jointly make sure that all accounting records are kept properly and held securely. The records and all related vouchers and documents must be managed in line with our document retention policy for financial records – document reference GRS1 (click on hyperlink below).
[Retention schedules](#)



Financial regulation D – audit, control and irregularities

- D1 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for carrying out a continuous internal audit in line with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.
- D2 SLT members must co-operate with, and provide all necessary information for, the Internal Audit Section and our external auditor.
- D3 SLT members are responsible for setting up effective and efficient arrangements for internal control. They will ask the Director of Finance and Resources for advice on any significant matter if the principles of internal control prove difficult to put into practice or maintain.
- D4 SLT members must let the Director of Finance and Resources know immediately about all instances of potential and actual irregularity which affect our finances.
- D5 The Director of Finance and Resources, or his authorised representative, must be given reasonable access to our property and to see any documents, records and computer files they may need for the audit. He can also ask staff and members for information and explanations if he thinks this is necessary for that audit.
- D6 Depending on any related legal requirements, the Chief Internal Auditor will have the right to report directly to the Chief Executive, to any member of Cabinet and the Audit and Standards Committee.

Response to audit reports

- D7 SLT members must consider and respond promptly to recommendations in audit reports and make sure that any agreed actions arising from audit recommendations are carried out as soon as possible.

Internal control and checks

- D8 The duty of providing information, working out, checking and recording the amounts due to or from us must be separated, as far as possible, from the duty of collecting or paying these amounts.
- D9 Wherever possible, we need to make arrangements to make sure that:
- work, goods and services are ordered properly;
 - we acknowledge when they have been received; and
 - invoices and accounts are not examined by the same person.



Financial regulation E - spending

General

- E1 Depending on financial regulation G3, all payments made on our behalf will be made by the Director of Finance and Resources.
- E2 Payments will be made in line with our standard payment policy as set out in the reports of the Director of Finance and Resources relating to the medium-term financial strategy.
- E3 In making these payments, the Director of Finance and Resources will, where necessary, rely on the certification (electronic or manual) of authorised employees.
- E4 Every employee involved in the procurement process must keep to our procurement regulations and the officers' code of conduct as set out in the constitution. Employees in schools must keep to schools' financial regulations and schools' procurement regulations (whichever is appropriate).

Raising an order

- E5 Depending on the requirements of E6 below, you need to raise official orders when asking for supplies, works or services. You must not raise an order after the supplies have been received or the work carried out, unless it is an emergency. If this is the case, an official order marked 'confirmation' must be issued as soon as possible (normally within seven working days of the order being given in person or over the phone).
- E6 You need to raise an official purchase order for all items you buy using the SAP purchasing module or a manual system if this operates in your service area, see E9.

However, if there is a fixed-term contract with a supplier, where providing goods and services is already scheduled in the contract, and under the terms of the contract you do not need an instruction to receive the particular goods or service you want, you do not need to raise an order. Instead, you can process the payment as a non-order invoice payment in the SAP accounts payable module. See Appendix 1 for examples of how to follow these principles.

The only other reasons for not raising a purchase order are shown below:

- a petty-cash purchases.
- b payments needed where there is no invoice, for example, grant payments (unless an order is part of the grant conditions), refunds, compensation payments and property rentals if there is no invoice provided by the landlord (see E21). Please fill in an EX1 payment if you do not have an invoice.



- c payments using a purchase card.
 - d other payments approved by the Director of Finance and Resources.
- E7 In line with approved schemes of delegation, SLT members must approve each official order and make sure that:
- a the spending is for proper purposes;
 - b the spending can be met from approved budgets;
 - c we have kept to procurement regulations (for example, the requirement to use centrally negotiated contracts);
 - d the main fields of the purchase order are filled in correctly (for example, the description of supplies, work or services, and delivery address);
 - e the spending is charged to the correct cost code (this is included in the invoice coding and cannot be changed at invoice stage);
 - f any staff who have delegated responsibility for a budget keep to these instructions; and
 - g anyone who approves orders arranges for somebody else to do it when they are on annual leave.
- E8 You must never use official orders to arrange work, supplies and services for your own private use.
- E9 Manual orders are only allowed if you have the approval in writing of the Director of Finance and Resources.
- E10 If there is a clear business need, an SLT member can self-authorise orders that they have agreed. In other words, you can approve an order you have raised. Self-authorisation is to be used for low-value orders up to £500 for staff and up to £3,000 for managers. Officers who are approved to carry out self-authorisation must be included in the relevant service sub-scheme of delegation.

Matching invoices

- E11 SLT members must make sure that effective arrangements are in place to make sure that the supplies, services or work needed have been received before entering invoices. If goods are being added to stock using the SAP materials management module, you must make sure that goods receipts are entered immediately.



Paying invoices

General

- E12 Payments must not be made against a statement or any document other than a formal invoice unless the Director of Finance and Resources agrees. You can use photocopied or faxed invoices to replace 'lost' invoices. However, these must be signed as 'not previously passed for payment', and should be of good enough quality to be scanned in case they are needed in the future. To reduce the risk of duplicate payments, it is important to accurately enter the supplier's invoice reference when posting an invoice.
- E13 You must not agree to pay creditors by direct debit, standing order or charge card unless the Director of Finance and Resources agrees.
- E14 Wherever possible, invoices should be scanned onto the SAP system. If it is not possible to scan invoices, you should keep hard copies in business units or establishments in line with our document retention policy.

Certifying invoices

- E15 If an order has been raised using the purchasing module, invoice details will be entered onto SAP within business units or establishments. No further certification process is needed unless the value of the invoice is more than the accepted value of the order. If this is the case, the order will need further authorisation using workflow. If there has been a change to a purchase order, SLT members should make sure that they are satisfied that there is justification for the increase in the value of the order.
- E16 If a non-order invoice payment is being made using the accounts payable module, (see section E6), invoices will generally be processed by the relevant business unit or establishment using the automated certification or workflow. In very rare circumstances, the Central Accounts Payable Section will do the processing after receiving a certified coding grid.
- E17 Certifying an invoice manually or electronically within the accounts payable module will mean the following.
- a You have followed procurement regulations and financial regulations and the account is correct in all respects.
 - b The supplies have been received, examined and approved in line with the specification, and are satisfactory, and the prices and discounts (if any) are correct and meet the conditions of the contract quotation or order.
 - c The invoice can be paid from within approved budgets.
 - d Entries have been made in inventories or stock records, whichever is appropriate.



- e The invoice has not previously been passed for payment and is due.
- f The invoice keeps to the VAT requirements of HM Revenue & Customs (see [VAT on purchases](#) on the intranet).

Anyone who approves invoices must arrange for somebody else to do it when they are on annual leave.

- E18 Invoices must be entered into SAP as soon as possible, and authorised promptly to avoid late-payment penalties. Invoices are paid based on the date on the invoice, not on the date they are entered on the system.

Payments in advance

- E19 Generally we do not allow advance payments. However, if a contractor needs paying in advance or a grant payment is needed in advance, the Director of Finance and Resources must agree. The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation must also be told if supplies, work or services are then not provided after making a payment.

Electronic transfer

- E20 If invoices are sent by suppliers electronically, the Director of Finance and Resources is authorised to pay these invoices in line with any arrangements and controls he thinks necessary.

Recurring payments

- E21 You should only use value limit orders (blanket orders) in exceptional circumstances, such as if you expect many invoices from a supplier for goods or services that we need on an ongoing basis. They are not allowed if you know the volume or value of the order at the time you place the order. Value limit orders must contain a description of the supplies, work or services ordered.
- E22 SLT members are responsible for keeping records of regular payments (such as rates and rentals) both for property and equipment. If necessary, they will raise EX1 invoices (see E6) for these payments and make sure that any payments are correct and not duplicated.

Other checks

- E23 The Director of Finance and Resources has the right to carry out any extra checks he considers necessary either before or after payment. He has the right to check that the procedures laid down for authorising and ordering supplies, work or services and examining accounts have been properly carried out.

Bank imprest accounts



- E24 The Director of Finance and Resources will provide imprest accounts, if he considers it appropriate, for authorised employees. The imprest holder is responsible for the amount of that imprest account and must make sure it is reconciled (matched up) each month and does not go overdrawn at any time. It is a standing instruction to our bankers that the bank must report the amount of any overdrawn balance to the Director of Finance and Resources.
- E25 If you hold an imprest account, you must make safe and efficient arrangements for controlling access to blank cheques, and preparing, signing and sending out cheques.
- E26 Unless the Director of Finance and Resources agrees otherwise, you cannot pay any income received on our behalf into an imprest account. It must be paid into the normal council account. You cannot cash personal cheques.
- E27 Payments must be limited to £100 for individual items or any other items the Director of Finance and Resources may approve. Payments must not include salaries and wages, travel and subsistence expenses or work carried out under the Construction Industry Tax Deduction Scheme (CITDS).
- E28 You must have a receipted voucher for any payment. To satisfy HM Revenue & Customs' rules, you must get, at least, a modified VAT invoice for payments under £250 that include VAT. The invoice must show:
- a the name, address and VAT registration number of the supplier;
 - b the date the supplies or services were supplied;
 - c a description of the supplies;
 - d the total amount due including tax; and
 - e the rate of tax.
- E29 If asked, you must give the Director of Finance and Resources a statement of the imprest account.
- E30 When you leave the employment of the council or otherwise stop being entitled to hold an imprest account, you must account to the Director of Finance and Resources for the amount in the account. You will need to send a closure of account or a change of holder form to the accounts payable team. You can find the form at:
- <http://www.intra.staffordshire.gov.uk/services/finance/finance/services/accounts/>
- Purchase cards (P-cards)
- E31 SLT members must make sure of the following for each item bought using the purchase card.



- a The spending is for proper purposes.
 - b The spending can be met from approved budgets.
 - c The procurement regulations have been kept to.
 - d The spending is charged to the correct cost code.
 - e All transactions are reviewed and approved each month. If card holders, or their line manager, will not be able to approve transactions because they will be on annual leave, they must let the Accounts Payable section know by ringing 01785 276387. The section will arrange to approve transactions on their behalf. If a cardholder and, where necessary their line manager, do not review and approve all transactions made each month, the Director of Finance and Resources can withdraw the card.
 - f The goods have been received, examined and approved in line with the specification, and are satisfactory. The prices and discounts (if any) are correct or the work done or services provided have been satisfactorily carried out, and the materials used (if any) were of the right standard, and the prices and discounts (if any) are correct.
 - g The VAT is accounted for correctly and VAT receipts have been kept.
 - h Purchase cards have not been used to buy work, supplies and services for private use.
- E32 SLT members are responsible for any staff who have budgetary responsibility keeping to these instructions. Each card will have single transaction and monthly limits, which the SLT member will set.
- E33 Internal Audit will review a sample of transactions to make sure that purchases are valid, that all transactions have been appropriately authorised and coded, and that VAT has been accounted for correctly.
- E34 SLT members must make sure that there is a procedure in place to avoid mistakenly paying a supplier again when the invoice is received for a purchase-card transaction.
- E35 You can get more information on using purchase cards on the intranet by following the link below.
[Purchasing cards](#)
- Payments to employees and pensioners
- E36 The Director of Finance and Resources is authorised to pay all salaries, pension benefits and other employment-based payments.



- E37 The SLT member must authorise all appointments, resignations, dismissals, suspensions, secondments and transfers in a form approved by the Director of Finance and Resources.
- E38 Each SLT Member must let the Director of Finance and Resources know as soon as possible and in the form he has approved (including, for example, SAP being updated at source), about all matters which may affect paying items referred to in E36 and E37. This includes:
- a absences from work for sickness and other absences which affect pay;
 - b changes in pay, other than normal increments and pay awards and agreements which apply to everyone; and
 - c information needed to keep records of service for superannuation, income tax, National Insurance and so on.
- E39 All time records or other pay documents must be in a form approved by the Director of Finance and Resources and must be confirmed by the SLT member.
- E40 All employees must be paid in the most economical way – currently BACS – unless the SLT member approves otherwise in line with guidelines issued by the Director of Finance and Resources.
- E41 SLT members must make sure that they have processes in place to make sure that payments made to employees are properly due.

Members and staff travelling and subsistence allowances

Travelling and subsistence allowances

- E42 SLT members must make sure that all claims for employees' car allowances, subsistence allowances, travelling and other expenses are sent in as soon as possible. They must be signed as authorised and sent to the Director of Finance and Resources in a form he has approved. Or, if the Director of Finance and Resources agrees, SLT members can arrange for claims to be entered directly into SAP. Copies of VAT receipts must be kept in business units or establishments in line with our document retention policy.
- E43 SLT members are responsible for making sure that employees who use their cars for official business are properly insured against all third-party risks and that the insurance includes indemnity against any loss.
- E44 Before sending in any forms referred to in E42, SLT members are responsible for checking:
- travelling and subsistence allowances;
 - the accuracy of the mileage claimed;
 - the purpose of the journeys made;



- the taxable status of the claim; and
- that they have kept to our car allowance regulations, car leasing scheme and any other decisions we have made (if appropriate).

If you have any questions about the taxable status, you must contact the Director of Finance and Resources for advice.

- E45 The Director of Finance and Resources will rely on SLT members to certify and authorise payments for claims.

Allowances to members

- E46 Members (including co-opted members), who are entitled to claim travel and other allowances for an approved duty, must send in a claim either by using the online electronic claims system or by filling in a paper claim form. By sending in a claim, the member is confirming that this is a true record of expenses they have paid out. The Director of Finance and Resources will make a payment. Members should send copies of VAT receipts to the Member and Democratic Services Unit in line with our document retention policy.
- E47 The Director of Finance and Resources will pay special allowances and basic allowances in line with our instructions.
- E48 The Director of Finance and Resources will accept a certificate if a co-opted member claiming financial loss declares that:
- a they have lost earnings of not less than the amount included in their claim;
or
 - b they have had to pay extra expenses in employing domestic help or other help because they have been on council duty.



Financial regulation F – income (credit management strategy)

- F1 Each year SLT members must:
- a review and make recommendations to Cabinet (or the relevant non-executive committee) about charges for services we provide in line with our powers to charge as set out in relevant laws including the Local Government Act 2003; and
 - b review and put into practice all fees and charges where we have powers to decide on the amount of the fee or charge.
- F2 If the SLT member sets or changes any fee or charge that involves a policy change, Council must approve this.
- F3 SLT members must manage all money (cash or credit) due to us in line with our credit management strategy (Appendix 2) and the anti-money-laundering strategy (Appendix 3). You must follow detailed procedures relating to collecting income, receipting and banking (as detailed below) at all times.

Collection

- F4 After consulting the Director of Finance and Resources, SLT members must make arrangements to make sure they record all amounts due to us and for collecting, controlling, banking of and accounting for all money recovered as soon as possible.
- F5 SLT members must make sure that, wherever possible, at least two officers are present when post is opened to make sure that postal payments are dealt with properly and recorded as 'received' immediately.
- F6 SLT members must tell the Director of Finance and Resources as early as possible about all money due to us under contracts, leases, tenancy agreements, agreements for selling property, BACS remittances for grant payments and any other agreements where we receive money.

Receipting

- F7 Each officer who receives money on our behalf must acknowledge the amounts received in line with procedures prescribed by the Director of Finance and Resources. You cannot give a receipt for money received on our behalf on any form other than the official receipt form. You only need to issue official receipts for cash payments (not cheques) for amounts over £20 or if the customer specifically asks for a receipt. SLT members may use their discretion about whether to issue a receipt for amounts of less than £20.
- F8 All official receipt forms or receipt books, licenses, tickets (of value) and all documents or vouchers representing receipts for money or similar must be in the form approved by the Director of Finance and Resources who will control,



issue and order them. All stationery of this type must be properly recorded and acknowledged.

- F9 Every transfer of official money from one member of staff to another must be recorded and signed by the receiving officer.
- F10 Each officer who receives money on our behalf must also keep records the Director of Finance and Resources decides are appropriate. This includes an accurate account of all receipts and when money was paid into our bank accounts, agents' accounts or with Girobank.
- F11 Personal cheques must not be cashed out of the money held on our behalf.
- F12 If cheque payments are presented personally, the officer must make sure that the customer both signs the cheque and writes their address on the back in front of them. If the cheque has already been signed, the customer must then sign and put their address on the back of the cheque.

Banking

- F13 SLT members must pay directly and promptly all money received on our behalf, to our bankers, our Girobank account, or other agents we have approved.
- F14 For the purpose of paying money to our bankers, their agents or to Girobank, the Director of Finance and Resources will give an officer a paying-in book. You must not use any other stationery.
- F15 An officer must add the following information to the paying-in slip – whether electronically via SAP or on paper paying-in slips.
- a The amount of each cheque or postal order.
 - b Some reference which will connect the cheque or order with the debt or debts (for example, the receipt number or debtor's name).
 - c The reference number of either the customer's account or invoice numbers which related to the payment.
 - d If no customer account has been raised, use the codes provided by the Director of Finance and Resources, the budget heading to which the income will be paid into and the value to be paid in.
 - e An idea of the purpose and source of the payment if it does not relate to money which is owed to us.

Payment by credit or debit card

- F16 SLT members must contact the Director of Finance and Resources before introducing these facilities. The Director of Finance and Resources will make sure that named staff are given secure access to appropriate facilities and



receive relevant training. Any establishment which accepts payment by this method must keep to the banking agreement (especially the conditions on keeping and storing customers' card details).

To keep to the Payment Card Industry (PCI) data security standard, we cannot store the cardholder's account numbers and sensitive information, for example, the information on the front of a debit or credit card and the CSV (three-digit security code on the back of the card). If the customer has given us the card details in writing to support a booking or a contractual arrangement, you must destroy the details once you have processed the card details.

- F17 All commission costs relating to these facilities must be paid from the budget of the portfolio area which is offering them.

Sending customer invoices

- F18 SLT members are responsible for raising customer invoices and credit memos as soon as possible. Managers can only raise customer accounts and credit memos using SAP. Accounts raised in SAP will have an invoice number given to them automatically by the system.

- F19 If your establishment does not have access to SAP, you must ask the Joint Finance Unit to raise your customer invoices using only our sales order request vouchers issued by the Director of Finance and Resources. Do not issue a manually raised account to a customer.

- F20 You must add the date the service is provided into SAP when raising customer invoices.

- F21 Do not issue customer invoices for amounts below £25 for non-statutory services.

Issuing credit memos

- F22 We can only reduce the amount of an account using an official credit memo if the amount was raised by mistake or the invoice contains incorrect information. If the credit note is raised in SAP, the system will pass the credit memo to a designated member of staff for approval.

- F23 If the credit memo relates to non-SAP issued customer invoices, it will only be issued by the Director of Finance and Resources upon written instruction from the debt recovery officer or budget holder. The written instruction must be attached to the SAP transaction. Credit memos for HR salary overpayments must be issued in the SAP HR system.

- F24 If a credit results in changing the VAT originally charged, the credit memo must show the full details HM Customs & Excise will need. The Director of Finance and Resources will give you this information.



VAT

- F25 SLT members must take all practical steps to make sure the correct VAT is charged on income and they should consult the Director of Finance and Resources if necessary.
- F26 If possible, you should use 'pre-coded' electronic banking templates in SAP to make sure the VAT is correct.

Debt recovery

- F27 SLT members must follow the debt-collection policy shown in our credit management strategy. They must follow the SAP accounts receivable module process as the standard approach to recovering debts and run the process at least each week. If the SAP process is not successful in recovering debts, you will need to quickly refer the matter for further recovery processes as given in paragraph 19 of Appendix 2 – Credit Management Strategy.
- F28 All processes and SAP transactions to recover debts are in the Income Collection User Manual.
- F29 The Director of Finance and Resources will monitor this action and report, each month, to Portfolio Area Management Teams.



Financial regulation G - treasury management

Banking

- G1 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for arranging our banking arrangements, including opening and closing all accounts.
- G2 Only the Director of Finance and Resources will transfer funds electronically.
- G3 All other payments we make, apart from bank imprest accounts, will be made by a cheque signed by the Director of Finance and Resources.

Treasury management

- G 4 We keep to CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the public services.
- G5 Council is responsible for approving the following matters, after consideration by Cabinet:
 - a borrowing limits and prudential indicator measures in line with the Local Government Act 2003 and the CIPFA Prudential Code;
 - b the annual investment strategy (AIS) for treasury management and any necessary updates; and
 - c any revised CIPFA Code of Practice and Treasury Management Policy statement.
- G6 Cabinet is responsible for approving the yearly treasury management strategy and will receive reports on policies and activities on treasury management, including, at the least, a mid-year review and a yearly report in the form set by our treasury management practices (TMP).
- G7 The Assets and Budget Scrutiny Committee is responsible for making sure we consider and check all activities linked to treasury management.
- G 8 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for carrying out all activities linked to treasury management. More specifically, he will carry out these responsibilities in line with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the public services and CIPFA's Prudential Code and government regulations and guidance. The Director of Finance and Resources has delegated certain activities to other members of staff under a specific scheme of delegation.
- G9 In carrying out the above responsibilities, the Director of Finance and Resources will do the following.
 - a Act in line with these Financial Regulations and CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.



- b Review and update the treasury management policy statement.
 - c Prepare suitable practices setting out the way in which we will achieve the aims of our policies on treasury management and presenting how those activities are managed and controlled.
 - d In terms of b and c above, he will follow the recommendations in sections 6 and 7 of CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the public services. However, he may make changes where necessary to reflect our particular circumstances. These changes must not result in us moving away from the code's main principles.
 - e Prepare the yearly treasury management strategy at or before the start of each financial year for Cabinet to approve and the annual investment strategy linked to this for Council to approve.
 - f Report the outcome of all activities related to treasury management. This will be, at the least, a yearly outturn report and a half-year monitoring report for approval by Cabinet.
 - g Act as Chair of the Treasury Management Panel.
- G 10 The Treasury Management Panel will be made up of treasury staff and senior officers. They will:
- a help the Director of Finance and Resources with his responsibilities as above;
 - b regularly monitor performance against borrowing limits and prudential indicator measures and ask for approval for changes to those limits if this is needed;
 - c agree the practical ways the yearly treasury management strategy will be put into practice;
 - d receive audit reports on activities linked to treasury management;
 - e consider and propose changes to policies and limits as a result of changes in the economic or financial climate if Council and Cabinet approve;
 - f approve changes to the scheme of delegation which relate to treasury management; and
 - g each year, assess the quality of the external service provider appointed to provide us with treasury advice.
- G 11 The Director of Finance and Resources can take urgent decisions, including changes to limits or strategy after consulting a nominated portfolio holder. An



urgent decision which affects a previous Cabinet decision will be reported to Cabinet, and if necessary to Council, with an explanation for the action taken.



Financial regulation H - assets

Land and buildings

- H1 The Director of Finance and Resources will keep a register of all properties we own or use.
- H2 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation is responsible for making arrangements for looking after all title deeds and formal contract documents.
- H3 SLT members are responsible for looking after the assets they manage and must make sure that properties are safe, watertight and comfortable .
- H4 The Director of Finance and Resources must send to Cabinet and the strategic property board a corporate property strategy and the asset management plan. This will make sure we review assets regularly to identify properties that are underused and no longer needed.

Vehicles

- H5 The Director for Place will keep a record of all vehicles we own and lease.

Stocks and stores

General

- H6 SLT members are responsible for keeping proper records and for looking after stocks and stores.
- H7 SLT members are responsible for deciding upon and maintaining efficient levels of stock. They will need to make sure that these levels continue to be appropriate.

Records

- H8 We will need a delivery note signed by the person receiving the supplies for every delivery at the time of the delivery. All supplies must be checked and inspected for quality and suitability as soon as is practical after they are delivered. The quantity of supplies delivered must be checked at the time of delivery.
- H9 SLT members must give the Director of Finance and Resources any returns in connection with stores records, or cost records needed to complete our accounting and financial records. The Director of Finance and Resources, after consulting the SLT member concerned ,will decide the method to use to value stores.



- H10 Anything issued from the stores must be supported by a requisition note signed by an authorised officer. This must give the quantity of goods needed. The stores officer will provide a receipt for stores issued on a stores issued note.

Checking stock

- H11 On 31 March each year (or a date agreed by the Director of Finance and Resources) a responsible officer independent from the storekeeper must carry out stocktaking. That officer will be responsible for making sure that the actual stock agrees with the stock records. This yearly stock take is not needed if the Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the stores area runs a satisfactory system of continuous stocktaking.
- H12 Stock sheets or stock records must be signed by or on behalf of the SLT member and certified that the details and prices shown are correct. Each SLT member must send the Director of Finance and Resources certificates relating to stocks and stores.
- H13 Whenever a storekeeper or person in charge of stores hands over, leaves or no longer has custody of stores, the SLT member must, wherever practical, check the stores concerned and sign the stock sheets.

Levels of stock

- H14 SLT members may write off stock up to an individual limit of £2,500. Amounts over this figure will need approval from the Director of Finance and Resources. For audit purposes, SLT members must keep full documents of all stock written off in this way.
- H15 SLT members may sell spare stock. Please see H27 to H34.

Inventories

- H16 SLT members must keep inventories of fixed plant, machinery, furniture and equipment. The Head of ICT will keep inventories of hardware and software.
- H17 At least once a year, SLT members are responsible for checking that all items on the inventory are accounted for.
- H18 The Director of Finance and Resources will decide how much of our property information is recorded and the form in which the inventories (administrative or computerised) must be kept and write-offs recorded.
- H19 Our property must not be removed unless it is in the ordinary course of our business. Council property can only be used for council purposes unless an SLT member issues specific instructions otherwise.
- H20 Whenever an employee hands over, leaves or is no longer responsible for any of our property which is entered on an inventory, the SLT member must,



wherever possible, check that property and make sure a handing-over certificate is signed by the outgoing and incoming employees.

- H21 The Director of Finance and Resources or their representative will have access to all our property and to the inventories and any relevant documents.
- H22 SLT members may write off individual inventory items up to a value of £2,500. Amounts over this figure will need the approval of the Director of Finance and Resources. SLT members must keep full documents on all write-offs.

Security

- H23 SLT members are responsible for arranging proper security for all assets and records under their control.
- H24 All employees must keep to our Information Technology Security Policy.
- H25 SLT members must agree maximum limits for unbanked money with the Director of Finance and Resources and get his permission to go over this level.
- H26 The person responsible must keep on them any keys to safes, cash boxes, and other places in which money or valuables are stored. If any keys are lost, this must be reported to the Director of Finance and Resources immediately.

Selling spare supplies and stock

- H27 SLT members are responsible for dealing with any spare supplies they do not need (except ICT and electrical equipment).
- H28 The same competitive process for buying supplies, services and work must also be applied to selling spare supplies. (See the procurement regulations for more instructions.)
- H29 SLT members must get professional advice if they are in any doubt when making valuations.
- H30 SLT members can consider selling spare supplies by auction instead of sealed bids, but they need to make sure they have evaluated the full cost of the process and the commission that will be due.
- H31 The SLT member should normally accept the highest value offer without conditions unless they feel an offer with conditions gives better value to us.
- H32 Supplies, except for ICT electrical or mechanical items, may be sold over the internet (for example, eBay). However, if they are, they must be sold in line with the Distance Selling Regulations (2005).
- H33 SLT members may set a reserve price before offering the supplies for sale. If the reserve value is not met, do not sell the supplies and advertise them again. A person setting the reserve price cannot privately bid for the item.



- H34 SLT members must not release any items sold before we receive payment. If payment is made by cheque, this must be cleared before we release the items.



Financial regulation I – insurance and managing risk

- I1 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for arranging appropriate insurance cover for risks which are not self-insured. If appropriate, the Director of Finance and Resources will consult SLT members before arranging cover.
- I2 Unless we say differently in agency agreements, the Director of Finance and Resources will negotiate claims with insurers.
- I3 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for co-ordinating activities linked to managing risk across the county council.
- I4 SLT members must tell the Director of Finance and Resources as soon as possible about all new risks, properties or vehicles that need to be insured and about any changes which affect existing insurance.
- I5 SLT members should make sure that officers involved in insurance claims do not admit liability as this will affect our insurance cover.
- I6 SLT members must immediately write to the Director of Finance and Resources about any loss, liability or damage or any event likely to lead to a claim.
- I7 SLT members must consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and the Director of Finance and Resources about the terms of any indemnity we are asked to give.



Financial regulation J – other funds

General

- J1 Voluntary and trust funds, and any related bank accounts, should be operated in line with any detailed instructions issued by the Director of Finance and Resources.

Voluntary funds

- J2 Each SLT member must keep a record showing the purpose and nature of all voluntary funds held by their staff in the course of their duties. They must make sure that the reporting arrangements agreed by the voluntary fund are followed and, where appropriate, checked by an independent person. The Director of Finance and Resources is entitled to check the voluntary fund reporting arrangements and reports and accounts produced as he feels are appropriate.

Trust funds

- J3 All members and employees acting as trustees because of their official position must make sure that accounts are audited and sent to the appropriate organisation each year. The Director of Finance and Resources is entitled to check that this has been done.



Appendix 1

Non-order invoicing – examples (see E6)

Flowchart for considering when to use non-orders:

- 1 Is there a fixed-term contract with the supplier? If no, raise an order. If yes, go to question 2.
- 2 Do the terms of the contract need an instruction to access the particular goods or service wanted? If yes, raise an order. If no, an order is not needed and you can pay the invoice using the non-order route in the accounts payable module.

Examples

1 Boiler servicing and maintenance contract

- We have a fixed-term yearly contract to service and repair boilers. The contract includes a yearly service including labour but not parts. As this is a fixed-term contract, go to question 2.
- Each year we update the schedule for the boilers and send it to the company instructing the supply for that year's servicing. Because of this, you need an order.
- If parts are needed to carry out repairs, the company will probably ask for approval to go ahead and fix the boiler. You will need to raise a separate order from the servicing order for the parts.

2 Stationery contract

- We have a contract for stationery. This is a fixed-term contract, so go to question 2.
- The terms of the contract mean we need to give an instruction to the company which supplies the stationery and so we need an order.

3 Supply of bottled water

- We have a contract for bottled water. This is a fixed-term contract, so go to question 2.
- The terms of the contract mean we need to give an instruction to the company which supplies water and so we need to place an order.

4 Supply of photocopiers and copying charges (works in the same way as mobile-phone contracts)

- We have a contract for photocopiers which includes yearly fixed leasing costs of the copiers and variable copying charges based on usage. This is a fixed-term contract, so go to question 2.



- The terms of the contract mean there is no further requirement for us to instruct the company to supply this service. Because of this, you do not need an order.



Appendix 2

Credit management strategy

Aims and overview

- 1 The aim of this strategy is to make sure we receive all of our income by improving cashflow and reducing the level of bad debts.
- 2 The strategy is based on the following principles.
 - Wherever possible, we will provide services on a pay-as-you-go basis
 - We will offer customers, clients and service users a range of appropriate payment methods.
 - Unless there are special circumstances, all portfolio areas must keep to the standard debt collection policy.
 - All portfolio areas will use active processes to collect income. You must follow the SAP accounts receivable module process as the standard approach to recovering debt and you must make sure you run this process at least once a week. If the SAP process has been unsuccessful in recovering debts, they must be passed for further recovery processes as described in paragraph 19 below.
 - Processes for sorting out customer queries and disputes must keep to our customer complaints, compliments and comments policy and any other complaints procedures which apply by law.
 - We will regularly monitor our performance in collecting income and collecting debts against agreed performance standards and targets.

The main responsibilities

- 3 SLT members are responsible for setting detailed arrangements for collecting income and recovering debts which meet the strategy, including performance standards.
- 4 The Central Income Team is responsible for:
 - reviewing the credit management strategy,
 - drafting appropriate performance standards;
 - monitoring performance against those standards;
 - organising appropriate and cost-effective payment methods;
 - managing IT systems for collecting income and recovering debts;
 - monitoring what is provided for bad and doubtful debts; and
 - providing an enquiry officer and designated recovery agency.



- 5 The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for:
- approving the strategy and associated instructions;
 - approving performance standards and monitoring performance against these standards; and
 - approving changes to the strategy to reflect specific circumstances.

Charging for services

- 6 Traditionally we have raised invoices for collecting income for the services we provide and only collected cash without an invoice at the point of service delivery or in advance if the amounts due are relatively small..
- 7 By developing facilities so our customers can order services over the internet or by phone and face-to-face front office services gives us the opportunity to review that approach and, where appropriate, offer services on a pay-as-you-go basis.
- 8 We have developed an e-payment facility which allows our customers to make payments over the internet using credit and debit cards. The ability to accept credit- and debit-card payments also allows us to introduce, where appropriate, facilities for taking payment at the point of delivery.
- 9 SLT members must take all practical steps to satisfy themselves that the correct VAT rate has been used and they should contact the Director of Finance and Resources if they need to about this. Where practical, establishments should use 'pre-coded' electronic banking templates in SAP to make sure VAT is treated correctly.

Payment methods

- 10 We will aim to offer the following payment methods to our customers depending on the service provided.
- Payment by cash, cheque, debit or credit card (chip and pin) when goods or services are ordered or at the point of delivery.
 - Payment over the internet by debit or credit card when goods and services are ordered.
 - Payment over the phone by debit or credit card when the service or goods are ordered.
 - Payment by cash, cheque, debit or credit card (chip and pin) at one-stop shops when the service or goods are ordered.
 - Payment by Giro credit at banks and post offices.
 - Paying invoices over the internet, by automated telephone payment, over the phone or in person at one-stop shops and other establishments and by post.
 - Where appropriate, payment by Direct Debit or standing order.



- Payment direct into our County Fund bank account by BACS and CHAPS transfers.

Debt-collection policy

11. SLT members are responsible for promptly raising customer invoices and credit memos. Portfolio areas can only raise customer accounts and credit memos using SAP. Accounts raised in SAP will have an invoice number given to them automatically by the system. There must be a clear description of the service (goods) provided, and payment terms and methods.

(By promptly, we mean within 30 days of supplying the goods or services, unless business units have taken their own recovery action before we issue a formal invoice, for example for libraries and catering services.)

12. If establishments do not have access to SAP, you must ask for customer invoices from your relevant Joint Finance Unit using only our sales order request vouchers as issued by the Director of Finance and Resources. You must not raise accounts manually for customers.

Procedures for budget holders

13. When raising a customer invoice, you must enter into SAP the date the service is provided.
14. Do not raise a customer invoice for amounts below £25 for non-statutory services.
15. When you have raised an invoice, you should actively aim to collect the amount due.
16. Invoices will say that the payment is due within the 28 days of the date on the invoice.
17. You need to categorise the debt to provide effective management information. Where appropriate, you can change the reminder cycles.
18. You will need to set an appropriate timescale for collecting each category of debt. The minimum standard is shown below.
 - 3 days overdue - First reminder letter
 - 17 days overdue - Final demand
 - 31 days overdue - Start the debt-recovery process

SAP will automatically follow the appropriate standard cycle.

19. Once the debt is 31 days overdue, you will need to review the debt and, where appropriate, contact the debtor by phone. If it is unlikely that we will



receive immediate payment, you should do one, or a combination of, the following. This will be based on your knowledge of both the customer and the nature of the debt.

- If the customer is an individual and lives in Staffordshire, pass the matter to the enquiry officer.
- If the customer is either an individual living outside of Staffordshire or any commercial organisation (wherever they may be based), refer the matter to the debt-recovery agency.
- You can refer the matter for legal action at any point, or, you can do so based on the recommendations from either the enquiry officer or the debt-recovery agency.
- Refer the matter to other local visiting officers, for example, a vulnerable client's social worker or other visiting staff used within portfolio areas.

20 If a debt has still not been paid after 90 days from the invoice date, we will make provision for the bad debt and will need to consider writing off the amount to the revenue account. We can then only show the income again if we receive a payment for the debt. (The debt will still be owed in the accounts receivable system until we have followed normal write-off procedures.)

21 The above procedures are a framework which should apply to all types of debt. However, we know that different categories of debt and different types of customer may need us to use other recovery cycles. Any change from the standard cycle must be agreed by the Director of Finance and Resources.

Taking an active approach to collecting income

22 This approach involves discussing the debt with the customer before the due date for payment. The main aim is to make sure that the customer is satisfied with the goods or services provided or to identify any possible disputes the customer may have and to sort them out before the due date for payment.

23 You should target this action, as it is not cost-effective to apply it to every customer. To help with the process, the system will create management reports which analyse the invoices raised the previous week by category and value.

24 Each portfolio area should have a single point of contact to recover debts with other public organisations such as Staffordshire districts and other large commercial organisations.

Sorting out customer queries and disputes

25 Controlling and sorting out customer queries and disputes is an essential part of good customer service.



- 26 As a result, each portfolio area should have in place a system or procedure for identifying, recording and dealing with customer queries and disputes. This must keep to our customer complaints, compliments and comments policy and any other legal complaints procedures.

Action by the enquiry officer or recovery agency

- 28 The enquiry officer will try to get payment in full, or if instalments have previously been arranged, will try to persuade the customer to start making payments again. They will also assess the customer's circumstances. They will give us progress updates during the ongoing investigation and produce a short report of recommended action at the end of each case.
- 29 You can refer the matter to the enquiry officer, where appropriate, before considering legal action. The enquiry officer's report will show whether or not legal action would be successful. The enquiry officer will also support the legal recovery process to recover money due after successful legal action.
- 30 If other attempts to get payment from either individual or commercial customers have failed, you can refer the debt to a debt-collection agency. This can be done through the central income team.
- 31 You can consider making a referral to the collection agency, where appropriate, before you consider legal action. The collection agency will supply progress updates on referred cases and a final written report for each case.

Legal action

- 32 Portfolio areas can ask for legal action to be taken as long as you have carried out the appropriate procedures and checks as shown in the Legal Services procedural notes. All referrals should include a checklist to make sure that we have collected all the supporting evidence and it is available. We have included the minimum information we need for specific types of debt in the Legal Services procedural notes. For debts not covered by the minimum information conditions, you should ask for advice from Legal Services as to what they need.
- 33 The minimum value of a debt for referral for court action is £250. However, debts below this minimum value can be referred and Legal Services will consider whether court action is appropriate. A formal letter will be issued before we take any action. Debt-recovery officers can issue the court-approved letters before action. However, it must be on their Portfolio Area's headed paper.
- 34 If a customer has outstanding debts with more than one portfolio area, Legal Services will send them a single claim covering all debts.
- 35 If a judgment from the court has not been made but instalments have been agreed after a referral, the relevant debt-recovery officer will monitor these. If



a judgement has been made and instalments agreed in court, these cases will be monitored by Legal Services.

- 36 Legal Services will update SAP with the relevant dunning block markers depending on the outcome of the referrals.

Writing off debts and bad debt provision

- 37 SLT members must introduce written policies, agreed by the Director of Finance and Resources, setting levels for authorising write-offs.
- 38 SLT members can write off a debt if a valid debt or outstanding balance cannot be collected as opposed to credit notes that are used if a debt is not valid or to correct invoices as a result of a mistake.
- 39 SLT members can write off debts up to £10,000 for each customer if this is authorised in writing. Debt-recovery officers must not input write-offs into SAP until they have written authorisation. SLT members cannot write off bad debts over this figure without the approval of the Director of Finance and Resources.
- 40 SLT members can identify debts as write-offs using the following mechanisms:
- Recommendation by Legal Services
 - Recommendation by the enquiry officer or collection agency
 - Recommendation by portfolio area budget holders
 - Recommendation by local visiting officers
 - Central Income staff if a bankruptcy case has been formally closed and no further amounts are due from the customer.
- 41 Each year, the Central Income Team will prepare a list of possible bad debts and send it on to each joint finance unit by the dates shown in the closedown timetable. The income manager and Joint Finance Unit heads can, based on their service knowledge, increase or reduce this figure if appropriate.

Issuing credit memos

- 42 We can only reduce an account by issuing an official credit memo if the invoice was raised by mistake or it contains incorrect information. If the credit memo is raised in SAP, the request will need to be approved by the head of a Joint Finance Unit.
43. If the credit memo is for non-SAP issued customer invoices, it can only be issued by the Director of Finance and Resources. The written instruction must be attached to the credit memo in SAP. Credit memos for HR salary overpayments are issued by the payroll section in the SAP HR system.



- 44 If a credit results in changing the amount of VAT originally charged, the credit memo must show the full details HM Revenues & Customs will need. The Director of Finance and Resources will give advice about this.

Monitoring performance

- 45 The quality of service we provide is most important. It is essential that we reflect this commitment to quality in the billing and collection process.
- 46 The Senior Finance Managers Forum, portfolio area management teams and Cabinet will set standards to measure performance.



Appendix 3 Anti-money-laundering strategy

- 1 We will do all we can to:
 - prevent us and our employees from being exposed to money laundering;
 - identify the possible areas where it may happen; and
 - comply with all legal and regulatory requirements, especially in terms of reporting actual or suspected cases.

The main points

- We are committed to preventing, detecting and reporting money laundering.
- All employees must be on the lookout for the signs of money laundering.
- Any employee who suspects money laundering is taking place must report this promptly to the Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO).
- We will not accept a payment in cash if it is more than £2000.
- The Money Laundering Regulations are detailed and complicated – if you are in any doubt about how to follow the strategy, please contact the MLRO.

Introduction

- 2 The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, the Terrorism Act 2000 and the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 place obligations on us and our employees when it comes to suspected money laundering.

Scope

- 3 This strategy applies to all our employees and aims to maintain standards of behaviour which currently exist within the council by preventing money laundering. The strategy sets out the procedures which we must follow (for example, reporting suspicions of money laundering) so we can comply with our legal obligations.
- 4 This strategy sits alongside our integrity policy, including our policy on whistle-blowing.

What is money laundering?

- 5 Money laundering is the term used for a number of offences involving the proceeds of crime or terrorism funds. The following acts amount to money laundering.
 - Concealing, disguising, converting or transferring criminal property or removing it from the UK (section 327 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002).



- Entering into or becoming aware of an arrangement which you know or suspect involves gaining, having, keeping, using or controlling criminal property by or on behalf of another person (section 328).
- Gaining, using or possessing criminal property (section 329).

These are the primary money-laundering offences. There are also two secondary offences:

- failure to disclose any of the three primary offences; and
- tipping off. Tipping off is where someone lets a person or people who are, or who are suspected of being, involved in money laundering know that they are under suspicion and this will reduce the likelihood of them being investigated or it will unfairly affect the investigation.

- 6 Any member of staff could be caught under the money laundering provisions, if they suspect money laundering and either become involved with it in some way or do nothing about it. This strategy sets out how any concerns should be raised.
- 7 While the risk to us of breaking the law is low, it is important that all employees know their responsibilities as serious legal action may be taken for breaking the legislation. The main requirement is to promptly report any suspected money laundering activity to the Money Laundering Reporting Officer.

Strategy statement

- 8 Our strategy is to do all we can to prevent, wherever possible, us and our employees being exposed to money laundering. We must also identify the potential areas where it may happen, and keep to all legal and regulatory requirements, especially in terms of reporting actual or suspected cases. However, we cannot stress too strongly that it is every employee's responsibility to be vigilant.
- 9 The following list identifies possible warning signs that may highlight areas you should be concerned about.
- Large cash payments.
 - No reasonable explanation for a transaction taking place.
 - Individuals who are happy to enter into an apparent bad deal for them which appears to make little financial sense.
 - A sudden change in the pattern of activity.
 - Financial arrangements taking place across a number of different countries' legal authorities (jurisdictions).
 - Funds being unnecessarily passed through third-party accounts.
 - Using offshore accounts, companies or structures if this is not really needed in economic terms.



10 The following areas represent our operations which are at the greatest risk of money laundering.

- Treasury Management
- Legal Services
- Property sales
- Accountancy
- Public reception areas
- Traded services.

This is not a full list and all staff must be aware of possible cases.

The money laundering reporting officer (MLRO)

11 Any employee who suspects money laundering must report this promptly to the money laundering reporting officer (MLRO). If you are in any doubt about putting our policy on money laundering into practice, please contact the MLRO.

12 This officer is the Chief Internal Auditor, Lisa Andrews. Her contact details are shown below.

Lisa Andrews
Chief Internal Auditor
Staffordshire County Council
17 Eastgate Street
Stafford
ST16 2NF

Phone: 01785 276402
Email: lisa.andrews@staffordshire.gov.uk

13 If she is not available, contact the Principal Auditors, Debbie Harris and Lynn Buxton (debbie.harris@staffordshire.gov.uk or 01785 276406 and lynn.buxton@staffordshire.gov.uk or 01785 276407 at the same address).

Cash payments

14 You must not accept a cash payment if it is more than £2000 (cash is defined as notes, coins or traveller's cheques in any currency)..

Reporting

15 If you suspect money laundering, you must report it promptly to the MLRO or to her deputy. The MLRO will send you the appropriate forms to fill in as part of the reporting process. If you would prefer, you can discuss your suspicions informally with the MLRO or their deputy first.



- 16 You must follow any directions the MLRO or her deputy gives you and must not make any further enquiries into the matter. You must not take any further steps in any related transaction without authorisation from the MLRO.
- 17 You must not reveal your suspicions to the person suspected of money laundering. You must not discuss the matter with anyone else or add a note on the file that a report has been made to the MLRO in case this results in the suspect becoming aware of the situation.
- 18 The MLRO or deputy must promptly evaluate any report you make, to decide whether it should be reported to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).
19. The MLRO or deputy must, if they decide, promptly report the matter to SOCA on their standard report form and in the correct way. You can download up-to-date forms from the SOCA website at www.soca.gov.uk.
- 20 The MLRO or deputy will commit a criminal offence if they know or suspect, or have reasonable grounds to do so, after someone makes a disclosure, that another person is involved in money laundering and they do not report this as soon as possible to SOCA.

Customer due diligence

- 21 The 2007 Money Laundering Regulations place extra obligations on 'relevant persons' carrying out certain 'regulated activities'. This means that extra care needs to be taken to check the identity of the customer or client. This is known as carrying out customer due diligence. Public authorities are not considered to be 'relevant persons' and are not governed by the 2007 regulations.
- 22 Although it is not a legal requirement for public authorities to put in place formal procedures for checking the identity of those they do business with, in practice we make sure that staff are on the lookout for potentially suspicious circumstances. Examples include situations where funds flow through the authority from a source with which it is not familiar.
- 23 In particular, if we are forming a new business relationship or considering carrying out a significant one-off transaction, it would be a good idea to set up and maintain identification procedures for those people involved. This will be especially true if the people involved are not present for identification purposes and in situations where they may be acting for people who are not present.
- 24 Below are some examples of the different types of identification checks which we may carry out. We may:
 - check the customer's website to confirm their business address;
 - carry out an online search at Companies House to confirm the nature and business of the customer and confirm the identities of any directors; and

- ask to see evidence from the main contact to check their personal identity, for example their passport, and position within the organisation.

25 You will find specific guidance on money laundering for treasury management activities in CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services – Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (the TM Code).

26 If at any time you suspect that a client or customer is carrying out money laundering, is financing terrorism, or has lied about their identity, you must report this to the MLRO.

Guidance and training

27 We will:

- make all staff aware of the obligations on us and on them by anti-money - laundering laws; and
- give targeted training to those most likely to come across money laundering.

More information

28 You can get more information from the MLRO and the following sources.

- www.soca.gov.uk – website of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency
- Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering) – Practical Guidance for Public Service Organisations – CIPFA
- Anti-Money Laundering (Proceeds of Crime and Terrorism) – Second Interim Guidance for Accountants – CCAB (www.ccab.org.uk)
- Money Laundering Guidance at www.lawsociety.org.uk
- SI 2007 No. 2157 The Money Laundering Regulations 2007 at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/money_laundering_directive/consult_moneylaundering_2007.cfm



Glossary

Budget heads	Income and expenditure budgets held at activity level within a service area.
Budget holder	A member of staff who has delegated responsibility for managing income and expenditure budgets.
Council	The full council.
Cabinet	The leader and Cabinet.
Financial framework	The agreed method we use to share money between particular services. This includes revenue and capital funding. The method is reviewed by Cabinet or appointed sub-committee or working group as appropriate.
Portfolio area	The way we group services for management purposes set out by Cabinet.
Portfolio holder or cabinet member	The cabinet member with specific responsibility for delivering services and themes.
Project	This may relate to a proposal to tackle a specific theme or issue and may include a general minor improvements project or a group of low-value schemes.
SAP	The SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system is used by HR/Payroll, Finance (Financial Management system), Procurement and Operations Management.
Scrutiny Committee	A committee that helps us develop policies and consider options to improve services. They can also check that services are being delivered in the most efficient and effective way and make recommendations for improvement.
Senior Leadership Team	An SLT member we have appointed under Section 11 of the Constitution. This includes the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Resources, Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation, Director of Place, Director of People, Director of Transformation and Strategy, Director of Customer Services and Communication and any other appropriate people authorised to carry out the duties shown in these regulations in line with



delegations made by the SLT member under a Sub Scheme of Delegation approved by the Audit and Standards Committee.

Services

The groups of budget heads.

Virement

Transferring resources between budget heads or services.





Procurement regulations

Approved by the Audit Committee on 24 March 2011



Summary of the main controls and regulations shown in the procurement regulations

- Check with the Head of Procurement if there is any doubt about whether these Regulations apply to a specific contract, or check with a procurement advisor if you are not sure about any part of the regulations (section 1 and various).
- Ignoring the role of procurement advisors, individual managers (various) will be responsible for governing the procurement process.
- When buying anything for us, you have to consider the importance and effect of our other policies, for example, the Environmental Policy, relevant Health and Safety Policy and so on (section B and section C).
- If you are involved in the procurement process or manage any contracts, you must declare any possible conflict of interest to your manager and the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation. The golden rule is, if in doubt; declare it (section C).
- The contract value does not just mean its yearly value but all payments over the length of the contract (including any extensions) – special rules apply if there is no set length for the contract (section C and section H).
- You must keep all tender-related documents in line with our policies on keeping documents and to satisfy audit requirements (section C and section N).
- Staff involved in the procurement process must act in line with the Scheme of Delegation for Procurement (section C and annex 2).
- Before beginning the procurement process, you must produce a contract strategy where we buy goods, work or services (section C, section D and section E).
- You must follow the correct tendering process – this will depend on the value of the contract and the extent to which a framework agreement is already in place (section F). See the table over the page.
- A Procurement Advisor will provide advice on the nature and scope of those framework agreements already in place (various).

- For all contracts over £100,000, you must consult a Procurement Advisor before buying what is needed (section B and section F).
- Electronic procurement (including e-tendering) is a developing area. You must consult a Procurement Advisor before using this facility (section F).
- When you evaluate a tender using MEAT (most economically advantageous tender), you must use the tender evaluation methodology referred to within section M.
- You cannot accept a tender or appoint a provider unless you have carried out a financial check in line with the supplier financial appraisal strategy (section N and annex 3).
- We can only change our requirements for insurance if the Director of Finance and Resources agrees (section R).
- Special rules apply for ICT items (section C and section S).
- In certain situations, we allow an exception to these regulations as long as you fill in a waiver form and this is authorised (section V and annex 1).

Options available for the tendering process

Low-value transactions	Up to £15,000	<p>A framework agreement if there is one or a pre-qualified list of providers, unless the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation decides otherwise</p> <p>Two written tenders or quotations</p> <p>Note</p> <p>For transactions valued below £500, you can use a purchasing card.</p>
Intermediate-value transactions	Over £15,000 and up to £100,000	<p>A framework agreement if there is one or a pre-qualified list of providers, unless the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation decides otherwise</p> <p>Three written tenders or quotations</p>
High-value transactions	Over £100,000 and up to EU transactions limit	<p>A framework agreement if there is one or a pre-qualified list of providers, unless the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation decides otherwise</p> <p>Public advert</p>
EU transactions	<p>Goods and Services over £156,442</p> <p>Work over £3,927,260</p>	Special rules apply – speak to a procurement advisor

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A Introduction

- A1 These regulations are part of our constitution and are our procedural regulations for buying items for us (the regulations). They do not apply to buying items or services from within the council.
- A2 We explain the difference between goods, work and services in the glossary of terms at the end of the regulations.
- A3 The regulations apply to any contract that results in us making a payment and some types of contract where a service is being provided for us which results in some income being generated for us.
- A4 The regulations also apply if we are acting as the lead organisation in partnership or other joint arrangement or if we appoint a subcontractor in connection with any contract.
- A5 The regulations do not cover grants which we may receive or make (unless the grant is part of a contract for services).
- A6 The regulations do not apply to:
- contracts of employment;
 - contracts relating to interest in land (also known as property);
 - contracts entered into by schools using delegated budgets;
 - contracts placed by the Director of Finance and Resources for treasury management;
 - contracts placed by the Director of Finance and Resources investing money or assets of the Staffordshire County Pension Fund; and
 - contracts relating to selling or otherwise disposing of our assets.
- A7 If you are in any doubt about whether the regulations apply, you must always check with the Head of Procurement.
- A8 Our 'best value duty' is very important. It means that we must always consider how each procurement meets our duty to secure continuous improvement in what we do after taking account of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes. As a result, we need to question whether we should be buying anything at all and, if we do, whether we can buy it best ourselves or jointly, or if we should rely on someone else to get

better value.

- A9 Government and EU public procurement regulations require that we must allow, and be seen to be allowing, freedom of opportunity to trade and to be open and clear about how we do things.
- A10 If we fail in this duty, a provider could make a complaint against us which could result in them claiming damages and even suspension of the contract.
- A11 The most important principles are being clear, open and providing fair competition. Whenever we are buying goods and services for the council, we must always act to promote competition and to achieve value for money.
- A12 The regulations have three main aims. These are to:
- keep to the obligations that govern spending public money, such as the EU Public Procurement Regulations;
 - get best value in the way we spend money, so that we may in turn offer better and more cost-effective services to the public; and
 - protect people who follow the regulations.
- A13 The regulations:
- are written in plain English; and
 - help decisions to be made by the right people at the right level in the council.
- A14 In these regulations we have marked certain sections in bold and added a * symbol. These sections are compulsory and must always be followed whatever you are buying for us. If there is no *, you should treat the regulations as best practice and follow them wherever appropriate.
- A15 These regulations may be suspended if the relevant Senior Leadership Team Member decides if:
- a contract or subcontract is being let on behalf of a public agency for example the Department of Transport, and any condition under these regulations does not match the requirements of that agency;
 - you are buying something jointly with one or more public organisations and you are following their procurement processes;
 - a contract or subcontract which is governed by nationally negotiated conditions of contract from one or more professional institutions, for

example ICE building contracts and any condition of these regulations, does not match a condition in those conditions of contract; and

- we are working in line with procurement regulations entering into a framework agreement negotiated by another public organisation

A16 We will review these regulations at least once every two years after they are considered by the Audit and Standards Committee. In the meantime, the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation and Director of Finance and Resources, by consulting the Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee, will make any required minor changes to them.

A17 These regulations apply to all contracts for goods, or for work, services or utilities for us or which we provide unless paragraphs 1f and 1o apply or you have a valid waiver under regulation 22 (section headed 'Exceptions from the regulations').

B Context

B1 The European Union sets down (through a treaty) what obligations are placed on us when we are buying. The main principle is to make sure that everyone in the marketplace who could provide the goods, work or services to us has the opportunity to do so.

B2 We all now need to think about the way we arrange this, for example, e-auctions, e-tendering, or setting up a framework or placing a supply contract. More and more, councils are working collaboratively through joint procurements (in other words, buying the goods and services you need with another department or another council or councils and sometimes other public organisations).

B3 When you are buying anything for us, you **must** consider the importance and effect of our other policies on what you are buying. For example, this could include the Strategic Plan, the Community Engagement Framework, the Staffordshire Compact and Third Sector Commissioning Standards, the Corporate Equality Plan and the Environmental Policy.

B4 If you are buying larger or expensive goods, work or services, remember that the regulations for higher value orders and contracts are stricter than for those of lower value. This is so that the benefits of a more thorough, complicated process are not outweighed by the price compared to the value of the goods, work or services in question.

B5 At the highest end of the value scale, we **must** follow full EU public procurement directives, which say that we must keep to certain other procedures. In these cases, you **must** consult a Procurement Advisor before you start buying what you need.

C Before we start

Making sure we keep to law and policies

C1 When making or proposing a contract on our behalf, the senior leadership membership team will:

- keep to all relevant legal requirements including EU procurement regulations, relevant health and safety, environmental and equalities and discrimination law;
- keep to these regulations;
- keep to our financial regulations; and
- keep to the principles of the Staffordshire Compact.

Honesty and conflicts of interest

C2 Every officer who takes any decision or has any influence about a contract must keep to our integrity policy statement and local code of conduct for employees. They must also complete and sign the Declaration of Interest and Confidentiality document, which can be found here;
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business/procurement/procurerules>

C3 Every officer who has a financial interest in a contract must contact the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation who will make a record in a book we will keep for the purpose, under Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972.

C4 You should not accept any gifts or hospitality from anyone tendering for a contract we are leading on or from any current supplier. If you do, this may be a disciplinary offence. You **must** tell the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation if you are dealing with a contract for the council and have been offered such a gift or hospitality. You can get more advice and guidance on the intranet under Gifts and hospitality.

The competitive process

C5 EU directives, UK law and Government policy says that we **must** always make sure that we are offering the opportunity to provide goods, work or services to the whole market to make sure there is fair competition.

C6 If your contract is a very high value (in other words, with a value of more than £100,000), you **must** follow the section on high-value

procurements.

- C7 The value of a contract means the estimated total value over the length of time it will apply, including any extension options (**not the yearly value**), before VAT.
- If the contract is for buying a single item, which is not related to buying other items, the contract is worth the price, or estimated price, referred to in that contract.
 - If the contract is for buying a related group of items, the contract is worth the total price, or estimated total price, of the group.
- C8 If there is no set length of time for the contract, this is the estimated value of the contract over a period of four years. You should not split contracts to avoid the values, either by item or length. Special arrangements will apply for ICT contracts.

Who can buy goods and services?

- C9 Annex 2 of these regulations gives details of the Scheme of Delegation for Procurement which defines who can buy goods and services for us.
- C10 Senior leadership team members should make sure that any buying is carried out by their procurement professionals or by an authorised person who can prove they have the skills and knowledge appropriate for buying the goods, work and services. These people should already have authority under our scheme of delegation for procurement. If not, they need to be granted authority from the relevant person or organisation.
- C11 Each senior leadership team member **must** make sure that we do not go over the limits in the scheme of delegation.
- C12 The Director of Finance and Resources will review the scheme when necessary and this will be considered by the Corporate Governance Working Group.
- C13 Before starting a procurement process, you need to make sure that you have carefully identified the need and fully assessed the options for meeting it. Before you start, you **must** consider the following.
- Is there a clear business need, supported by appropriate evidence and a budget in place?
 - What is important to the council in this procurement? Do you just need the goods, work or services? Or are there other things you

want to bring about (for example, improved environmental performance, new jobs) or added social value. In certain cases the procurement process can help achieve this wider social value by meeting a particular social, environmental or economic aim. It allows commissioners to achieve broader aims but you **must** consult a Procurement Advisor.

- Can you buy what you need with another directorate or another council? If you think you could save us money or achieve other advantages if you bought what you need with someone else, consider whether there is an existing framework arrangement, in-house provider or contract you can use. This framework or contract could be one we have already set up or one set up by another council or joint-purchasing organisation or run centrally by the Government (such as Buying Solutions).
- Is there some kind of recognised purchasing group in place (often referred to as a buying consortium) where members can use the purchasing arrangements to buy goods or services? If there is a group in place, you do not have to keep to these regulations. However, you can only buy the goods or services that are covered by the group arrangements. If the goods or services are outside the scope of the group arrangements, you must use some other method of procurement in line with these regulations. A procurement advisor can give you more advice on this.

C14 If after considering other buying solutions you are going to use a joint procurement with another council, this should be done using conditions at least as strict as these.

C15 If you decide that you or your partners are likely to need to buy the goods or services again in the future, it may be that the best way to buy them is by setting up a framework agreement. A framework agreement allows a number of providers to sell you the goods, work or services you need when you need them. There are many types of contracts which will be suited to a framework agreement and it is important that you agree this with a procurement advisor before you start to make sure that the type of contract being used is most suitable.

Employment issues and TUPE (Transfer of Undertaking Protection of Employment Regulations)

C16 Entering into new contractual arrangements or changing existing contractual arrangements can give rise to TUPE implications. It is not always obvious that there are TUPE implications (for example, when a contract with another supplier comes to an end and is to be put out to tender again). So, **if in any doubt, you must get the** advice of a

Procurement Advisor or an HR specialist to make sure that any relevant TUPE arrangements are in place.

- C17 Where it has been decided that goods, work or services should be bought from an external source, you **must** consider the effects this may have on the existing in-house team and the possibility of staff transferring to the new provider under TUPE.
- C18 These contracts **must** contain conditions to make sure appropriate workforce (and other) information will be made available in enough time when that contract is due to end to make sure that we can fulfil TUPE obligations.
- C19 TUPE situations will almost always give rise to pensions issues. You can get advice on this from the Pensions Section. You will need an actuarial statement on pension information for any proposed TUPE transfers. You can get this from the Pensions Section. It is the responsibility of the person managing the tender process to get this. Sometimes, we may need a pension admissions agreement.
- C20 You can get more information on TUPE from www.acas.org.uk.

The main contracts

- C21 For major, specialist, higher value or important contracts, for example those which involve transferring council employees to a contractor under a PFI (private finance initiative) or outsourcing arrangement, a senior leadership team member must get further relevant approval if this is appropriate. This will concern whether a contract is to be awarded and to whom.
- C22 Senior leadership team members **must** consider if members should be involved in decisions during the tender process, for example by deciding on the conditions for awarding the contract. This will be more relevant for high-value procurements including PFI projects.

Other

- C23 A senior leadership team member will not, without approval from the Director of Finance and Resources, enter into a contract for supplying goods or services under any operating lease, hire, rental or any other credit arrangements.
- C24 Senior leadership team members must make sure all contracts and related records are kept, so they can be inspected, for a period we decide. This includes decisions to suspend these regulations and using any delegated powers.

- C25 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation may make arrangements under these regulations about keeping records for certain types of contracts.
- C26 Any interim contractor or consultant who is responsible to us for preparing or supervising a contract on our behalf must do the following. They must:
- keep to these regulations as though they were a senior leadership team member, though the procedure may be modified so that inviting, opening and accepting tenders can be approved beforehand by the senior leadership team member concerned;
 - if the Director of Finance and Resources or any officer we have authorised asks, produce all the records they keep in relation to the contract; and
 - at the end of a contract, send all records, documents and so on relating to the contract to the senior leadership team member concerned.

D Defining the need

- D1 At the least, you **must** clearly and carefully specify the goods, work or services to be supplied, the agreed programme for delivery and the terms for payment together with all other terms and conditions. You also need to make sure that you will have the funds in the budget to pay for them.
- D2 This means you **must** decide before beginning the procurement process the size, scope, and specification of the goods, work or services needed. If you are buying with someone else, you **must** decide this scope with your partners first.
- D3 You **must** keep to any other council policies which could apply to what you want to buy. If in doubt, **check** with a procurement advisor.
- D4 When identifying and defining the need, you should make sure you have involved a wider range of organisations relevant to the goods, work or services to be supplied. By knowing the market and encouraging a wider supply base, you have more chance to find the right providers and achieve the right services at the right price.

E Contract strategy

- E1 Once you have decided on the need, you **must** decide on a contract strategy for buying the goods, work or services.
- E2 This means taking a step back from the traditional procurement process and assessing the purchasing options particularly when purchasing services. For example, using a grant may be appropriate for a highly specialised service, if you know there is only one provider, or a very few suspected providers, or the project is of a low financial value. This is because it would not make financial sense for one specialist provider to go through a full tendering process.
- E3 You **must** consider options for delivering goods, work or services. The options for goods, works or services are:
- not buying the goods, having the work done or providing the services at all;
 - providing the goods, work or services ourselves (for example, by taking spare goods from another directorate or using their staff);
 - getting someone else to provide the ongoing goods, work or service (using the 'voluntary sector' or another local authority or public organisation); or
 - providing the goods, work or services with someone else (the private or 'third' sector or another local authority or public organisation). Be aware that for the voluntary sector, we have a special agreement.
- E4 If you are in any doubt about the above, you should get advice from a Procurement Advisor.

F How we buy the goods and services we need

Framework agreements (including Buying Solutions, ESPO, WMS)

- F1 You **must** use framework agreements for goods, work and services (including approved lists) **if they** exist, no matter what the value, unless the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation confirms, in writing, that the particular needs justify another procurement route.
- F2 Framework agreements (also known as call-off contracts) are arrangements with providers for providing goods, work or services on agreed terms for a set period for estimated quantities against which orders may be placed if and when needed during the contract period. They offer benefits of bulk-buying, improved services and reduced

administration costs over the period of the arrangement.

- F3 A framework agreement may have the option for you to hold a mini-competition with all the capable providers on the framework when you come to buy for us. You **must** get advice from a procurement advisor on carrying out a mini-competition.
- F4 You **must** investigate whether call-off contracts or frameworks are relevant in your own case. You could get better value for us by using an existing framework agreement (and if relevant the central government agreements). You also need to check if legally you can use them.
- F5 If there isn't a framework already in place (or if one does not exist with partners which you can use), you **must** consider if it would be better value to set up a framework. This is likely if you are going to need to buy the same or similar goods and services again in the future. You can get guidance on how to set up a framework from a procurement advisor.
- F6 Countywide arrangements for routine goods and services and directorate-specific contracts, for example, maintaining premises (such as gas servicing) and terms of tenders for highways maintenance would fall into the definition of a framework.

Full tender procedures (over the EU thresholds)

- F7 If you are inviting tenders for contracts over EU procurement thresholds, you **must** decide on the procedure to follow before you advertise and it **must** be one of the following.
- Open procedure (all interested providers send us a tender in response to an advertisement).
 - Restricted procedure (expressions of interest from interested providers in response to an advertisement, with us inviting a selection of those providers to send us a tender).
 - Negotiated procedure (expressions of interest from interested providers in response to an advertisement, with us inviting a selection of those providers to negotiate). Only use this procedure if it is agreed by the Head of Procurement.
 - Competitive Dialogue procedure (where the purpose of the procurement is known but not the solution). Only use this procedure if it is agreed by the Head of Procurement.

- F8 For all transactions valued above the EU threshold, and for all transactions over £100,000 (not including VAT), you must get approval of the proposed tender process from a procurement advisor.

Full tender procedures for high-value transactions

- F9 For transactions valued at over £100,000 (not including VAT) but below the EU thresholds, you must carry out a formal tender process in line with the following principles.

- Openness
- Transparency
- Visibility
- Value for money
- In the best interests of the council
- Competition

- F10 You can get more guidance on the types of procurement from a procurement advisor.

Intermediate-value transaction

- F11 For transactions valued over £15,000 but at or below £100,000 (not including VAT), you **must** get three written tenders or quotations before you issue a purchase order or contract, specifying the goods, work or services. This must set out prices, our terms and conditions of contract and terms of payment, unless a framework already exists and this must show value for money. If there is a framework, you **must** follow the procedure as set out in the framework, unless the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation confirms, in writing, that the particular requirements justify using another procurement route.

- F12 If you only receive one quotation, you must try and get other quotations or an exemption from the regulations in line with Section V (section headed Exceptions from the regulations). If you get two suitable quotations, that will be enough.

Low-value transactions

- F13 For transactions valued over £500 but below £15,000 (not including VAT), you **must** get at least two written quotations from a provider before you can issue a formal purchase order specifying the goods, work or services and setting out prices and terms of payment, unless a framework already exists and this must show value for money. If there is a framework, you **must** follow the procedure set out in that framework, unless the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation confirms, in writing, that the particular requirements justify using another procurement route.
- F14 Your purchase order **must** contain our standard terms and conditions of contract between us and the provider. A quotation and a purchase order will create a legally binding contract. We use the purchase order to formalise the terms of the contract.
- F15 For transactions valued below £500, when buying goods, work or services, you can use a purchasing card in line with the financial regulations.

Electronic procurement and emailed quotations

- F16 You should always aim to use electronic procurement (or e-procurement) systems rather than paper systems. If you are going to us e-tendering provided by another organisation, this must be agreed by a procurement adviser. Using e-tendering may disadvantage some smaller providers. You should make it clear that paper systems can still be used, so that we attract the widest range of providers.
- F17 If you accept electronic quotations, these **must** be:
- sent to a specific email address;
 - opened at a set time;
 - opened in the presence of a duly authorised officer;
 - logged under the price given; and
 - kept on the relevant file.

Concession contracts

- F18 You must use a concession contract if we want to hire someone to provide a service within the council area if they will be charging the public for the services being provided.

- F19 There are a number of exemptions if a public works concession contract is proposed. You can get advice on these from a procurement advisor.
- F20 If the company which plans to provide the services is going to subcontract the services, this may fall within EU procurement rules. In all cases, if the company is buying goods or services as part of the concession contract, any procurement should be carried out in line with these regulations.
- F21 You **must** get advice from a procurement advisor before carrying out any procurement relating to a concession contract.

G The EU directives

Extra requirements for transactions valued over EU limits

- G1 Below are the contract values above which you must follow procedures governed by the EU directives.

For goods and services (including goods and consultancy services)	£156,442
For work	£3,927,260 (from January 2010)

These limits are changed in January every two years. You **must** check the latest limits before you go ahead.

H Adding contracts together

- H1 You **must never** deliberately split down the value of contracts.
- H52 Wherever possible, we should make our purchases in the form of a single large contract rather than a series of smaller contracts. However, there will be circumstances where using lots of (smaller) contracts, is appropriate. You can get advice and guidance on this from a Procurement Advisor.
- H3 You **must** add together the value of the separate contracts of the same type over a short period so you can decide whether the value of the contract falls within the limits.

I Procedures governed by the EU directives

- I1 If your contract has a value over the limit, you **must** use the UK Public Contracts Regulations 2006. The definitions of part A and part B

services are contained in Annex 5. EU treaty rules only apply to Part-A services. If they are Part B and assuming the value is above the limits, your only responsibilities are to:

- provide a detailed specification (regulation 9(7));
- use a tendering exercise that is clear, and which treats bidders equally and without any discrimination (regulation 4(3));
- publish a contract award notice after the event (regulation 31); and
- provide a statistical return report.

I2 The 2006 Public Procurement Regulations contain conditions relating to providing notices and other documents electronically.

I3 You **must** tender the contract under the open, restricted, competitive dialogue (for particularly complicated contracts). Or, in exceptional circumstances, you must agree a negotiated procedure with the Head of Procurement.

I4 EU directives and UK Public Procurement Regulations are very detailed and we can only give details of the main ones here. If in doubt, you should get the guidelines and advice from a procurement advisor.

I5 For each contract, unless we say differently below, you must publish a contract notice in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Advertisements you publish as well as this **must not**:

- appear in any form before we have sent a contract notice to OJEU; and
- contain any information on top of that in the contract notice in OJEU.

I6 You **must** always follow the minimum timescales relating to tender procedures governed by the EU directives. The timescales given for completing and returning tenders are only the minimum, so there is flexibility to extend timescales to encourage bids from smaller providers or consortiums. If procurement falls under part-B services, or is under the EU procurement limits, there is no formal time limit. Similarly, when faced with short timescales within which to use the funds, you should still make sure the process used is fair, clear and accessible to all.

- 17 If you have sent a prior information notice (PIN) announcing a forthcoming contract notice to OJEU between 52 and 365 days before you have sent the contract notice, reduced timescales may apply.

Using the competitive dialogue procedure governed by EU directives

- 18 You **must** get advice from the Head of Procurement as soon as possible before starting a tender process governed by EU directives, particularly when using either the competitive dialogue or the negotiated procedure.
- 19 Under EU directives, you can use the competitive dialogue procedure for contracts valued at or over EU limits in certain circumstances if:
- we want to award a particularly complicated contract and think that using the open or restricted procedure will not allow us to award that contract; and
 - the contract is for a service or goods and the precise nature of the service cannot be clearly given or accurately priced (for example, some PFI contracts, bespoke software applications, insurance services, intellectual and artistic services).
- 110 You should not use the negotiated procedure (except in very specific circumstances) to procure particularly complicated projects. The competitive dialogue procedure should be the normal method of procurement for complicated projects.
- 111 If in doubt, you **must** contact a procurement advisor.

J Tender documents

- J1 Every invitation to tender using a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) should include:
- the nature and purpose and, if it applies, the proposed length of the contract;
 - an outline of the goods, work or services to be supplied or carried out;
 - a statement on our procedures for getting tenders;
 - a requirement for the applicant to provide information about their technical, commercial and financial standing if we do not already have the information;

- a closing date for receiving applications;
- the evaluation criteria (with weightings) to include in any tender process (see regulation 13);
- an outline process and timetable;
- a statement that we do not have to accept the lowest or any tender; and
- a named Procurement Advisor.

J2 Unless we change it under J1, every **invitation to tender should** include:

- the nature, purpose, start date and period of the contract;
- the detailed specification and quantities of goods, work or services to be supplied or carried out;
- the times at, or within which, and the places at which the goods, work or services are to be supplied or performed;
- a copy of the conditions of contract which the successful contractors will have to keep to;
- a requirement for the tenderer to provide information about their technical, commercial and financial standing if we do not already have the information;
- information on TUPE;
- the evaluation criteria (with weightings) for awarding the contract (see regulation 13);
- a statement that we do not have to accept the lowest or any tender;
- the closing time and date, and address for receiving tenders; and
- a named procurement advisor.

K Getting tenders

K1 The senior leadership team member must send to every person who wants to give us a tender any documents which meet the requirements of regulation J. This includes a returnable tender form or other document which tells each company wanting to tender to:

- include their offer price (or prices) for the goods, work, services or utilities;
- include their signature or seal;
- return the filled-in tender form to the senior leadership team member concerned at the address given by a certain date and time;
- send the filled-in tender in an envelope with the word 'TENDER' followed by the subject the tender relates to and the closing date and time for receiving tenders;
- be told that, depending on procurement regulations relating to e-tendering arrangements, we will not consider tenders sent in only by fax or email.

L Receiving and opening tenders and PQQs (pre-qualification questionnaires)

- L1 Every response to a PQQ or an invitation to tender should be delivered:
- no later than the time given for sending us the tender in the invitation to tender (and addressed to the person at the place shown in the invitation to tender (or e-mail address));
 - on a read-only CD-ROM clearly labelled with the tenderer's name and contract reference, or via email (depending on your procurement approach) (or provided in hard copy as a last resort); and
 - with no other labelling or markings on the packet that identifies who is providing the tender.
- L2 The senior leadership team member **must** keep the tenders secure until the time we have given for their opening. We will not open tenders before the closing date and time. Two officers **must** open all tenders at the same time. They **must** not be involved in the tender evaluation and award.
- L3 We **must** list the opened tenders on a list of tenders. Tenders must be signed and dated by the people opening them. Pages with prices in them do not need to be signed, only the total price page.

- L4 Email tenders **must** be stored in a specific site which is secure and which meets our audit requirements.
- L5 We will not open a tender if it is received late and after we have opened other tenders for that contract.
- L6 If the circumstances mean it is appropriate, the senior leadership team member may postpone, for a reasonable period, the closing time and date for receiving tenders. This applies as long as we have let everyone know, in the same way, who we have asked for tenders from and that tenders have not been opened. The powers in this paragraph cannot be enforced by an officer unless they are approved in line with the scheme of delegation.

M Evaluating tenders and quotations

- M1 If we have asked for written quotations for contracts valued at or below £100,000 (not including VAT), we **must** give the contract to the bidder with the lowest price, unless other conditions are shown in the document used to invite bids. If this is the case, the contract should be awarded on that basis.
- M2 For contracts valued over £100,000 (not including VAT) and for all contracts governed by EU directives, we **must** use the 'best value' tender evaluation procedure based on identifying the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT). The tender evaluation methodology must be used, which can be found here; <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business/procurement/procurerules> However, there are some situations where using MEAT will not be an appropriate method of evaluation. This is usually if the only obvious difference between products or solutions will be that of price (for example, if you are buying stationery or other standard items). It is unlikely that you could choose providers for services or work on price alone as these will often need wider evaluation techniques. When deciding on how we evaluate tenders, we need to be careful that using a lowest-price method of evaluation rather than MEAT is appropriate for the procurement.
- M3 This evaluation involves scoring tenders fairly by a panel of officers or independent experts using criteria which **must**:
- be already set out in the invitation to tender documents in order of importance;
 - be strictly kept to at all times throughout the tender process;
 - reflect the principles of best value;

- include price;
- consider whole-life costing, particularly in the case of capital equipment where the full cost of maintenance and so on should be taken into account;
- be able to be assessed independently;
- be weighted according to importance;
- show wider social value if this has been included in the specification; and
- avoid discrimination on the basis of nationality, or other cause which goes against any of our policies.

M4 If you use this evaluation method, you must award the contract to the company which sends us the most economically advantageous tender. (In other words, the tender that achieves the highest score in the independent assessment.)

N Awarding contracts and audit trails

N1 You **must** record in writing the results of the tender-evaluation process and the decision to award a contract.

N2 You **must** only award a contract if you are authorised to do so, in line with the Scheme of Delegation for Procurement. You **must** make sure that the appropriate budget holder has the funds in place before you make the award.

N3 Senior leadership team members should make sure that proper records of all procurement activity are kept in electronic or hard-copy format as appropriate. This is in line with our policy on keeping documents.

N4 We cannot accept any tender which breaks EU procurement regulations.

N5 We cannot accept any tender unless we have carried out a financial check in line with our supplier financial appraisal strategy (Annex 3).

O Standstill period (for EU tenders only)

O1 For all contracts tendered under EU directives, we **must** have a 10-day 'standstill period' between the decision to award and the end of the contract. Once we have made the decision to award a contract, we

must write to each company that provided a tender with the outcome of the tender process. This notice **must** include:

- details of the criteria for awarding the contract;
- if possible, the score or ranking the company achieved against those criteria;
- if possible, the score or ranking the winning company achieved; and
- the name of the winning company

O2 There **must** be at least 10 calendar days between sending this notice and the end of the contract. Special rules apply if a company asks us for a debrief on the tender process. Even if a company asks for a debrief outside of the standstill period, we **must** still provide this. In this instance, you must get advice from a procurement advisor as soon as possible.

P Contract award notice

P1 We **must** announce all contracts awarded under the EU directive using a contract award notice in OJEU which must be sent no later than 48 calendar days after the date we award the contract.

Q Conditions of contract

Q1 There must be written evidence of every contract and all contracts must be in a form agreed with the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

Q2 All transactions **must** use an appropriate model form of contract approved by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation (or a form decided by the senior leadership team member after consulting the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation).

Q3 For all contracts for services estimated at a value over £100,000 (not including VAT), if the model conditions of contract are not suitable, you **must** consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation to produce a suitable set of conditions of contract (with other advisors if necessary) before inviting tenders. PFI contracts fall within this definition.

Q4 If a contract is strategically important or politically sensitive, or if the extended limits would be valuable, for example, contracts for land or property, the contract **must** be in writing and an official seal must be

placed on it.

Q5 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation **must:**

- keep a record or list of all model sets of conditions of contract that gives details of when the conditions were last updated, who is responsible for updating them, any changes and contact references;
- keep all current model conditions of contract under review;
- monitor and review conditions of contract issued by other organisations; and

make sure that information is sent to directorates and access is given to available framework agreements and contracts, local or joint framework agreements and call-off contracts.

R Insurance

R1 Insurance conditions will be contained in the conditions of contract. In terms of insurance, we will normally need the successful contractor to have the following types and minimum limits of cover.

	Work contracts	Goods and services contracts
Public liability	£5 million	£5 million
Employers' liability	£10 million	£5 million
Professional indemnity	£5 million	£2 million

R2 The above limits relate to each claim. For public liability and employers' liability, the cover must be in place throughout the period covered by the contract. For professional indemnity, the conditions are more complicated. Not only must the cover be in place throughout the period covered by the contract but also for another six years after the end of the contract (or 12 years if the contract is under seal). For certain types of services, for example, financial advice, the amount of professional indemnity insurance cover will need to be higher to protect us in case anyone gives inappropriate advice.

R3 When providing goods and services, the above limits may not be appropriate for small and medium enterprises (SMTs) and sole suppliers. In these instances, we can reduce these limits after carrying out a risk assessment and filling in the relevant sections of the waiver form (Annex 1) after consulting the Director of Finance and Resources.

S Contracts for ICT hardware, software and services

- S1 If you are planning to buy any ICT hardware, software or services, you must consult the ICT contracts manager to make sure it keeps to our ICT policy and existing software or equipment where relevant.
- S2 You **must** buy ICT hardware, software and services using ICT procurement and have the spending approved by the relevant portfolio ICT manager.
- S3 All ICT contracts **must** be signed in line with the ICT sub-scheme of delegation for procurement.

T Transferring contracts

- T1 In appropriate circumstances we may agree to transfer a contract, by novation or re-assignment. You must ask for advice on how to transfer a contract from the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation, before any contract is transferred.
- T2 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation **must** take this decision.

U Changing and extending contracts

- U1 Depending on any legal restrictions and the need to keep to these regulations and the Scheme of Delegation for Procurement, a senior leadership team member may authorise the following extensions and changes to an existing contract.
- An extension for a particular period under the terms and conditions of the contract (but depending on the satisfactory performance when monitoring the contract).
 - A single extension of the contract by up to half the contract term as long as this would not place the contract over the EU limit or break any law.
 - Any other change, and if relevant a resulting change in price, decided in line with the contract terms.
- U2 Any extension to the contract period cannot be longer than the original length of the original contract.

U3 You **cannot** extend or change contracts arranged under the EU regulations without consulting a procurement advisor.

V Exceptions from the regulations

V1 An exception to these regulations means we give permission to agree a contract without keeping to one or more of these regulations. We may grant an exception under conditions set out below. We cannot grant an exception if to do so would mean breaking any laws on public procurement or other relevant legislation.

V2 The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation may grant an exception to these regulations for contracts over £100,000 (not including VAT). Senior officers may grant an exception to the regulations for contracts up to £100,000.

V3 If you want an exception, you must apply in writing using the request for waiver form (Annex 1 of these regulations) and send it to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation or the relevant senior officer. Please include the exception you want and your reasons for it.

V4 The Head of Procurement will keep a register of all exceptions to these regulations.

V5 We will not agree an application for an exception unless you have a good reason. We do not consider a lack of time caused by poor forward planning as a good reason and so will not allow it.

Exceptions which involve the request for waiver form (Annex 1 of these regulations)

General contracts

V6 We may grant an exception in the following circumstances.

- If there is an unexpected emergency involving danger to life or health or serious damage to property, if the goods, work or services are needed more urgently than would be possible if we followed the tender or quotation procedure.
- If, for technical reasons, the goods, work or services can be bought from only one provider and this can be justified.
- If the proposed contract is an extension or change to the scope of an existing contract with a value (including the change or extension)

that is below the relevant EU limit. However, this does not apply if the existing contract provides for an extension.

- If you are buying works of art, museum artefacts, manuscripts or archive collection items.
- If there is a need to develop and influence the market by extending the range of services, as long as the contract is for a fixed term of no more than three years.
- If it is necessary so we can continue to provide a new service, which was developed using grant aid and as long as the contract is for a fixed term of no more than three years.
- If we can achieve value for money by buying used vehicles, equipment or materials.
- To develop our aims to develop the economy, without breaking public procurement rules.

Contracts for social care and health care

V7 We may grant an exception to the requirements to follow the tender or quotation procedure in the following circumstances.

- If the service to be provided is to be paid for using a grant paid to us under section 93 of the Local Government Act 2000 (amended in 2002) (the Supporting People Scheme) and the contract allows us to renew it with an existing provider. This applies if the renewal has been recommended by the Officers Board of the Commissioning Body set up for the purpose of that scheme because it offers value for money in line with our legal obligations. For the purpose of this exemption, renewing a contract includes changing the terms of a contract to allow for developing a service or to reduce the service. It does include providing a service but not a renewal which would allow an increase of 50% to the service provided.
- If the service to be provided is for a life-long residential, supported living or fostering placement for a named person. Throughout the contract, we will control best value using price increases based on the yearly level of inflation decided by the Place Directorate. We will also monitor best value by using the care funding calculator during the care-plan-review process or at up to intervals of four years (whichever happens first). After doing the calculation, we must formally record all future negotiations.

- If the services to be provided relate to renewing a contract for providing residential accommodation, care, education or arrangements under section 28BB of the Health Services Act 1977 (or similar for buying goods or services for a recognised group of people who have special needs) and the relevant senior leadership team member believes the wellbeing of members of the recognised group would be affected if the goods or services were provided by someone other than the proposed provider. However, the senior leadership team member must be satisfied that the provider has the skills or experience needed to provide that service or goods and that the cost of the goods or services is reasonable and represents best value in all the circumstances.
- If the services to be provided relate to renewing a contract for providing residential accommodation, care, education, fostering or arrangements under the Health Services Act 2006 for buying services for a recognised group of individuals which is being provided by another public organisation. And:
 - 1 the wellbeing of members of the recognised group would be affected if the goods or services were provided by someone other than the proposed provider; or
 - 2 the services can more effectively be provided using a joint or associated contract with the provider, and the other public organisation want to renew the contract with the provider; and

the relevant senior leadership team member is satisfied that the supplier in question has the skills or experience needed to provide the goods or services and that the cost of the service is reasonable and represents best value in all the circumstances. **Exceptions which do not need you to fill in the request for waiver form (Annex 1 of these regulations)**

V8 We will grant an exception to these regulations and you will not need separate authorisation in the following circumstances.

- If you place an order with a single provider under an existing corporate contract or framework agreement.
- If you place an order through a buying consortium of which we are a member.
- As part of a partnering contract that involves a series of contracts with one provider.

- If any law says we must contract differently from these standing orders.
- If you place an order under an arrangement, of which we are a member that has gone through a competitive process which meets EU conditions, for example, Buying Solutions.
- For goods, work or services which must be provided by a public utility or a local authority other than us under their legal powers.

For office use only	
Value of the waiver	
Granted or refused	
B case	
Risk	
Date	
Note:	

Request for waiver (exception) form

Notes

- Please see the regulations on asking for waivers.
- **We must carry out a financial check in line with the council's Supplier Financial Appraisal Strategy (Annex 3).**
- No officer (including the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation) may approve a waiver that would mean we break the law or EU procurement law.
- You can make a request by email. You must make your request before the start of any procurement activity.
- You need to fill in and pass this form to the relevant officer authorised to sign and seal the contract or framework agreement, before you enter into any contract or framework agreement.

You still need to keep to certain EU directives even if we do grant a waiver. Please ask for the advice of a procurement advisor for the following procurements.

- Part-B services (for example, education, social services and health) and single-supplier procurements (regulation 14) that are over the EU limit are only partly exempt from EU procurement law.
- A copy of the filled-in waiver form signed by everyone involved should be placed on the contract file and a copy must be sent to Staffordshire Procurement for filing on our waiver database. Send it to: alison.morgan@staffordshire.gov.uk.
- If your request is for a contract over £100,000 (not including VAT), you must send it to the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation for approval.

- This request must not be filled in or signed by any individual who has a direct or indirect interest in the request.

		Add the information here
1	Title of the contract or framework agreement	
2	Description of goods, work or services	
3	Name of proposed provider, if you know it	
4	Length and value of contract	
4a	<p>Length of the contract or framework agreement (include initial term and any options to extend)</p> <p>Note</p> <p>A framework agreement should not generally be for more than four years.</p> years
4b	If the contract or agreement lasts for more than four years, you need to provide justification for the extended period.	
4c	If the proposed contract has been renewed or extended previously with the same provider or group of companies, please show this. (This may affect the total value of the contract.)	



		Add the information here
4d	Have there been any previous waivers for this contract?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the date and value of the contract; • the dates and values of any previous waivers and any limits attached to previous waivers; and • the value of this waiver request.
4e	Total value (not including VAT) of the proposed contract or agreement. This will include any amounts shown in 4d total value over the full length of the contract including any extension period. Note Include all other expected matters such as maintenance support, licences, training, expenses and so on.	
4f	If you cannot give a value, please provide a brief explanation.	
5	Budget	
5a	Is there a budget available for the total value of the contract?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5b	If <input type="checkbox"/> No, where is the funding coming from?	

		Add the information here
5c	Are there conditions attached to the funding?	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </div> If <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, include a brief summary of the funding conditions.
6	Evidence of value for money Note If you are not carrying out a formal tendering process, you must give evidence of value for money.	Details of value for money:
7	EU limits Is the contract over any EU limits? EU limits in January 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work of £3.9 million or more • Goods and services of £156,442 or more 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </div> If <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, fill in point 13.
8	Procurement route If the contract is over £100,000 (not including VAT), a procurement advisor must sign confirmation that there is not another more suitable procurement route.	Procurement Advisor: Signature Name Title
9	Reason for request Give a brief description of why you want the waiver. Note We tend to presume that all contracts and framework agreements will be formally tendered. If this is not the case, you must explain the reasons along with the actual procurement route you will use.	

		Add the information here
10	Risks	
10a	<p>Give details of any significant risks, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to standard contract clauses (legal); • CRB disclosures (HR); • non-standard insurance limits (public liability, employers' liability and professional indemnity insurance); • financial checks which reveal significant risk; and • others (please give details). 	
10b	Why are we taking on any significant risks?	
11	<p>Other information</p> <p>Other relevant information (if this applies)</p>	
12	<p>Exit plan</p> <p>What are the plans for providing goods, work or services at the end of the contract, for example, the need to re-tender or is this a one-off project?</p>	

Contracts over the EU limits		
13	Does the request for waiver fall within one of the following categories? Contract for:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Note If <input type="checkbox"/> No, we will probably refuse the request for waiver if the contract is over the EU limit.
a	buying or developing material for broadcasting	
b	arbitration or conciliation services	
c	financial services in connection with issuing, buying, selling or transferring securities	
d	central bank services	
e	employment and other contracts of service	
f	research and development services, unless only for our benefit and paid for by us	
g	services, where we have the exclusive right to provide the service	
h	EU Services Directive Part B Service	
i	EU Regulation 14 exemption	

Authorising officer request

14	<p>Only the authorised officer can fill this in</p> <p>I confirm that the information set out above is correct.</p> <p>Your signature:</p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Post:</p> <p>Phone:.....</p> <p>Date:.....</p> <p>(Either type your name or use your signature.)</p>	
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Authorisation by the Service Director

For contracts over £100,000, you must also get authorisation from the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.

15		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused	
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16	<p>Comments and restrictions, limits on approval or reasons for refusal (if any)</p>	
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17	<p>Signature</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Post or title</p> <p>Date</p> <p>(typed name or email signature)</p>
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18		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused	
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19	<p>Comments and restrictions, limits on approval or reasons for refusal (if any)</p>	
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20	<p>Name or signature</p> <p>Post or title</p> <p>Date</p> <p>(typed name or email signature)</p>
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Scheme of delegation – sub-delegation scheme for procurement

Introduction

This scheme sets out the level and scope of delegated authority for post holders within a portfolio or section to carry out the duties and authorities given to the senior leadership team member under the formal delegation scheme.

Note

- 1 Depending on a few specific exceptions, a delegation will be given to a post holder identified by their relevant salary scale and position in a band or level set out in the table below.
- 2 Depending on any restrictions set out in the table or a personal exclusion, each officer within a band or level has authority to carry out all the delegations appropriate to that band or level.
- 3 Unless there is a specific exemption or restriction, an officer at a higher band will have authority to carry out all the delegated authority of officers at a lower band.
- 4 Any other delegation must be in writing and a copy given to the officer. A record must also be kept within each portfolio.
- 5 Any officer may have their delegated authority suspended, removed or limited (a personal exclusion). For example, this may include induction periods to allow for training and development or if a senior leadership team member wants to carry out tighter monitoring of how powers are being used. (This is not considered as a disciplinary matter.)
- 6 Any officer using delegated authority must keep to our integrity policy and local rules together with any relevant financial regulations.
- 7 Any officer using delegated authority may be asked to produce written confirmation of their authority. A reference to the Published Scheme of Delegation or a signed copy of the specific written authority will be enough.
- 8 Each officer using delegated authority is responsible for making sure they have the authority to carry out the function and that they keep to any restrictions or exemptions.

Table of delegation

Band	Definition (Post or scale point included)
A	Senior leadership team member
B	Post graded 15 and 16
C	Post graded 12 to 14
D	Any post graded 9 to 11
E	Any post graded 8
F	Other post designated by name to carry out a particular delegated power.

P No	Sub-delegation (action or issue)	Delegation band	Restrictions and conditions
	General note		<p>Any action using delegated authority must keep to the procurement regulations</p> <p>For any contract worth more than £100,000, you must get advice from a procurement advisor.</p> <p>The word contract also refers to framework agreements.</p> <p>For all ICT procurement, you must work with an ICT procurement advisor to make sure all orders are placed through Staffordshire ICT.</p>
1	Waivers and business-case decisions		
a	Granting an exemption (waiver) to procurement regulations – with a contract value under £100,000	B	<p>You must keep a record of the waiver – see standard form (on website).</p> <p>Only ICT-approved staff can grant an exemption (waiver) to procurement regulations (with a contract value under £100,000) and sign contracts for ICT-related goods and services.</p> <p>The waiver request must be signed by a procurement advisor before you apply</p>
b	Granting an exemption (waiver) to procurement regulations – with a contract value of more than £100,000	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation only - No waiver may be granted if it will break EU procurement rules - The waiver request must be signed by a procurement advisor before you apply.
c	Awarding a contract lasting more than four years	B	You must consult a procurement advisor. They may refer the matter for legal advice.

d	Authority to change the terms and conditions of a contract, or to accept any providers' terms and conditions	C	You must consult the Director of Law and Democracy. You must carry out risk assessments on any changes.
2	Procurement method to use		
a	Decision not to use our framework agreement or contract	B	You must consult a procurement advisor and the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation.
b	Authority to agree evaluation criteria for contracts	C	For contracts over £100,000, you must involve a procurement advisor and you must keep to EU procurement rules.
c	Authority to carry out an e-auction or e-tender	C	You must consult a procurement advisor.
d	Authority to enter into joint purchasing arrangements (with another public organisation)	C	You must consult a procurement advisor.
e	Authority to use the competitive dialogue procedure (EU tenders)	C	You must consult the Director of Law and Democracy (or someone they choose).
f	Authority to carry out clarification or negotiation after a tender	D	You must consult a procurement advisor. Unless you are using the negotiated route, negotiations cannot take place if they break EU procurement rules.
g	Authority to move from the restricted procedure for EU contracts to the negotiated procedure	C	You must consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation (or someone they choose).

3	Tender and acceptance		
a	Authority to accept a variant bid tender	C	You must consult a procurement advisor, and must not break EU procurement rules.
b	Authority to witness the opening of tenders	E or F	As long as they are not involved in the procurement process.
c	Authority to accept most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) or lowest-priced tender and to award a contract	B C	You must consult a procurement advisor. And, keep a record of the scoring method. Head of Categories in Staffordshire Procurement only if the Head of Procurement is not available.
d	Authorisation to give the briefing to unsuccessful companies who provided tenders (other than standard information)	D	Procurement officer See the guidance on debriefing. You must consult a procurement advisor. You must also not discuss commercially sensitive information.
4	CRB		
a	Authority to rule that CRB clearance is not needed for providers on a contract	B	You must complete the risk-assessment process and keep a record. If you are in doubt or you have identified a risk, you must consult the Director or Law and Democracy (or someone they choose).

5 Signing and sealing			
a	Signing contracts (within your own portfolio) If it is an ICT procurement, see 5c.	B	Band 15 or 16 officers within the portfolio The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation (or someone they choose) may sign any contract no matter what portfolio they are from. This does not include contracts for land and contracts under seal.
b	Signing contracts (not within your own portfolio)	B	The Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation (or someone they choose) may sign any contract no matter what the value. If a contract needs to be signed by two senior leadership team members (for example, PFI contracts), one must be Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation (or someone they have chosen).
c	Signing ICT contracts		All ICT-related contracts must be signed in line with the ICT sub-scheme of delegation for procurement.
d	Authority to decide which contracts are under seal	B	Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation only
e	Sealing contracts and deeds	C	Authorised officers in Law and Democracy only (Specific exemptions agreed by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation apply to certain agreements.)
f	Choosing and maintaining approved contract lists	C	(Not including deletions)
g	Deleting a provider from an approved contractors' list	B	You must consult the Director of Law and Democracy and record your reasons for the decision.

h	Authority to carry out an assignment or novation	B	A Procurement Advisor in consultation with the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation must sign and the reasons for this must be recorded.
6	Extending and ending contracts and price increases		
a	Authority to accept a price increase up to £15,000 in one year	D	This must be done in line with procurement regulations.
b	Authority to accept a price increase over £15,000 in one year	C	This must be done in line with procurement regulations.
c	Authority to extend a contract period	B	As above
d	Authority to serve a default notice	D	In consultation with the Director of Law and Democracy (or someone they choose).
e	Authority to end a contract	C	You must consult the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation (or someone they choose).
7	Purchasing cards and savings		
a	Approval for issuing a purchasing card (P-card)	D,E or F	Officers below band D must be authorised within portfolio.
b	Authorising P-card transactions	E or F	This must be the budget holder (or someone they choose).
c	Savings sign-off	D	A procurement advisor must do this with the relevant Joint Finance Unit (JFU) head, and client.

Supplier financial appraisal strategy

Aim

The aim of the supplier financial appraisal strategy is to reduce as far as possible the effect of a business failure on the most vulnerable in the community.

Principles

The strategy is based on:

- the need to help the procurement officer or lead commissioning manager make the right decision for all main critical contracts;
- promoting competition when buying goods, work, services and utilities;
- choosing the most suitable suppliers of goods, work, services and utilities based on a set of financial and market measures;
- the need to take account of the level of risk associated with the supply, service or supplier; and
- the ongoing assessment of the supplier's financial strength.

The main responsibilities

While the final decision to reject an applicant for financial reasons rests with the Director of Finance and Resources (in practice this decision is delegated to the relevant joint finance unit), the emphasis will be based on a partnership approach. This involves the procurement officer, lead commissioning manager and a representative from the relevant joint finance unit.

The procurement officer will gather financial information, in the first instance.

Internal Audit will monitor how we follow this strategy through their planned procurement audit assignments carried out each year.

Method

The following method applies for all contracts awarded using a tendering procedure or waiver.

For contracts with a value of **less than £100,000** and where the supply or service is not seen as a priority 1 critical supply, you do not need to carry out a financial appraisal before awarding a contract.

For contracts with a value over **£100,000 but less than £1 million** and where the supply or service is not seen as a priority 1 critical supply, the procurement officer and lead manager and relevant Joint Finance Unit will decide whether a financial appraisal is needed, before the contract is awarded.

The basic assessment involves four questions as shown below.

- a Is the type of supply or service being bought 'routinely' rather than as a one-off purchase?
- b Is the supply or service readily available from a number of other suppliers?
- c Can the supply or service be easily substituted?
- d Are contract payments only made once we have received the supply or service?

If you answer no to any of the four questions, you will normally carry out a financial appraisal using the same process and a choice of those factors (1 to 8) shown below.

The procurement officer, lead commissioning manager and a representative from the relevant joint finance unit will decide on the need to carry out a financial appraisal for each year of the contract.

We will carry out detailed financial appraisals:

- for all tendering exercises **over £1 million**; or
- if the supply or service is a priority 1 critical supply.

Pre-contract award

Factors to be discussed

- 1 We will take account of output from financial checks carried out using the financial assessors N2Check, Dunn & Bradstreet and Experian (based on those accounts lodged with Companies House).
- 2 We will analyse the latest set of accounts (if not lodged with Companies House).
- 3 We will carry out financial checks on the parent company (if there is one).
- 4 We will award the contract value when compared to:
 - the recommended total yearly contract value as defined by N2Check;
 - the market standard of no more than 25% of turnover; and
 - the current total spending with the tender applicant.
- 5 In terms of the nature of the contract, we will look at:
 - the type of supply or service (for example, regular or one-off);
 - the extent of competition within the market (for example, how easy to source the contract); and
 - the payment terms (for example, payment in advance or payment once the goods or services are received).
- 6 We will also look at information from suppliers gathered through current arrangements for managing portfolios or from other sources.
- 7 We will check the movement in share prices (if this applies).
- 8 For sole traders and partnerships, we need to change certain factors. For example, we will replace factors 1 and 2 with the requirement for tender applicants to fill in a financial assessment in a format set by the Director of Finance and Resources. This will show certain information on trading accounts for the last three years. The assessment will automatically work out the average liquidity score.

Following on from the above, we will assess whether to reject the tender for financial reasons. Before we reject it, we will consider the need to get (where appropriate) a banker's reference or parent company guarantee. We will record and keep the result of this assessment (including the reasons behind it).

Post-contract award

In assessing the ongoing financial strength of suppliers, we will repeat the above process for each year of the contract within one month of the anniversary of the contract award date. This will help us manage contracts effectively.

Glossary of terms

Approved contractors list is a list of suitably accredited and qualified providers from which we ask for quotations or tenders without the need to advertise the procurement.

Buying Solutions is the online catalogue which is run by HM Government and provides a framework buying tool for local authorities and others in the public sector. The website address is online.buyingsolutions.gov.uk.

Competitive dialogue procedure is used when we cannot provide a precise specification and where there is scope to negotiate about what services companies can provide. The purpose of this procedure is to negotiate on the specification of the project and not on the price.

Consortium means an association of several business organisations who are legally bound together to work towards a commonly held aim. Or, it can mean two or more economic operators (UK Public Contract Regulations 2006).

Contract means any agreement where we agree to carry out or to buy or sell any goods, work, services or utilities for payment or otherwise.

Electronic procurement means procurement using the internet, including online e-auctions and buying portals on the internet. You can take advantage of reduced minimum time periods when you arrange your contracts under the EU procurement regime and send your documents electronically. You can get advice and guidance on this from a procurement advisor.

EU procurement regulations means the Public Contract Regulations 2006 together with relevant EU directives, case law and guidance issued.

Framework agreement means an agreement or other arrangement which sets the terms (in particular the price and, where appropriate, quality) under which the provider will enter into one or more contracts or a series of contracts with us. This may also be referred to as a call-off contract, a continuous contract or a standing offer.

Head of Procurement means the council's Head of Corporate Procurement in Finance and Resources Directorate.

'Lowest tender in price terms' for accepting a tender means either the lowest cost or, if the evaluation is not just based on price, the most economically advantageous tender score after an evaluation.

Open procedure This means an advert will be placed in OJEU and relevant press and trade journals. The tender will be open to anyone who shows an interest.

Procurement advisor is a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (MCIPS) or has an equivalent qualification or appropriate experience.

Procurement Board is the board made up of the Head of Procurement, the portfolio senior representatives, the Leader of the County Council and Member Procurement Champion.

Public organisation includes any organisation which may award a public contract under the Public Contract Regulations 2006.

Public services contract is one under which we employ a person to provide services. The EU Services Regulations divide services into two categories: Part-A services and Part-B services (see table below)

Public works contract is a contract to buy goods (not land or the product of an activity); or hire goods, whether or not we install them. Public works contract is a contract for carrying out work under which we employ a person to do the work.

Restricted procedure means an advert will be placed in OJEU, and the relevant press and trade journals. Organisations which express an interest will have to fill in a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ). We will evaluate the PQQs and produce a shortlist of suitable organisations which we will then invite to tender.

Senior leadership team (SLT) member is appointed under Section 11 of the Constitution. This includes the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Resources, Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation, Director of Place, Director of People, Director of Transformation and Strategy, Director of Customer Services and Communication and any other appropriate people authorised to carry out the duties shown in these regulations in line with delegations made by the SLT member under a Sub Scheme of Delegation approved by the Audit and Standards Committee.

'Signing' a contract includes arrangements for formally accepting a tender, if this is covered in the procurement regulations.

'Staffordshire compact' is an agreement between public-sector and third-sector organisations in Staffordshire which clarifies how they work together and the expectations of everyone involved. It encourages each sector to answer for their actions and to provide a resolution procedure.

Standstill period is the period of time between giving notice of our plan to award the contract and the confirmation of the award of the contract which is needed under the EU procurement regulations. This gives unsuccessful companies the chance to ask for a debriefing and to challenge an award of a contract.

'Supply' includes buying, leasing, hiring or renting goods or services or arranging any form of credit for them (this can also include when we do not pay anything for those goods or services).

'Tendering' means a formal procedure for getting written offers (tenders) for supply.

'Third sector' means non-governmental organisations that are driven by value and which mainly reinvest any profit to further social, environmental or cultural aims. The sector includes voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, faith groups, housing associations and co-operatives and mutuals.

'Value for money' is not the lowest price but the best combination of whole-life costs and quality to meet users' needs. You should always assess value for money over the whole life of the contract and you should take into account all costs and benefits to society as a whole including the environmental and social benefits and costs, not just those directly relevant to us. (OGC 2008).

Works are defined as including:

- building and civil engineering work;
- installing, for example, heating and electrical equipment or ICT equipment;
- carrying out work such as tiling and papering; and
- maintaining buildings.

We may also treat the following activities as a contract for **work**.

- A contract where we employ a provider to act as our agent when letting contracts.

An agreement where a developer constructs a building on their own land (according to our needs) and then transfers the land and structure to us at a later date.

Part A and part B services

Part A services are listed in Part A of the Schedule I to the EU Services Regulations. These include the following.

Maintaining and repairing vehicles and equipment.	Accounting, auditing and book-keeping services.
Transport by land, including armoured car and courier services but not transporting mail and transport by rail.	Market research and public-opinion polling services.
Transport by air but not transporting mail.	Advertising services.
Transporting mail by land, other than by rail or air.	Architectural services.
Telecommunications services.	Computer and related services.
Financial services such as: a insurance services; and b banking and investment services.	Management consultancy services and related services, but not arbitration and conciliation services.
Building-cleaning services on a fee or contract basis.	Publishing and printing services on a fee or contract basis.
Research and development if the benefits only apply to us.	Sewerage and refuse disposal service and sanitation and similar services.

Part B services are covered by limited conditions – rules on technical specifications, contract award notices and providing statistical reports. Part B services are all those services set out in Part B of Schedule I to the EU Services Regulations. They include all those services that fall outside of Part A. Part B services include the following.

Education and vocational health services.	Personnel placement and supply services.
Health and social services.	Investigation and security services, other than armoured car services.
Recreational, cultural and sporting services.	Hotel and restaurant services.
Supporting and other transport services.	Transport by rail.
Legal services.	Transport by water.

If a contract involves both Part A and Part B services, it is classed based on the service that has the greatest value of the different parts of the contract.