

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 20 January 2016

Present: Philip Atkins (Chairman), Ben Adams, Mike Lawrence, Mark Winnington and Alan White.

Cabinet Support Members in attendance - Mark Deaville, Gill Heath and Mark Sutton.

Also in attendance - Chris Cooke and John Taylor

Apologies for absence: Ian Parry

PART ONE

56. Decision notice of the meeting held on 16 December 2015

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015 be approved.

57. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the County Council giving an update on a range of issues including the ongoing work to manage the County's ageing population and growing demand for services; the financial pressures facing the Council resulting in the need to find different ways of working; and how the public sector needed to make Staffordshire's £7 billion public purse work even harder; be noted.

58. Sportshire: Progress and Future Aspirations



"In 2015 Staffordshire really put its name on the map as a top location as a sporting visitor destination. We want to build on those successes – bringing more visitors into the county for the events; spending money, boosting local business and job creation and equally as importantly leaving a legacy of improved fitness and healthy lifestyles for Staffordshire people. We have many natural attributes which make us a leading area for sports and leisure. Attracting more visitors and staging prominent events can only be good for Staffordshire."

Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport


Reasons for the Decision – To review the impact of the County Council's major events programme to date and to consider the refreshed 2016-2020 Sportshire strategy.

Decision – (a) That the refreshed Sportshire strategy (as described in Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

(b) That the economic and social impact of the Sportshire major events programme to date be noted.

(c) That the proposals to tender for the 2017 UK Corporate Games be approved and that a feasibility study be conducted to explore the merits of an in-house events programme.

59. Treasury Management, Annual Investment and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategies 2016/17

	<p>“We are running an efficient county council which means we’re making every pound count for Staffordshire residents. We will continue to invest carefully and use our cash reserves rather than borrowing more, demonstrating sound financial management in what remain challenging times for local government.”</p> <p>Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – The Local Government Act 2003 requires a local authority to have regard to the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years to ensure that its capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Prudential Indicators are approved as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The Treasury Management Strategy is a key element of the MTFS as the planned capital expenditure programme drives the borrowing required.

Decision – (a) That, in accordance with the regulations, it be recommended to the County Council, at its meeting on the 17 March 2016, that the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) 2016/17 (detailed in paragraphs 24 to 67 and Appendices 2 and 4 of the report) be adopted.

(b) That, as required by guidance, the following policies (as described in paragraphs 91 to 100 to the report) be approved;

- i) reviewing the strategy;
- ii) the use of external advisers;
- iii) investment management training; and
- iv) the use of financial derivatives.

(c) That the proposed borrowing strategy for the 2016/17 financial year comprising:


- the use of cash in lieu of borrowing required in 2016/17;
- the use of cash to repay loans early, subject to market conditions;
- as a contingency the ability to borrow new loans as a result of;
 - unexpected changes in the capital programme;
 - a reduction in the level of cash balances; or
 - the repayment of LOBO’s;
- a forward borrowing strategy that will not be used in 2016/17; and

- a loan rescheduling strategy that is unlimited where this re-balances risk,
- The above to operate within the prudential limits set out in Appendix 5 to the report and in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues with respect to early loan repayment, raising new loans and loan rescheduling;

be approved.

(d) That, in accordance with the regulations, it also be recommended to the County Council that the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy 2016/17 (as summarised in paragraphs 101 to 103; and as set out in full at Appendix 8 to the report), be adopted.



60. Dove First School: Outcome of Consultation on a Change from Community School to Church of England Voluntary Controlled (VC) School

	<p>“Schools benefit tremendously from working together and forming links with their peers. Dove First is already a ‘good’ school as rated by Ofsted, and this can only be enhanced by closer ties with the Lichfield Diocese and access to the additional support they can offer.</p> <p>Increasingly our schools are becoming self-supporting, controlling their own destiny and forming strong partnerships and networks. I am pleased that the school want to form strong partnerships with the Diocese and neighbouring church schools. This conversion marks a new chapter in the school’s history, one which will eventually see them forge closer ties with Ryecroft, and take advantage of a brand new building with excellent facilities.”</p> <p>Ben Adams, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the responses received and to determine whether to progress the proposal to publish a formal statutory proposal to close Dove First School linked with a proposal from the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education that the school opens as a new Church of England voluntary controlled (VC) school on 1 September 2016.

Decision – That the publication of a statutory proposal to close Dove First School on 31 August 2016 be approved subject to a linked proposal from the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education to open the school as a Church of England voluntary controlled (VC) school on 1 September 2016.

61. Quarter 3, Performance Report: October - December 2015

	<p>“As a county council we want to help people in Staffordshire get the best start in life, get a good education, get better jobs and lead healthy and independent lives for as long as possible.</p> <p>It is therefore good to hear that the percentage of pupils getting five or more GCSEs at Grade C or above continues to be above the national average and once again the number of people claiming Job Seeker’s Allowance continues to be the lowest since records began more than 20 years ago.</p> <p>On top of this new schemes to further shape growth such the upgrade of the A50 to the West of Uttoxeter and the Liberty Park development are taking shape this spring.”</p> <p>Philip Atkins, Leader of the County Council.</p>
	<p>“We continue to work hard to deliver a fair and balanced budget against a backdrop of managing increasing pressures around caring for a growing ageing population.</p> <p>As a county council we want to work even closer with our partners to ensure we focus even more on prevention and providing greater community health support.”</p> <p>Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues</p>

Reasons for the Decision – To provide Cabinet with an overview of the county council’s performance (including the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy) and the progress being made in delivering the three priority outcomes –

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

Decision – That the report be received.

62. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers

Decision – That the following decisions taken by Cabinet Members under delegated powers be noted:

Leader of the Council	In approving that the County Council becomes the Accountable Body for funding allocated to the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues	In approving the granting of a lease of the former Exley Children's Centre, Wilnecote Lane, Belgrave, Tamworth.
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues	In approving the sale of Plot G (2) at i54, South Staffordshire
Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport	In approving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The acceptance of the Local Growth Deal investment from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) for the ground remediation within zone A at the Kingswood Lakeside development. (ii) The investment of part of the money from the GBSLEP into the development for First Choice Catering Spares Ltd. (iii) The investment of part of the money from the GBSLEP into the wider Kingswood Lakeside development.
Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills	In approving the introduction of a contributions policy with effect from 1 January 2016 under which schools will be required to make a financial contribution towards the costs incurred by the Local Authority when they convert to become an academy.

63. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 17 February to 15 June 2016, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Third Quarter Budget Monitoring Report	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Tourism Strategy, 2016- 2018	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Fourth Quarter Budget Monitoring Report	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Quarter 4, 2015/16 Performance Report	Name: Lauren Jackson Tel: (01785) 854561

All Saints CE(VC) Infant School, Ranton. Proposed closure of the school

Name: Andrew Marsden
Tel: (01785) 278787

64. Exclusion of the Public

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

PART TWO

65. The Future Business Model for the Shugborough Estate (Exemption paragraph 3)



“The Shugborough estate is a valued and important part of Staffordshire’s heritage. During 2015 we began detailed discussions with the National Trust to facilitate the surrender of the lease and we have now agreed in principle that the county council does surrender the lease and the management and delivery of the Shugborough Estate returns to the National Trust on 31st October 2016.

Surrendering the lease will secure the future of the Shugborough Estate for the people of Staffordshire and it will ensure the Estate receives appropriate levels of investment which will secure its reputation as a flagship visitor attraction, which adds real value to the local economy.”

Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport



“This agreement will save £35m of taxpayers’ money over the next 50 years. It will enable us to invest more in supporting communities to be active and independent, and caring for the most vulnerable in society.

This agreement will bring great benefits for the Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire residents and the National Trust; it is also the best option to secure the future of the Shugborough Estate.”

Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the outcome of the County Council’s negotiations with the National Trust in respect of the proposed surrender of the lease of the Shugborough Estate.

Decision – (a) That Staffordshire County Council surrenders the lease made between the National Trust and Staffordshire County Council dated 5th May 1966 (“Lease”) which they currently hold on the Shugborough Estate.

(b) That to effect the surrender, Staffordshire County Council:

- (i) Makes a payment of £20.5 million pounds (net of VAT), in three equal parts (£6.83million pounds), over three years to the National Trust.
- (ii) Transfers the legal estate of 26 hectares of land (shown coloured yellow on Appendix C to the report) to the National Trust and enter into an Asset Transfer Agreement with the National Trust to transfer the relevant assets from Staffordshire County Council to the National Trust.
- (iii) Grants a right of first refusal to the National Trust for a period of 50 years from the date of the surrender for the National Trust to purchase the land shown edged green (on Appendix D to the report) at a price to be agreed if Staffordshire County Council ever decides to sell or lease all or part of the land shown edged green.

(c) That Staffordshire County Council agrees to enter into two leases for the Walled Garden and the County Museum on terms to be agreed.

(d) That the final decision on the above be delegated to the Cabinet Members for Economy, Environment and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues in conjunction with the Director for Finance and Resources.

(e) That Staffordshire County Council agrees to work in partnership with the National Trust to ensure a smooth transition of the Shugborough Estate by November 2016.

(f) That once the proposals have been approved by the National Trust Board, the report considered by Cabinet be made publically available.

Philip Atkins
Leader of the County Council