

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 8 January 2020

Present: Philip Atkins, OBE (Chairman), Helen Fisher, Mike Sutherland, Mark Sutton, Alan White, Philip White and Mark Winnington,

Cabinet Support Members in attendance - Gill Burnett, Bryan Jones, Jonathan Price, and Conor Wileman.

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins.

Apologies for absence: Mark Deaville and Gill Heath.

PART ONE

80. Decision notice of the meeting held on 18 December 2019

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019 be approved.

81. Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 - 2025



“The county council is entering 2020 in good shape – despite the huge challenges everyone in local government continues to face. We are leaner, working smarter and are more focused than ever to do whatever it takes to make the lives of people in Staffordshire more rewarding.

In 2020/2021 we have set out a plan which will allow us to protect increasing numbers of people eligible for care, but still invest in growing our economy and increasing opportunities for Staffordshire families.

The Prime Minister has said he wants to do more for the North and for the Midlands and, together with our MPs, we will continue to lobby to make this happen and also to press for a long-term solution to key areas such as the funding of care.”

Philip Atkins, Leader of the Council



“In the last five years we have faced unprecedented financial challenges – with £62 million to save to stand even a chance of balancing our books – something we legally must do. The fact that we are on track to achieve this is nothing short of remarkable, but the challenges and decisions have been tough and remain so.

The pressures on care in particular are not only increasing but are also worryingly unpredictable making it very

	<p>difficult to manage costs. That's why it is hugely important that in terms of national funding for care, for children with special educational needs and for our declining roads – that 2020 is the year that we get this done.”</p> <p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To provide Cabinet with an update on the Strategic Plan which explains the Council’s vision of what it hopes to achieve for Staffordshire in the next four years and the ways the Authority will work with residents, communities, businesses and partners to make this a reality; and also the accompanying Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which provides details of how the Council’s operations will be funded over the five year period 2020-2025.

Decision – (a) That, in respect of the Strategic Plan:

(i) The progress made regarding the update of the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 be noted.

(b) That, in respect of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020-25 and the 2020/21 revenue budget:

(i) the updates to the financial plans, as set out in the report, be noted;

(ii) the commitment to continue to deliver the cost reduction programme, as set out in Appendices 4a – 4d to the report, be endorsed;

(iii) the risks associated with these planned cost reductions, as set out in the report, be noted and that the Senior Leadership be requested to undertake the appropriate engagement arrangements required to deliver the cost reductions;

(iv) the draft revenue budget for 2020/21 be noted;

(v) it be noted that the Cabinet is to receive a further report later this month, once the details of the Local Government Finance Settlement are known, to recommend a Revenue Budget, MTFS and Council Tax to full council in February; and

(vi) the Corporate Review Committee be requested to scrutinise the proposed pressures and cost reduction options against the principles of a good and balanced budget.

**Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the Council**