

## **Statement of the Leader of the Council**

### **1. Award of the Contract for Waste Transfer Station Facilities and Associated Services for East Staffordshire**

The Cabinet have approved arrangements for the procurement of waste transfer facilities to which East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) will deliver both General Waste and Recyclable Waste, and from where the waste will be transferred to various treatment facilities.

*(Cabinet – 19 February 2020)*

### **2. Award of Framework Agreements**

The Cabinet have approved arrangements to procure the following goods and services through multi-provider Framework Agreement:

- (i) The installation of PVC-u Windows, aluminium doors and ancillary work to commence on 1 May 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- (ii) Minor works construction / mechanical heating services / electrical services to commence on 1 May 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- (iii) Office Furniture/Educational Furniture/Library Furniture, for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022.

*(Cabinet – 19 February 2020)*

### **3. Award Approval for the Dynamic Purchasing System for the Provision of Local Service Transport within Staffordshire**

The Cabinet have approved arrangements to facilitate a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the period of 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2039 to be able to procure Local Bus Services as and when required.

*(Cabinet – 19 February 2020)*

### **4. Future Model of Carers Services**

‘All Together for Carers’: a Carers Strategy for Staffordshire was jointly developed by Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and the five Staffordshire CCGs. The Strategy includes a commitment to review carers services to ensure delivery of the seven priorities identified within the strategy. In November 2019, Stakeholders were engaged with in order to gain an understanding of what does and what does not work well within the current service/pathway and what is important to them from a future carers service.

The Feedback from this engagement has been taken into account to develop a future model for carers services and evaluate options for providing this model. The Cabinet have approved their preferred option which provides for the contact point,

and assessment and support planning to be directly provided by the Council and Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT), and for the co-ordination of preventative support in the community through a 'carers well-being partnership' to be commissioned externally.

*(Cabinet – 19 February 2020)*

## **5. Staffordshire Library Service 2020-2025**

The Cabinet have received an update on Staffordshire County Council's library offer together with proposals for the future direction and strategy for Staffordshire's Library Service 2020-2025. They have noted that there are no proposals to transfer any further libraries to community management. However, to ensure the sustainability of the current model, Cabinet have approved a support package for the community managed library model which will enable the sustainability of the Community Managed Libraries and support their work within communities.

*(Cabinet – 19 February 2020)*

## **6. HS2 - Trent Sow Parklands and Cannock Chase AONB Design and Environmental Enhancement Plan**

During the passage of the HS2 Bill through the House of Commons, the County Council petitioned on this matter, alongside the National Trust and others. These petitions secured assurances that the Trent-Sow Parklands and Cannock Chase AONB HS2 Group (the Review Group) would be established. The group contains representatives from:

- HS2 Ltd
- Staffordshire County Council
- Cannock Chase AONB
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Stafford Borough Council
- Canal and Rivers Trust
- Inland Waterways

The Review Group has two functions:

- (i) To work together to develop a set of general and detailed design principles that will be used as guidance by HS2 and its contractors to inform the design of the scheme in order to create a locally responsive, high quality design through this important and environmentally sensitive landscape; and
- (ii) To develop and propose a package of environmental enhancements, which go beyond the mitigation measures provided as part of the Scheme. These will be outside Act limits but within a defined Project Area. A budget of up to £1.5m has been made available for the Review Group to spend on enhancement projects.

The Cabinet has noted and endorsed the design principles developed by the Review Group to help mitigate the impacts of HS2 on protected landscapes in the project area.

*(Cabinet – 19 February 2020)*

## **7. Integrated Performance Report 2019/20 - Quarter 3**

The Cabinet have considered an overview of the County Council's progress, performance and financial position in delivering against the Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan. They have noted that at the end of Quarter 3, the overall assessment on Staffordshire County Council's performance and financial position is Amber. Particular areas of risk are in Adult Social Care (mainly due to the rise in demand and prices for residential and nursing care) and Children's and Families (mainly due to higher expenditure on Looked After Children (LAC) in independent sector placements).

The latest revenue forecast outturn shows a forecast overspend of £4.360m (0.9%), compared to the forecast overspend of £4.268m (0.9%) at Quarter 2.

The latest capital outturn projection is £123.0m, compared to the quarter 2 position of £126.1m, a decrease of 2.4%. This decrease is mainly due to rephasing of £3.1m for the Greenwood House project.

*(Cabinet – 19 February 2020)*

## **8. Coronavirus**

The coronavirus has dominated the news since we last met, with the first cases in Staffordshire now also reported.

Although the number of cases remains low in terms of the overall population of Staffordshire, as a county council we are working with partners to ensure we are prepared to manage any emerging risks.

It is important that as a council our actions and our communications remain proportionate to the current risk and follows the national advice given by Public Health England and the Department of Health

The easiest and most effective way to reduce the risk of spreading the virus is by following the well-publicised advice on good hygiene. Wash your hands several times a day for twenty seconds and when you arrive at work or home, and if you use a tissue, catch it, bin it, kill it.

## **9. HS2**

From the outset as a county council while opposing HS2, we have also been committed to getting the best deal for Staffordshire if HS2 gained Parliamentary approval, and our resolve to achieve this remains as strong and as firm as ever.

Following the Government's decision to press ahead with HS2, we are continuing to lobby to ensure Staffordshire's county and communities get a fair deal, the impact on our countryside is minimised and the county as a whole shares in any economic benefits.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Transport have both given their verbal and written support to the Handsacre Link which will economically benefit the people of Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Macclesfield.

There will be a motion to council shortly setting out our updated position and for the county council the hard work continues.

## **10. School Places**

There was good news for Staffordshire families this month, with nine out of ten parents being allocated their first choice of secondary school for their child.

Thanks to good planning and a proactive approach here in Staffordshire we have an excellent track record of achieving well above the national average for first preferences, and for top three preferences as a whole.

## **11. New Recycling Campaign**

With tackling climate change high on the council agenda, a new campaign "Plastic Bottles: Recycle One and All" has been launched to encourage us all to recycle more plastic.

The campaign aims to recycle almost 46 million bottles this year, 25% of the bottles that are currently thrown out.

While the target is ambitious, if we all do our bit in the county it is more than achievable. Recycling just one extra bottle a week is a small action for each of us, but together it can make a real difference.

## **12. Budget**

Now that the Chancellor has delivered his budget, we are looking at the detailed implications for Staffordshire, for the council, for families and businesses.

While it is always great to see hard-working families have a little extra money in their pockets and businesses get extra benefits to help them grow, for the county council our priorities remain to secure long-term funding for adult and children's care, SEND and for maintaining our huge highway network in particular.