

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 18 November 2020

Present: Mark Deaville, Julia Jessel, Johnny McMahon, Jonathan Price, Mike Sutherland, Mark Sutton, Alan White (Chairman), David Williams and Victoria Wilson.

Cabinet Support Member in attendance - Gill Burnett

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins

Apologies for absence: Philip White

PART ONE

42. Decision notice of the meeting held on 21 October 2020

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 21 October 2020 be approved.

43. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including cases of Covid-19 stabilising in parts of Staffordshire; the ramping up of lateral flow testing capability in Staffordshire which will give a result in less than an hour; plans for the rolling out of vaccines in Staffordshire once they become available; the Council's continued investment in business parks like i54 South Staffordshire, in road improvements such as Stafford Western Access, and Lichfield Southern Bypass, to attract new investment; the virtual Midlands UK Forum for Growth where leaders will discuss how Staffordshire can contribute to sustainable economic growth and prosperity across the Midlands; and important changes in the Council's work to support children and families; be noted.

44. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 4 November 2020

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 4 November 2020 be received.

45. Update from COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Reasons for the Decision – To consider an update from the COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board including the Council's continuing efforts to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19; the rapid increase in the number of cases of Covid-19 in Staffordshire at the end of October and its impact on the NHS, compounded by staff shortages due to sickness and/or self-isolation; the profound effect of the ongoing restrictions on physical and mental well-being and the economy including rising levels of obesity and poor diet; the Council's management of incidents in a range of settings, including care providers, schools and workplaces; improvements to the availability of testing, with more NHS Test and Trace facilities available, complemented by a

Community Testing team at a range of sites across the county and plans to roll out rapid testing.

The Cabinet were also informed that the Department for Work and Pensions had announced a significant package of extra financial support for those most in need of help with the cost of food, energy and water bills, and other associated costs this winter. The £170 million COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme would be available from December until the 31 March 2021, with the County Council receiving just over £2.2m to support people in Staffordshire. At least 80% of the total funding would be ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other types of households, including individuals. For Staffordshire this equated to £1.77 million for children and £440,000 for adults.

Decision – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Mark Sutton, to decide the eligibility criteria for distribution of the Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme, and to take all other decisions precedent and subsequent thereto, to ensure that this support gets to those who need it as quickly as possible.

46. Adult Learning Disability 2022 Community Offer: Update on Learning Disability Services Directly Provided by Staffordshire County Council



“COVID-19 has highlighted the need for our services for adults with learning disabilities to change and adapt. The pandemic has had significant consequences for the way the services operate and has allowed us to innovate and find new ways of supporting people.

We need to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of adults with learning disabilities, and that the care we offer is sustainable in the long-term. People don't want services, they want a life, and we will do everything we can to ensure they are able to access the support they need to fulfil this ambition.”

Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing

Reasons for the Decision – To review proposals for the future of adult learning disability services directly provided by Staffordshire County Council to ensure they will remain appropriate post COVID-19; and to consider proposals to develop a single integrated Adult Learning Disability service and extend the range of support offered for people in their homes and communities as well as continuing to provide care for people during the day and overnight, offering people a better experience.

Decision – (a) That the progress with commissioning of supported living services from the independent market to replace the residential service provided by the Council at Greenfields House in Staffordshire Moorlands and the care provided by the Council at Horninglow Bungalows in East Staffordshire be noted.

- (b) That the progress of redevelopment of residential care in Lichfield be noted.
- (c) That the progress of refurbishment of Wilmott Drive to provide residential replacement care alongside specialist day opportunities in Newcastle-under-Lyme be noted.
- (d) That an options analysis be undertaken for future provision of residential replacement care in Staffordshire, with results being presented to Cabinet in the first quarter of 2021.
- (e) That an extension to the current contractual arrangements for residential replacement care in Cannock and East Staffordshire with the current contracted provider be approved.
- (f) That authority be delegated to the Director for Health and Social Care to extend the contractual arrangements for the provision of residential replacement care services.
- (g) That the potential expansion of specialist day opportunities and residential replacement care to offer a greater range of support for people in their homes and communities as part of a single integrated service be endorsed, and that a business case be developed and service users, carers and stakeholders be engaged in the codesign of a service model.

47. Support Provided to Business Start-ups in Staffordshire

	<p>“Staffordshire is one of the best places in the UK to set up and grow a business and we want to encourage more of our citizens to make their business ideas a reality by providing high quality and accessible support.</p> <p>Start-ups and SMEs employ thousands of people in Staffordshire and support for them forms part of our economic recovery plan in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have excellent survival rates for new businesses in the county and we recognise that during recessions more people embark on setting one up. As a county council we have already invested £360,000 in our start-up scheme. This will be enhanced by a new Start Up Loans Scheme, a Student Start Up Scheme and the creation of a digital Start Up Prospectus for potential new business in Staffordshire.</p> <p>We continue to work with the LEP and other partners to increase start-ups across the county and put additional support programmes in place where there may be gaps in national provision”.</p> <p>Philip White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the support provided to Business Start-ups in Staffordshire including proposals for a new Start Up Loans Scheme, a Student Start Up Scheme and the creation of a digital Start Up Prospectus for potential new business in Staffordshire.


Decision – (a) That the various programmes available to residents across the County interested in starting their own business be supported

(b) That the production of an electronic Start Up Prospectus be supported with the final document being signed off by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills.

(c) That the progress being made to identify the County Council properties that could be used as incubation space in an Enterprise Quarter for Start-Up's be noted, and that any final business case be agreed through Property Sub-Committee.

(d) That the funding and delivery of a student start-up programme targeted at young people in the final year of further education with aspirations to progress into self-employment for an initial 3 years with the potential to extend for a further 2 years, as detailed in the report, be agreed.

48. Half Yearly Treasury Management Report for the Period Ended 30 September 2020

	<p>“The UK economy continues to face an uncertain environment in 2020/21, with Brexit negotiations and the impacts of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. The County Council adheres to its Treasury Management Policy of using internal cash balances instead of borrowing money. This has delivered significant savings for taxpayers, as the infrastructure to deliver more skilled, better-paid jobs is being funded at a lower cost.”</p>
	<p>Mike Sutherland, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Matters</p>

Reasons for the Decision – To consider a summary of the Council's borrowing and investment activities during the first six months of the year.

Decision – (a) That the treasury management activities for the half-year ended 30 September 2020 be noted.

(b) That the Prudential Indicators (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) be noted and that the increase to the Upper Limit of variable rate interest exposure (as detailed in paragraph 42 of the report) be agreed.

49. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers

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

Cabinet Member	Decision
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills	In approving the development of a specific Staffordshire business start-up interest-free loan pilot scheme targeted at individuals at risk of or experiencing redundancy due to the COVID-19 crisis with a business idea in our priority sectors (not excluding other sectors with a good business idea), including the allocation of c£0.100M of funding to the project from the Emergency Grant scheme residual pot.
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change	In approving the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan including the Community Climate Action Fund.
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills	In approving the entering into a financial arrangement with East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) to deliver an enhancement of the public realm on High Street, Burton upon Trent, between its junctions of Station Street and Market Place.

50. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 16 December 2020 to 21 April 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Mitigation Plans for Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
West Midlands Rail Ltd (WMRL) - Governance Evolution	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021 - 2026	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Communities Principle Update	Name: Janene Cox/ Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 278368/ 278399
SEND Strategy	Name: Julie Day Tel: (01785) 895372
North Staffordshire Ministerial Direction for Nitrogen Dioxide	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Digital Strategy and Programme	Name: Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 278399
Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Sale of former Great Wyrley Day Centre	Name: Ian Turner

	Tel: (01785) 277228
Contract for the Supply of Gas and Associated Services	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 3	Name: Andrew Donaldson/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 276354
Implementation of the updated Staffordshire County Council Education Infrastructure Contributions Policy (SEICP)	Name: Tim Moss Tel: (01785) 277963
Climate Change Action Plan Update	Name: Tim Cooper Tel: (01785) 276204
Capital Programme for Schools 2021/2022	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 4	Name: Andrew Donaldson/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 276354

51. Exclusion of the Public

Decision – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of Local Government Act 1972 indicated below.

PART TWO

52. Children and Families System Transformation Part 2 - Progress Update (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the progress being made towards achieving the Council's aspirations for the transformation of the Children and Families System, taking into account the implications of COVID-19.

Decision – That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed.

Alan White
Leader of the County Council