

Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 18 May 2022

Attendance

Mark Deaville
Julia Jessel
Ian Parry
Jonathan Price
Mark Sutton

Simon Tagg
Philip White
David Williams
Victoria Wilson

Apologies: Alan White

PART ONE

153. Decision notice of the meeting held on 20 April 2022

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 20 April 2022 be approved.

154. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the more than 40 events held across the County on Staffordshire Day on 1st May, to celebrate our great county; preparations for the Jubilee celebrations, the annual Staffordshire Ironman event and the Commonwealth Games; proposals over the coming months to distribute £5.5m of support to households most in need in the County; the success of the Ignite programme, under which more than 11,000 final year college students have received training to set up their own business; the commitment of an extra £15.5m this year for road repairs; and the Council's thanks to Cllr Johnny McMahon who is to step down from his role as Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated Care; be noted.

155. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 4 May 2022

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 4 May 2022 be received.

156. Staffordshire Means Back to Business

Decision – That the oral report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills giving an update on "Staffordshire Means Back to Business" activity including the following matters be noted:

- The county is in a very strong and confident place to work through the current climate of uncertainty. Working to support Staffordshire’s economy to grow, generating more and better paid jobs has put us in a position of strength. This strength and confidence is demonstrated by the new Pets at Home HQ and construction work of new houses opposite in Stafford.
- A key part of a successful economy is the skills of the employees within it. Over the next few months, Cabinet is to be updated on our activity and success around the skills agenda. Our drive for improved skills is also mirrored by Government’s new Multiply Programme. I am pleased to say Staffordshire County Council will lead on Multiply in Staffordshire to deliver this £4.2m Programme over 3 years.
- The proportion of young people in Staffordshire aged 18-24 that are claiming work-related Universal Credit has decreased further and now stands at 4.1%, or 2,665 young people. This is reflective of the record number of job vacancies currently available across the full economy, where Staffordshire saw vacancies increase by 28% between February and March equivalent to over 4,200 more job vacancies.
- This decline in young people claiming Universal Credit has contributed to an overall decline in our claimant rate which now stands at 2.9% of the working age population in April, well below the regional rate of 5.1% and national rate of 4.0%.

157. Household Support Fund



“This summer we will be distributing £5.5m to help families with young children, and older people, with the cost of living.

Having successfully distributed millions of pounds worth of support in the last two years, we know from the stories people tell us that this support makes a real difference to their lives.

Thousands of people will benefit in the next few months from help with their food, fuel or water bills, including the families of 27,000 children as part of the Holiday Activity and Food programme”.

Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposed expenditure and delivery arrangements for the Household Support Fund (HSF) in Staffordshire which is required to be fully spent by 30 September 2022.

Decision – (a) That the anticipated receipt of £5,506,547.99 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), in relation to the HSF, be acknowledged.

(b) That the high-level proposals for the usage of the HSF in Staffordshire be approved.

(c) That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities, to decide the delivery and eligibility criteria for distribution of the HSF in Staffordshire, and to take all other subsequent decisions to ensure that this support gets to those who need it as quickly as possible. This includes any decisions in respect of extensions to the Scheme or additional funding, ensuring Cabinet are fully briefed on any such extensions or spending.

(d) That it be acknowledged that the delegation to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People includes authorising the County Council to enter required contractual arrangements with Partners and Providers where required to deliver the HSF in Staffordshire.

(e) That an extension of current commissioning arrangements with Beat the Cold and Community Foundation of Staffordshire for a further 6 months, with effect from 1st May 2022, on existing terms and conditions, to administer the Warmth Project be approved.

158. Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2021-23



“Providing integrated health and social care that allows people to stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible remains a key priority for the Council and the NHS. The Better Care Fund enables us to fund services across Staffordshire to achieve this goal.

We have made great progress in the last few years, for example strengthening our Home-First reablement services to support people to return home from hospital. We will continue to use the Better Care Fund to improve and integrate services for our residents and to support some of the most vulnerable people in our county.”

	Cllr Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care
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Reasons for the Decision – To provide an update on the 2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, a summary of arrangements for development and to seek approval of the 2022/23 BCF Plan, and delegation of authority to enter into the legal agreements required to implement the BCF Plans.

Decision – (a) That the progress of the 2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, and the associated funding, be noted.

(b) That the transfer of the 2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant to the District and Borough Councils, as required by the Government, be noted.

(c) That it be noted that the Health and Well-being Board is required to approve the 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF Plan.

(d) That authority be delegated to the Director of Health and Care to enter into legal agreements under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 in order to implement the respective BCF Plans.

159. 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
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)	In approving the award of the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding (HNPCA) to the 5 schools selected, to deliver new places and improve existing provision in education settings for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Staffordshire and to complete any grant funding or other agreements required to provide this funding and deliver the HNPCA projects.
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)	In approving the Accessibility Strategy for implementation by the County Council and across Staffordshire schools.
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	In approving the allocation of £2.5m to delivery of the Chetwynd Bridge Refurbishment Scheme and to progress the site investigation and preliminary design of the Moss Pit Footbridge, School Lane Footbridge, Chetwynd Bridge, Burmdhurst Bridge and Stafford Railway Bridge schemes.

160. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 15 June to 19 October 2022, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Corporate Delivery Plan 2022/23	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112
Digital Connectivity in Staffordshire	Name: Anthony Baines Tel: (01785) 895984
Staffordshire Sustainability Board - Vision and council commitments	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Final Financial Outturn 2021-22	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Mobilisation of Staffordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Extension to Newcastle Enterprise Centre project	Name: Anthony Hodge Tel: (01785) 277204
North Staffordshire Local Air Quality Plan (NSLAQP)	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Enhanced Delivery Model for Home Care	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service - from April 2024	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Family Hub Model	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Section 75 Agreement for Adult Social Care Assessment and Case Management and Occupational Therapy in Staffordshire	Name: Jo Cowcher Tel: 07772 011078
Adult Social Care Reform Implementation	Name: Jo Cowcher Tel: 07772 011078

161. 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.

The Cabinet then proceeded to consider the following matters:

162. Exempt Decision notice of the meeting held on 20 April 2022 (Exclusion paragraph 3)

Decision – That the exempt notes of the meeting held on 20 April 2022 be approved.

163. Transport Contract Inflation

(Exclusion paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To seek approval for an exceptional inflation uplift on certain home to school contracts and local bus contracts.

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

Note by Clerk: The Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that this matter be exempt from call-in as any delay in implementing the Cabinet’s decision could potentially result in a significant risk of disruption to statutory service delivery.

Alan White
Leader of the Council