

Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 October 2022

Attendance

Julia Jessel	Alan White (Chair)
Ian Parry	Philip White
Jonathan Price	David Williams
Mark Sutton	Victoria Wilson
Simon Tagg	

Cabinet Support Member in attendance: Paul Northcott

Apologies: Mark Deaville

PART ONE

46. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16

The following Member declared an interest in accordance with Standing Order 16.5:-

Member	Minute Nos.	Interest	Reason
Simon Tagg	62	Personal	Opposed to the sale of the Seabridge Centre and to the Planning Application.

47. Decision notice of the meeting held on 21 September 2022

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022 be approved.

48. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the county council submitting bids to create investment zones on the A50/A500 corridor; the official opening of the new Bramshall Meadows First School in Uttoxeter; the We Are Staffordshire programme, through which the county council is working with businesses, universities, attractions and others to promote our great county as a place to invest, live, study and visit; the help available to Staffordshire households with the rising cost of living; the Council's Here to Help campaign which

includes advice for people to look after their wellbeing; and the publication of the Council's annual climate change report; be noted.

49. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 5 October 2022

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 5 October 2022 be received.

50. 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 Council's submission to central government, putting forward the A50 A500 Hydrogen Technologies Corridor, in Staffordshire, as a potential Investment Zone. (As part of that submission two key sites at Blythe Vale in Staffordshire Moorlands and Branston Locks in East Staffordshire have been included).
- The County Council's business support programmes which have already invested over half a million pounds in start-up support programmes. The Start Up And Step-Up businesses support is one of the main priorities in our economic development strategy. As a County Council we have made a commitment to invest a minimum of £100,000 per year in Start-up and Step-up business support programmes on an on-going basis. Given that global events continue to impact the local and national economy, primarily the war in Ukraine and the related increases in fuel and energy prices which are impacting local businesses, this support has never been more important.
- The current economic climate which presents a number of challenges to the local, regional and national economies in the short-term, with the Bank of England now predicting that we will enter recession this year and remain in contraction for some time.
- An increase in unemployment, with the number of work-related benefit claimants in Staffordshire increasing by 310 between August and September, primarily due to increases in fuel and energy prices leading to some businesses having to reduce staffing. Therefore it is more important than ever that the right business support is in place to help viable businesses survive during these challenging times, help people to start their own business and ensure that benefit claimants have the right support and skills to access the high number of jobs available in the local economy such as through the Government's 'Plan for Jobs'

schemes including Restart and Skills Bootcamps and help prevent them becoming long-term unemployed.

51. Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 2, 2022/23



"Creating the right conditions for businesses and our economy to grow and thrive remains a priority for the county council while managing the inflationary pressures we currently face.

We continue to do what is necessary to support those who need us most, however, increasing costs across the board along with the rising demand of social care for adults and children together with huge inflationary costs continues to put pressures on finances.

Demand for adult social care assessments and safeguarding remains high and we continue to prioritise individuals at the highest risk. Recruitment to the service has now started, however national recruitment and retention difficulties remains a key issue.

Work to transform our children's services is ongoing and we continue to face pressures including the rising cost, number and complexity of Child Protection & Children in Care. The Holiday Activity and Food programme ran through the summer supporting families by providing almost 47,000 places for children and young people. This quarter we also saw the opening of two new schools, Bramshall Meadows First School in Uttoxeter and Fradley Park Primary in Lichfield.

The Staffordshire Warmer Homes scheme continues to provide significant benefits to some of our more vulnerable residents, especially given the rising price of energy. Up to August 2022, 613 households had benefitted from 762 home installations, while over 2,300 people had received wrap around services.

We know that residents across the county remain worried about the rise in the cost of living. To date approximately 52,000 people (including children, families and pensioners) have benefitted from £5.5

million worth of help over the summer through the Household Support Fund. We also continue to direct people to support on things like managing debt, paying bills, food and essentials, staying warm and helping others.

Staffordshire businesses are also under pressure from rising costs. So we continue to support our local economy through the Staffordshire Means Business programme, which has already supported hundreds of local companies and the creation of 400 new apprenticeships.

Despite the inflationary pressures facing councils like ours, we will invest to keep growing the county in a sustainable way to make a positive difference in the lives of our residents. We want Staffordshire people to enjoy a better quality of life, in thriving communities, and live longer in good health.”

Alan White, Leader of the Council



“All council departments continue to deliver against their priorities, whilst progressing with activities in the organisation’s delivery plan.

Good progress has been made across the organisation during the quarter, however increasing costs and inflationary pressures across the organisation are having a significant impact. In addition, workforce capacity and recruitment, and demand challenges remain, particularly within Health and Care and Families and Communities.

The latest revenue forecast outturn shows a forecast overspend of £10.908m (1.9%), prior to additional funding for inflationary pressures being taken into account. Once this one-off funding is included and an allocation from the Inflation Reserve is assumed, the overspend reduces to £6.408m (1.1%). This is compared to an overspend of £3.643m reported at Quarter 1.


Like many local authorities, we still face financial challenges, but we continue to keep our finances in as strong a position as possible. Well managed finances ensures that we provide good value for

	<p>money for local tax-payers and means we can continue to invest in our future and growing our economy.”</p> <p>Ian Parry, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider an overview of Staffordshire County Council’s progress, performance, and financial position in delivering against its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan.

Decision – That the report be received.

52. Nexxus Trading Services Limited - Annual Report 21/22

	<p>“Nexxus was created to help care for the people of Staffordshire when there was no-one else to turn to.</p> <p>Since then, it has grown both in size and importance so that it is now provides vital care across the county, delivering home care where there are shortages in the private sector and maintaining residential care when needed.</p> <p>Turnover has increased by more than a third in 12 months, delivering a modest profit, and now employs 340 people, each essential to this success story.”</p> <p>Alan White, Leader of the Council</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider an update on the activities and performance of Nexxus Trading Services Limited during 2021/2022.

Decision – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That the in-year trading profit of £18,791, which has been transferred to company reserves, be noted.

53. Final Recommendations for the Future Commissioning Arrangements for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire



“Supported living services give people with physical and learning disabilities, mental health issues the care and support they need, while also ensuring they can be as independent as they wish. It is important that the services provided offer good quality care, promote independence, and offer the best value for money.

After talking to our service users, providers and other stakeholders, it is clear they want us to ensure we get the best quality of care from our contracting arrangements, one that builds on people’s strengths, promotes independence, and allows them to achieve the outcomes they want”.

Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the outcome of the engagement undertaken with stakeholders and final recommendations for the future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire.

Decision – (a) That the outcome of the engagement undertaken as part of the recommissioning of Supported Living services in Staffordshire be noted.

(b) That the final recommendations for the future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire, as set out in paragraphs 8 to 12 of the report, be approved.

(c) That the further extension of the Dynamic Purchasing System for commissioning Supported Living until 30th June 2024 be approved.

54. High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding



“We want all children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to be able to reach their potential by receiving the right support at the right time in their own communities, at their local school or nearest suitable place of education.

Supporting these projects will allow schools to make extra provision and increase their capacity to provide support where it can make a real difference”.

Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals for the utilisation of High Needs Provision Capital Allocation funding within Staffordshire Educational settings.

Decision – (a) That approval be given to the utilisation of the funding within Staffordshire Educational settings to:

- (i) Increase access to mainstream placements for children and young people with high needs (who might otherwise require more specialist provision) with the development of resource bases.
- (ii) Increase the local availability of high needs places to help reduce the requirement for out of area placements/placements at independent special schools.

(b) That the Director for Children and Families be given delegated authority to allocate the funding to the individual capital projects at educational settings.

55. Family Hubs in Staffordshire

	<p>“Our Family Hubs have been running successfully for many years. However, over the years we have realised that expectant parents, children and young people all need services that meet their needs and are easy to access. Our Family Hub Network proposes a new approach to bring together early help and intervention from not just the county council, but a variety of other organisations that work to make the lives of families better.</p> <p>This new way of working will ensure families have easy access to the services they need. It is crucial that we continue to work with children and young to ensure they feel safe within their home and the community and are able to get the right help at the right time.”</p> <p>Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider an overview of the national context for Family Hubs, an overview of some of the local context that has been explored and an outline plan for the direction for Staffordshire.

Decision – (a) That the emerging Family Hub model, as detailed within the report, be endorsed and that officers be supported to further develop this working with partners and key stakeholders; and

(b) That this model be advocated and championed more broadly to help the Council to realise its ambitions locally.

56. Early Help Strategy 2022-2027


	<p>“As a county council we are committed to working with partners across Staffordshire to ensure that the welfare of children and young people is a top priority.</p> <p>This strategy sets out our joint approach to help ensure that young residents and their families get the right help at the right time and in the right place.”</p> <p>Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposed refresh of the Council’s early Help Strategy which has been developed as a partnership to reflect our shared principles and commitment to Staffordshire children and families.

Decision – (a) That the partnership’s Early Help Strategy be endorsed.

(b) That the Strategy be Advocated at every opportunity for the promotion of and implementation of Early Help.

57. Recommissioning Domestic Abuse Services

	<p>“By pooling our resources with Stoke-on-Trent and the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office, we have been able to ensure services for victims and families are consistently available across the whole of Staffordshire.</p> <p>We want these services to really make a difference to victims, perpetrators and families, and the fact that we have been recognised nationally shows that the current arrangements are having a positive effect. This is why we are recommending the current arrangements are continued for at least the next three years to ensure victims of domestic</p>
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	<p>abuse are able to access the services they need, regardless of where they live in the county.”</p> <p>Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals for the joint commissioning, with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Commissioner Office, of Domestic Abuse Victim and Perpetrator Services.

Decision – That it be agreed that:

- (i) The Domestic Abuse victim and perpetrator services be re-commissioned and funded for up to five years, with an initial three-year contract with the potential to extend for a further two years, providing continuity and sustainability for this much-needed and valuable service.
- (ii) The commissioning be carried out jointly with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Commissioners Office (SCO) to procure Domestic Abuse Services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and for the Staffordshire Commissioners office to be the Lead Commissioner.
- (iii) The funding from Staffordshire County Council for the recommissioned service is maintained at the current level of £670,450 per annum; this will be increased in line with the County Council’s MTFS inflation assumptions and will therefore mean that £683,860 will be available for the start of the recommissioned Contract.

58. Procurement of a Framework Agreement for the Supply and Installation of Windows and Doors

	<p>“Getting the best product at the best value for taxpayers in Staffordshire underpins our approach to all our contracts.</p> <p>As a county council we own a number of buildings, so it is also important that we keep them in good order and fit for purpose.”</p> <p>Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial Matters</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proceeding with the procurement of a framework agreement for the Supply and Installation of Window and

Doors and to secure approval for the award of the Framework Agreement and the subsequent award of any call-off contracts under the Framework Agreement.

Decision – (a) That Staffordshire County Council undertakes the procurement of a framework Agreement for the supply and installation of windows and doors.

(b) That the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services be given delegated authority to approve the contract awards to the framework agreement with successful suppliers and, subject to satisfactory performance, approve any framework agreement extensions;

(c) That it be noted that all subsequent call off contracts will be awarded in accordance with the council’s procurement regulations.

59. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 16 November 2022 to 15 March 2023, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Climate change action plan and climate change annual report	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Treasury Management Half Year Report	Name: Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 2776354
Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023 - 2028	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Staffordshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Delivering a Future Vision for the Countryside Estate	Name: Catherine Mann Tel: (01785) 278320
Homes for Ukraine	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Framework Agreement for the Supply, Installation, Repairs and Maintenance of Tarmacadam and other Surfaces	Name: Ian Tuner Tel: (01785) 277228
Framework Agreement for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Furniture	Name: Ian Tuner Tel: (01785) 277228
Review of Older People’s Nursing Home Demand and Capacity	Name: Helen Trousdale Tel: (01785) 277008
Adult Learning Disability Provider Services	Name: Kelly Gray Tel: 07815 999002
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 3, 2022/23	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112

60. 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:

PART TWO

61. Family Hubs in Staffordshire

(Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider proceeding with staffing consultations, to work with staff to design a model which is fit for the future Family Hub aspirations.

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

62. Sale of Seabridge Centre Site

(Exemption paragraph 3)

Note by Clerk: Cllr Tagg declared a personal interest and left the room during consideration of this item.

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the sale of the surplus land at the site of the former Seabridge centre in Newcastle under Lyme.

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

Alan White
Leader of the Council