

## **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 12 December 2022**

### **Empowering Our Communities – Developing our Strategy**

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Consider the attached draft Communities Position Statement, including the progress made over the past 18 months to encourage our communities to help themselves and each other.
- b. Provide comments and feedback on the draft Communities Position Statement, including the draft Communities Delivery Plan 2023
- c. Provide feedback and comments on the proposal to develop a long-term, ambitious Communities Strategy for Staffordshire.

**Local Member Interest:** N/A

#### **Report of Cllr Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

#### **Summary**

##### **What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?**

1. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is being asked to provide feedback on:
  - a. The draft Communities Position Statement and the draft Communities Delivery Plan 2023.
  - b. The proposal to develop a long-term, ambitious Communities Strategy for Staffordshire
2. This feedback will then be used to further develop the Communities Position Statement, which will be taken to Cabinet on 15th February.

## Report

### Background

3. Our communities and residents are at the very heart of what makes Staffordshire a strong and thriving county. There is growing evidence both locally and nationally of the importance of empowering communities, and Staffordshire County Council has a strong record of working with residents and partners to develop financially sustainable, well-used community-based services.
4. The attached draft Communities Position Statement summarises what we have achieved over the past 18 months, as well as setting out our strategic objectives and delivery plan to take this work forward in 2023. This includes our governance approach and how we will make sure we are successfully delivering against the plan.
5. The document also sets out a proposal to engage with residents, local businesses, the VCSE sector, and our public sector partners to develop a long-term, ambitious Communities Strategy for Staffordshire.

### Link to Strategic Plan

6. How we "*encourage our communities to help themselves and each other*" is a core part of our Strategic Plan and one of our four 'How We Work' statements. As a 'How We Work' statement, our work with communities is central to delivering all of our strategic plan priorities.

### Community Impact

7. As part of the development of the Communities Delivery Plan 2023, an outline Community Impact Assessment (CIA) will be conducted prior to discussion at Cabinet in February 2023. A more in-depth CIA will then be produced ahead of the proposed development of a long-term Communities Strategy, informed by engagement activity.

### List of Background Documents/Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – DRAFT Communities Position Statement
- Appendix 2 – DRAFT Communities Delivery Plan 2023

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