

## Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 14 December 2022

### Attendance

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

**Apologies:** Paul Northcott and Jonathan Price

### PART ONE

#### 71. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16

##### 1. 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
Mark Deaville	78 and 85	Pecuniary	Non-Executive Director of Nexus

#### 72. Decision notice of the meeting held on 16 November 2022

**Decision** – That the notes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 be approved.

#### 73. Leader's Update

**Decision** – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the tragic death of three young boys in Solihull on Sunday and the dangers of playing on frozen lakes, ponds and rivers; the council's gritting crews who have been working tirelessly to keep Staffordshire on the move during the recent cold snap; the pledge to Staffordshire taxpayers that the Council will live within its means and deliver value for money; the Here to Help pages on the council's website which provides support and advice on where to turn if you need help with money, paying your bills, food, or help with childcare; the Council teaming up with Staffordshire Samaritans to help those who struggle with their mental health over the festive period; ways of improving mental and physical health including enjoying Staffordshire's countryside and green spaces; the Council's nature recovery strategy for the county and Stoke-on-Trent; work

on the construction of the Staffordshire History Centre to commence in the new year; encouraging people to shop local, and support local businesses and jobs; and the Leader's thanks to county council colleagues who work tirelessly to support people and businesses across the county, and to improve our communities; be noted.

#### **74. Staffordshire Means Back to Business - Oral Update**

**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 claimant count in Staffordshire saw an increase of 420 claimants over the last month, with the total number of claimants in the county now standing at 14,535. This increase is similar to the rise seen nationally, with the claimant rates for Staffordshire increasing from 2.6% to 2.7% and England seeing the rate rise from 3.6% to 3.7% of the working age population.
- The youth claimant count in Staffordshire saw an increase of 105 to a total of 2,675 young people. This is similar to what has happened in the last month across England as a whole. The proportion of young people in Staffordshire aged 18-24 that are claiming work-related Universal Credit has increased this month from 4.0% to 4.1% compared to 2.7% for the working age population and 4.7% nationally where the rate increased from 4.6%.
- We have now supported 493 individuals through the Staffordshire Start Up Programme, commissioned through the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce since it started in June 2020. 228 of these have decided that self-employment is for them and have started their own business. Get Started and Grow has supported more than 80 business owners this year who have been trading up to 5 years with professional services support in marketing, finance or digital marketing. The programme is looking to expand in 2023 to areas such as Human Resources and the County Council will continue to procure established Staffordshire businesses to provide this support. A series of peer-to-peer Networks is also being launched for new businesses who want to take the next steps in their journey to success.
- Recently released information from the Office for National Statistics show our efforts are bearing fruit. In 2021, a thousand more businesses were born in Staffordshire than the previous year. Our business birth rate has therefore improved substantially and is now, for the first-time ever, in-line with the national average. Businesses born within Staffordshire also remain far more likely to survive compared to the national average.

- We also continue to make great strides in supporting higher-level skills, with work ongoing on the £16m Institute of Technology which is scheduled to open in 2024. St. Modwen Logistics, one of the UK's leading logistics developers and managers, is the latest partner to join the Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group led consortium of education providers and employers from across the Midlands to form the IoT.
- Looking forward to the year ahead, there are several significant projects that we continue to work on and will be delivering. Our Hydrogen Technologies Valley proposal remains one of our biggest opportunities and has the potential to play a major role in supporting a more productive local economy, but also can help to address some of our greatest national and global challenges including energy security and climate change. Whilst the Government has decided not to proceed with the previous investment zone policy for which we submitted a proposal covering the corridor, we are expecting this to be relaunched in light of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and work is already underway to ensure we are well placed to take advantage of this when the opportunity arises.
- Through our economic growth programme, we continue to support developments that create jobs within the county. The main earthworks have now started on the Chatterley Valley West site with the first development platforms expected to be made available in mid-2023.
- Our tourism sector is a big part of the Staffordshire economy and our Visitor Economy Action Plan, which was prepared in collaboration between local authority and private sector partners that make up our Destination Management Partnership, was unanimously endorsed by the Staffordshire Leaders Board at the beginning of December. This includes several key actions to boost our visitor economy including encouraging more people to work within the sector, addressing emerging skills challenges and supporting the development of the local accommodation offer.

## 75. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023 - 2028



"We continue to invest in Staffordshire's economic future, while providing support for those who need help today.

We are in a position to do this because we remain a well-run, stable authority which thinks hard about how it spends public money and continually seeks new, flexible ways of working with our communities."

Alan White, Leader of the Council



"We spend every pound as wisely as we can and work with partners to maximise its value.

The provision of adult social care still forms by far the greatest part of our expenditure and the Government's decision to postpone implementation of social care reforms leaves us awaiting a sustainable long term funding solution which removes the burden from local authorities.

We will study the details in the Local Government Finance Settlement with interest."

Ian Parry, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

**Reasons for the Decision** – To provide Cabinet with an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which provides details of how the Council's operations will be funded over the five year period 2023-2028.

**Decision** – (a) That the updates to the financial plans as set out in the report, including the potential use of reserves to balance the 2023/24 budget and potential cost reduction plan for future years, be noted;

(b) That the announcements made by the Chancellor as part of his Autumn Statement, be noted;

(c) That the commitment to continue to deliver the cost reduction programme (as set out in Appendices 2a – 2d to the report) and the commencement of an innovation programme with immediate effect to identify cost reductions from 2024/25 onwards, be endorsed;

(d) That the risks associated with these planned cost reductions (as set out in the report) be noted and that the Senior Leadership be requested to undertake the appropriate engagement arrangements required to deliver the cost reductions;

(e) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in January to recommend a Revenue Budget, MTFS and Council Tax to full council in February; and

(f) That the Corporate Review Committee be requested to scrutinise the proposed pressures and cost reduction options against the principles of a good and balanced budget.

## 76. Adult Learning Disability Provider Services

	<p>“Staffordshire County Council is committed to helping those who need support and as circumstances change, we are flexible enough to move with them and carry on investing in the right care and improved facilities.</p> <p>We have listened to those who use the service and their families, and this investment will meet the needs of users in updated, modern surroundings in communities across the county.”</p> <p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care</p>
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**Reasons for the Decision** – To receive an update on progress in respect of modernising and improving our in-house adult learning disability services, including revised recommendations for the residential replacement care service at Douglas Road in Newcastle under Lyme, the Greenfields House residential care service in Leek, and the Hawthorn House residential care service in Lichfield.

**Decision** – (a) That the Douglas Road residential replacement care service be retained at its current location in Newcastle under Lyme, and authority be delegated to the Director for Health and Care for approval and procurement of refurbishment and redevelopment works, subject to a business case.

(b) That the continued provision of the residential care service at Greenfields House in Leek, with refurbishment of the premises, be endorsed.

(c) That the need for building based care facilities for adults and children countywide be assessed and that opportunities to use the Council’s land and property portfolio for developments to meet these needs be considered.

(d) That the progress and revised plan to refurbish Hawthorn House for residential care in Lichfield be noted.

(e) That the progress regarding the ongoing development of Specialist Day Opportunities services and their buildings, be noted.

## 77. Homes for Ukraine

	<p>“Staffordshire has a long and proud history of helping those who have had no choice but to flee war and persecution, and Staffordshire people have stepped up in their hundreds to help people fleeing the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>It is clear that the war in Ukraine will not end any time soon, so it is important to ensure we have the right team in place so we can help support not just the Homes for Ukraine scheme, but also broader resettlement programmes.</p> <p>We will also continue working with our district and borough councils, health, education and community partners, as well as the voluntary sector to ensure the right support is in place at the right time.”</p> <p>Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture</p>
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**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider proposals for the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Staffordshire including the development of a Resettlement Team to support the scheme and broader resettlement programme.

**Decision** – (a) That the progress to date in relation to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme be acknowledged.

(b) That the proposed approach for the development of a Resettlement Team to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme and broader resettlement programme, be endorsed.

(c) That the Financial breakdown and spend in line with these proposals (based on the actual costs as these figures are still subject to change as more people arrive), be approved.

(d) That thanks be extended to the sponsors for the compassion and generosity they have shown in offering to sponsor a family fleeing the conflict in Ukraine and welcoming them to Staffordshire.

## 78. Review of Older People’s Nursing Home Capacity and Demand

	<p>“Nursing homes are an essential service and support the most vulnerable people in our communities.</p> <p>We need to ensure that the nursing home sector is sustainable so that people can access good quality affordable care when they need it.</p> <p>The Council can consider how it can best use its assets to develop nursing care in areas where the capacity is insufficient or unaffordable.”</p> <p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care</p>
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**Note by Clerk:** Mark Deaville declared a pecuniary interest as a Non-Executive Director of Nexxus and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item.

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider proposals to increase capacity and ensure access to good quality and affordable nursing care home placements when they are needed.

**Decision** – (a) That the current challenges and ongoing support to the nursing home market be noted.

(b) That the residual concerns about the sustainability of the nursing home market be noted.

(c) That the development of Bracken House in Burntwood and Meadowyrthe in Tamworth into nursing homes be approved in principle, subject to a business case, and that authority to take the decision on this development be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Health and Care in consultation with the Director of Health and Care and the Director for Finance.

(d) That potential sites for new nursing homes be identified and that business cases for development, including options for development and delivery, be brought to a future Cabinet meeting.

## 79. Delivering a Future Vision for the Countryside Estate

	<p>“There has been a notable increase in the appreciation of, and interest in, our countryside in recent years.</p> <p>Our aim is to manage increased accessibility to our countryside estate while protecting the very things that make the country parks, spaces and greenways so attractive.</p> <p>And with a growing emphasis on stopping climate change and supporting nature recovery, our new vision for the countryside estate reflects the important role it can have for local communities, the local economy and for the environment.”</p> <p>Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture</p>
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**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider a new vision for the Countryside Estate and proposals for an in-house management model that will focus on maximising the benefits of the estate to our communities and environment.

**Decision** – That the proposed approach for management of the countryside estate and associated delivery plan be supported.

## 80. Framework Agreement - Furniture

	<p>“These procurement exercises help ensure we get the service and the goods we need to not only meet our requirements but to ensure we continue to get the best value for Staffordshire taxpayers.</p> <p>At a time of rising prices and the continued cost of living pressures this has never been so important.”</p> <p>Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial Matters</p>
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**Reasons for the Decision** – To seek Cabinet approval to undertake a procurement exercise to procure a framework agreement for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Furniture. The framework should allow for Corporate Office furniture, Educational Furniture and Library Furniture

**Decision** – (a) That it be agreed that officers undertake a procurement exercise in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the “Regulations”) for the Framework Agreement for the provision of office, educational and library furniture (the “Framework Agreement”).

(b) That following completion of the procurement process, the successful suppliers be appointed to the Framework Agreement for the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2025 and that, dependent on the quality of their delivery, that one or both of the 12-month service extensions be implemented to a final contract end date of 30th June 2027.

(c) That it be noted that any contractual agreements in terms of the Framework Agreement and subsequent call-offs will be approved in accordance the council’s Procurement Regulations.

### **81. Framework Agreement - Tarmac**

	<p>“As a county council, we continue to innovate and develop our services in line with our strategic plan. This means managing our property assets effectively and making improvements where needed.</p> <p>Our current Tarmacadam framework agreement began in 2019 and is due to expire in May 2023. Now is the right time to take a look at this agreement and determine whether it is still fit for purpose, and whether improvements to the framework can be made.”</p> <p>Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial Matters</p>
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**Reasons for the Decision** – To seek Cabinet approval to undertake a procurement exercise to procure a framework agreement for supply, installation, repairs and maintenance of Tarmacadam and other surfaces via an agreed schedule of rates.

**Decision** – (a) That it be agreed that officers undertake a procurement exercise in compliance with the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the “Regulations”) for the Framework Agreement for the supply, installation, repairs and maintenance of Tarmacadam and other surfaces (the “Framework Agreement”).

(b) That following the procurement process the successful suppliers be appointed to the Framework Agreement for the period 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2027.

(c) That it be noted that any contractual agreements in terms of the framework agreement and subsequent call-offs will be approved in accordance the council's Procurement Regulations.

## 82. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers

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

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Cabinet Member for Health and Care	In approving the consultation with clients, staff, and Trade Unions regarding the refurbishment of the Brackenberry site and subsequent relocation of the Newcastle adult learning disability day service.
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change	In approving the decision to hold a public consultation on the introduction of a van permitting system and controls for commercial (trade) waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres.
Cabinet Member for Health and Care	In approving the decision to award a contract for the Integrated Lifestyle Service to Everyone Health following a competitive procurement process.

## 83. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 18 January to 17 May 2023, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

<b>Subject Matter</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Staffordshire Sustainability Board Communications Plan 2023	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Staffordshire County Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Future Highways Delivery Model	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Future Social Care Workforce Strategy	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023 - 2028	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Diversity and Inclusion – Progress Update	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112
Empowering our Communities	Name: Catherine Mann Tel: (01785) 278320
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 3, 2022/23	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112

Staffordshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591
Our People Strategy 2023 and Beyond	Name: Sarah Getley Tel: (01785) 854265
Capital Programme for Schools 2023/ 2024	Name: Ian Tuner Tel: (01785) 277228
House Project	Name: Nisha Gupta Tel: 07773 791346
Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2023/24	Name: James Bailey Tel: (01785) 276591

#### **84. 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**

#### **85. Strategy for the Future Commissioning and Contracting for Extra Care Housing within Staffordshire**

(Exemption paragraph 3)

**Note by Clerk:** Mark Deaville declared a pecuniary interest as a Non-Executive Director of Nexxus and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item.

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider the Strategy for the Future Commissioning and Contracting for Extra Care Housing within Staffordshire to ensure adequate Extra Care capacity so that older people have an opportunity to live as independently as possible in their own homes.

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

#### **86. Staffordshire History Centre**

(Exemption paragraph 3)

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider the acceptance of additional grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund; entering into a Joint Venture Development Agreement to enable the development of the Staffordshire Record Office and the William Salt Library to create the Staffordshire History Centre; and to enter into the construction contract.

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

**Note by Clerk:** The Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has given his approval to the above decision being exempt from call-in as delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests or the interests of any person(s) to whom the decision relates.

**Alan White**  
**Leader of the Council**