

County Council Meeting – 9 February 2023**Question to Councillor Wilson
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture****By Councillor Pardesi**

Question

Which job roles, formerly delivered by Staffordshire County Council, are now undertaken by volunteers and the community and charitable sector?

Reply

The public sector landscape has changed fundamentally over the last decade, but in terms of how people chose to access and engage with services and the resources available to deliver them. When we started this journey in 2009 our communities told us they wanted to take care of themselves and each other, and that the public sector should do its best to enable this. We have therefore worked closely with our communities and Staffordshire's vibrant Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to ensure our residents can access support locally in a way that meets changing lifestyles while still providing value for money.

As a result, the Council has moved away from traditional service delivery models to working in a very different way alongside our communities. This has seen fundamental changes to the way services are offered to residents across a range of areas, including our Community Managed Libraries, Children's Centres and Family Hubs, country parks, highways maintenance, Archives and Heritage, our offer for young people, and more. Using Community Managed Libraries as an example, we now have 27 Community Managed Libraries across the county. They are managed by 18 partner and community organisations with support from 642 volunteers who help to enhance and shape their local library offer.

Through the activities set out in our Strategic Plan 2022-26 and our Communities Delivery Plan, we continue to build on this work with our partners and the VCSE sector, making sure our residents can access the right support at the right time to help them be healthy, independent, and live in sustainable communities. As the way we work with communities across these areas has changed so much and continues to evolve, it is not possible to provide a direct comparison between what is currently available to communities and what was formerly delivered by the Council.
