

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet meeting - 17 December 2014

Present: Philip Atkins (Chairman), Ben Adams, Mike Lawrence, Ian Parry, Mark Winnington and Alan White

Cabinet Support Members present: Mark Deaville, Gill Heath and Mark Sutton

Also in attendance - Chris Cooke and John Taylor

PART ONE

50. Declarations of Interest in accordance with Standing Order 16

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

Member	Minute Nos.	Interest	Reason
P.E.B. Atkins	55	Personal	Patron of St. Michael's Church, Rocester
A. White	55	Personal	Member of the Cathedral Council at Lichfield Cathedral

51. Decision notice of the meeting held on 19 November 2014

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014 be approved.

52. Leader's Update



“2014 has seen significant achievements across Staffordshire by the County Council, its partners and our people. It has been a year of economic recovery, effective partnership working to act on the issues that matter to our people, and some examples of outstanding individual achievement by inspiring figures such as Stephen Sutton that truly made me proud to call Staffordshire home.

Today's agenda demonstrates our continued ambition for a more connected Staffordshire where people and communities thrive and prosper, and where support is provided for those who really need it. It features investment in roads to create the right conditions for business to thrive and create more jobs, investment in education, an extra £20m investment in care through our budget plans for 2015/16 – and our Strategic Property Partner agreement shows how this council continues to innovate and find more efficient, effective ways of working to deliver true value for money to Staffordshire

	people.” Philip Atkins, Leader of the County Council.
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Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the County Council giving an update on a range of issues including the Council’s achievements during 2014; the reduction in unemployment levels in Staffordshire which now stood at 1.1%; the recent opening of the new junction on the M54 to serve the i54 site; and his thanks to Members and staff for their commitment and hard work over the last 12 months, be noted.

53. Quarterly Performance Report

 	<p>“We were honoured to have Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit the county recently to formally open two businesses thriving at i54 South Staffordshire. This prestigious development shows how we are working quickly, effectively and in partnership to deliver jobs and prosperity to Staffordshire. Unemployment continues to fall, start-up small businesses are out-performing the national average and more quality jobs are being created across the county.”</p> <p>Philip Atkins, Leader of the County Council.</p> <p>“Crime rates are falling and the council is focusing with its partners on improving the lives of our most troubled families; older people are receiving more support to choose the type of help and care they would prefer; while the numbers of children needing help are stabilising.</p> <p>There is more to be done, but the County Council will continue working with the public and partners to find ways of delivering effective services and value for money.”</p> <p>Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To provide Cabinet with an overview of the county council’s performance (including the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy) and the progress being made in delivering the three priority outcomes –

- The people of Staffordshire will be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth.
- The people of Staffordshire will be healthier and more independent.
- The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their Community.

Decision – That the report be received.

54. Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015 - 2020



“Over the last five years the county council has been able to manage the demands on its budgets and services well by changing the way it works, finding new and better ways to provide help to those who need it and by reducing costs wherever we can.

We have done this by being focussed on what difference we can make to the lives of residents and by being innovative and creative, rather than relying on the old way of providing council services. We have a good track record and do not intend to step back from this overall approach.”

Philip Atkins, Leader of the County Council.



“We must be honest with Staffordshire people that as we look at our spending plans from April 2015, the task of meeting the growing demand for our care services, for both children and adults, is no longer possible without finding savings from other parts of budget and working better with partners.

Providing care for those Staffordshire people who need our support is the biggest financial pressure we face.

We have worked hard to make the county council more efficient and affordable over the last five years but care costs in particular mean we cannot continue to provide all the services and support we have in the past. The needs of local people and the way they want to live their lives is changing fast – and as a council, working with our partners, we must change with them.”

Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues

Reasons for the Decision – To update Cabinet on the work to date in preparing the Strategic Plan (which will cover the period 2015 to 2019) and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (which provides details of how the Council’s operations will be funded over the period 2015 to 2020).

Decision – (a) That the progress made in developing the Strategic Plan 2015-19 be noted.

(b) That the financial outlook facing the county council be noted.

(c) That the work that has been done to develop savings options be noted.

(d) That work continues to identify additional proposals needed to address the funding gap in 2015/16.

(e) That the Corporate Review Committee be requested to scrutinise the proposed pressures and savings against the principles of a good and balanced budget.

55. Clough Hall Technology School: determination of statutory proposals to become a Church of England voluntary aided (VA) school

	<p>“Schools benefit tremendously from working together and forming links with their peers. Clough Hall is already a ‘good’ school as rated by Ofsted, and this can only be enhanced by closer ties with the Lichfield Diocese and access to the additional support they can offer.</p> <p>Increasingly our schools are becoming self-supporting, controlling their own destiny and forming strong partnerships and networks. I am pleased that the school will form strong partnerships with the Diocese to become Staffordshire’s first Church of England Secondary school, as this will enhance the diverse school landscape in Staffordshire, give parents greater choice and, ultimately, ensure children in Staffordshire get a great education.”</p> <p>Ben Adams, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – The County Council has published a statutory proposal to close Clough Hall, together with a related proposal from the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education to open a new Church of England voluntary aided (VA) school, to be called The King’s CE (VA) School. As the formal decision maker, Cabinet must consider any written responses received during the four-week ‘representation period’ before determining both proposals. No comments or objections have, however, been received.

Decision – (a) That officers be instructed to conclude, before the date for closure, agreements regarding the transfer of liabilities; and

(b) That the related statutory proposals to close Clough Hall on 31 December 2014 and to open a new Church of England voluntary aided (VA) school on 1 January 2015 in the premises of Clough Hall be approved.

56. A50 Growth Corridor



“This major investment in the A50 Growth Corridor will support new jobs, ease congestion, cut journey times and improve road safety along one of the key trunk routes between the East and West Midlands.

Improving roads and other infrastructure to keep goods and people on the move is vital as we strive to improve Staffordshire’s economy, creating a connected county where businesses are attracted to invest and grow. Ultimately that means more jobs and prosperity for local people.

We are working closely with our partners and once complete the first scheme, Project A, will help deliver substantial benefits for the whole Staffordshire economy.”

Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport

Reasons for the Decision – To inform Cabinet of the progress in respect of the delivery of projects to upgrade the A50(T) corridor in Staffordshire, to support economic and residential growth in the area, and to deal with congestion and safety problems. These projects are funded by Government, with a contribution from local developers and are being delivered by the County Council on behalf of the Department for Transport (DfT).

Decision – That Cabinet reviews the progress on the two A50 Growth Corridor projects at its meeting in May 2015.

57. Strategic Property Partner



“As a county council, we have a duty to get the maximum use and return on our buildings and land to help support further economic growth, opportunities and benefits for the people of Staffordshire.

“Staffordshire is very much open for business and this new partnership will bring in the commercial expertise to allow us to take a fresh look at potentially packaging property or land with partners to make projects more attractive to investors.

We own around 400 buildings and offices and it makes sense to see if we are getting maximum value and use of every single one, particularly where they are surplus or underused.”

Ian Parry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues

Reasons for the Decision – In October 2013, Cabinet gave approval to commence the procurement of a strategic property partner, in association with Staffordshire’s Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), and for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues to shortlist a preferred bidder.

Decision – (a) That the County Council, in association the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), enters into a 10+5 year strategic property partnership in relation to land and property assets, to support and enable the delivery of the County Council’s outcomes and PCC’s priorities.

(b) That the County Council selects Kier as the preferred bidder and Galliford Try with Panacea as the reserve bidder.

(c) That the preferred bidder stage be initiated with Kier and, subject to the satisfactory delivery of this stage, that the Deputy Leader in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, be authorised to award the contact.

58. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers

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

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues	In approving the sale of Plots 4 and 6, Redhill Business Park, to Rockspring
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Finance and Corporate Issues	In approving the transfer of the running and management of the Lichfield and Burntwood Vocational Centre (LBVC) from the County Council to Pathways Partnership (A proposed partnership of Two Rivers High School, Chase Terrace Technology College, Hednesford Valley High School and Saxon Hill School) during Spring Term 2014/15.
Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing	<p>In approving that:</p> <p>(a) Following a process of review and care planning, people attending Bilbrook Day Centre are supported to move into alternative day care options.</p> <p>(b) When all people attending the day care scheme at Bilbrook Day Centre have made suitable alternative choices, the centre is closed.</p> <p>(c) If the space occupied by the day service is no longer needed it is returned to Property Services who will agree future use for the space.</p> <p>Note: That the projected date for closure is 1 April 2015 by which time those people using the current day service will have been supported to take up alternative service options.</p>

59. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 21 January to 20 May 2015, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015 - 2020	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Treasury Management, Annual Investment and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategies 2015/16	Name: Chris Gibbs Tel: (01785) 276331
Best Start	Name: Michael Harrison Tel: (01785) 278163
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Growth Hub	Name: Steve Burrows Tel: (01785) 277204
Care Act	Name: Martin Samuels Tel: (01785) 895760
Libraries in a connected Staffordshire (Part 3)	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Third Quarter Budget Monitoring Report	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Quarterly Performance Report	Name: Lauren Jackson Tel: (01785) 854561
Fourth Quarter Budget Monitoring Report	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455

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 paragraph of Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below.

61. The Evolution of Integration

The Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing on “the Evolution of Integration” and took decisions thereon.

Philip Atkins
Leader of the Council