

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 17 March 2021

Present: Mark Deaville, Julia Jessel, Johnny McMahon, Jonathan Price, Mike Sutherland, Mark Sutton, Alan White (Chairman), Philip White, David Williams and Victoria Wilson.

Cabinet Support Member in attendance - Gill Burnett

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins

PART ONE

97. Decision notice of the meeting held on 17 February 2021

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 17 February 2021 be approved.

98. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including most of our children and young people returning to classrooms this month; the continued roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme; next week being the first anniversary of lockdown; the need to stay the course and keep doing the right thing – social distancing, getting tested, wearing a mask; the Government's roadmap for lifting lockdown; how the county council will play a key role this year in the reopening and reinvigorating of our town centres, leisure venues and tourist attractions; and Burton and Kidsgrove securing massive Government investment through the Stronger Towns Fund; be noted.

99. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 3 March 2021

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 3 March 2021 be received.

100. Update from Covid Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board

Reasons for the Decision – To consider an update from the COVID-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board including the number of cases of Covid in Staffordshire and across England continuing to fall; the Government's Roadmap from lockdown with indicative dates for release of restrictions subject to continued success with the Covid vaccination programme and the NHS able to cope with the number of cases and complications; the expectation that infection rates would increase after schools return to classroom teaching on 8 March; the NHS having now vaccinated over 400,000 people with a first dose; the Council's plans to maintain Covid defences for at least the next financial year in order to keep cases and complications low and protect our freedoms and livelihood.

Decision – That the report be received.

101. Staffordshire Means Back to Business

(i) Supporting Our Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure Employment Sectors

	<p>“Staffordshire is home to world-class visitor attractions that attract visitors from across the UK and beyond every year.</p> <p>Our tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors contribute £1.87billion to the Staffordshire economy every year. The pandemic has hit those sectors directly with a significant knock-on effect to people and businesses across the county.</p> <p>We want to build on the extensive support we’ve already delivered to Staffordshire businesses in the past year. Working through a revitalised Destination Management Partnership with other local authorities we want to reignite tourism in Staffordshire and turn up the volume on the amazing attractions that call our county home.</p> <p>The recently launched Staffordshire story and brand-new approach to marketing our great county presents a further opportunity to ‘reboot’ the activities and priorities of the Destination Management Partnership and provide the impetus for us to reinforce Staffordshire’s position as the nationally valued centre of the UK.</p> <p>We believe these proposals will help our visitor economy emerge from the current difficult period, take advantage of the ‘Staycation’ opportunities that lie ahead and build a better future for tourism and for the people who work within the industry in Staffordshire.”</p> <p>Philip White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals to enhance assistance to the Destination Management Partnership (DMP), both immediately and for the longer term, including the County Council’s own tourism team, to lead a transformation of our visitor economy and its businesses.

Decision – (a) That the contents of the report, which sets out the County Council’s position to support the direction of travel of the Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership (DMP), including the suggested future offer and related proposals, be noted.

(b) That the balance of the 2021/22 MTFS investment into Economic Development and our Economy, post Covid 19, (which is £200,000), be used for enhanced support for our visitor economy.

(c) That part of the MTF investment be used to assist the DMP in 2021/22 to develop a 3 year fixed term post to act as the champion and advocate for rebooting our Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure sector, and to cover the inhouse costs of the Digital Marketing Officer for 3 years.

(d) That the remaining investment from 2021/22, along with enhanced contributions from other local authorities, be used to deliver continuity funding to the DMP in the anticipation of reduced private sector funding, and enhanced marketing activity through the DMP to strongly promote Staffordshire as a visitor destination, aligned to the new Staffordshire Story.

(ii) Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Business Loan Fund

	<p>“The business loan fund supports small viable companies to access essential finance where they have struggled with commercial lenders.</p> <p>This, like all the programmes we have launched since our Staffordshire Means Back to Business strategy began last summer, is targeted support where it is needed most. We have worked successfully with BCRS for a long time and will combine our efforts with colleagues at Stoke-on-Trent for this round of funding.</p> <p>Originally set up in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash, in 2021 we are focusing on overcoming the immense challenges to businesses resulting from Covid-19. The loan fund has previously enabled businesses to expand, diversify and take on new employees. It has supported companies across a range of sectors from manufacturing to professional services.</p> <p>Over the next three years we will build on this success – supporting 200 business which will contribute to our economic growth and create jobs in our communities.”</p> <p>Philip White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals to build on the success and strengths of previous phases of the Staffordshire Business Loan Fund managed through Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS).

Decision – (a) That the establishment of a new joint Staffordshire County Council / Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS) business loan fund as a long term debtor of £490,000 along with other contributions from BCRS (£555,224), City of Stoke-on-Trent Council (£108,710), ERDF (£736,886) and the North Staffordshire Risk Capital Fund (£109,180), to create a new revolving loan fund (RLF) of £2m, be supported.

(b) That the allocation of £490,000 of Staffordshire County Council funding, focussed on supporting rural businesses in Staffordshire, be supported.

(c) That the proposed joint operation of the fund with BCRS, that will include a 2% commission on any introduced successful rural loans to contribute towards County Council staffing costs, be supported.

(d) That authority be given to the Director of Economy, Infrastructure and Skills to authorise entering into the contract with BCRS to manage the Business Loan Fund as detailed in the report.

102. Capital Programme for Schools 2021/2022

	<p>“Every child in Staffordshire deserves the best possible education, and to leave school or college with the skills they need to succeed in the workplace or further education. Added to this, it is widely recognised that the quality of school buildings can help or hinder learning and teaching.</p> <p>Our capital programme for the next year is designed to ensure we make the most of the funding we have, and work with schools to improve school infrastructure. This way, we can ensure the county’s children are learning in the best environment possible.”</p> <p>Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the 2021/2022 Capital Programme for Schools.

Decision – (a) That the Schools Capital Programme 2021/22 investment proposal, as set out in the report and supporting appendices, be approved.

(b) That the Assistant Director for Commercial and Assets monitors progress against the Programme and makes any necessary in-year alterations in agreement with the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND).

(c) That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services to approve:

(i) All subsequent call-off contracts under the CWM framework Agreement to be awarded and entered into with the successful providers under the CWM Framework Agreement.

(ii) Any novation of call-off contracts to new providers or variations to the terms of call-off contracts, in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

103. Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2021/22

	<p>“Staffordshire’s huge road network is vital for keeping our county connected and its residents and businesses on the move.</p> <p>This year we are investing £69 million in a range of major projects, vital local improvements and general road maintenance, but we recognise that there is always more to be done and we continue to lobby central Government for the money necessary to keep Staffordshire’s roads in the condition we expect.”</p> <p>David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposed 2021/22 Highways and Transport capital investment programme.

Decision – (a) That the Highways and Transport capital investment proposal, as set out in the report and the supporting appendices, be approved.

(b) That the Project Team monitors progress of the Programme and any significant in-year alterations be approved by the Assistant Director for Highways and the Built County in agreement with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

(c) That the additional county council highways investment be extended initially for one more year by £5m, to be funded by earmarking the balance of the £3.6m contingency and £1.4m of usable capital receipts, and that this investment be reviewed as part of the review of the Strategic Plan and MTFs in the summer of 2021. (The majority of this is used to support Minor Capital Maintenance £4.6m, with any balance being used on structural maintenance schemes).

(d) That the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan be updated and future investment options for the local road network be considered further by Cabinet as part of the budget cycle for 2022/23.

104. Holiday Activities and Food Programme (Department of Education)

	<p>“This winter the county council has delivered one of the biggest school holiday meal support schemes to thousands of children.</p> <p>We know from first-hand feedback that this help makes a real difference to people who are challenged by the consequences of the pandemic.</p> <p>Now we have ongoing funding to continue support children accessing free school meals during Easter, Summer and</p>
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	<p>Christmas of 2021, supporting children and their families with food and activities to keep children happy and healthy.”</p> <p>Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the proposed conditions for expenditure and delivery of the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) National Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme to provide enriching activities and healthy food to disadvantaged children and young people (and in some circumstances their families).

Decision – (a) That the anticipated receipt of £2,231,290, from the Department for Education, in relation to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, be noted.

(b) That the conditions of expenditure and delivery relating to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, as set out by the Department for Education, be noted.

(c) That delivery decisions relating to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND) and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities.

105. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers

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

Cabinet Member	Decision
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)	In approving the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2022/23 & Coordinated Admissions Scheme 2022/23

106. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 21 April to 18 August 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Integrated Performance Report 2020-21 - Quarter 4	Name: Andrew Donaldson/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 278399/ 276354
Framework Agreement for the Repair and Treatment of Flat Roofs and Associated Works	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Integration and Innovation: Working Together to Improve Health and Social Care for All	Name: Dr Richard Harling Tel: (01785) 278700
Staffordshire Sexual Health Services	Name: Andrew Donaldson Tel: (01785) 278399

Community Support (including Domiciliary Care) and Community Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People Service	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Treasury Management Outturn Report 2020/21	Name: Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 276354
Proposed 1FE Expansion at Oldfields Hall Middle School, Uttoxeter	Name: Tim Moss Tel: (01785) 277963

107. 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

108. Waste Disposal Arrangements in the North of Staffordshire from 2025 (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider options for the future involvement of the County Council with the project to replace the Hanford ERF plant.

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

109. HWRC Update (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider an update on Staffordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centre provision.

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

Alan White
Leader of the Council