

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 16 June 2021

Present: Mark Deaville, Julia Jessel, Ian Parry, Jonathan Price, Mark Sutton, Simon Tagg, Alan White (Chairman), Philip White, David Williams, Victoria Wilson.

Cabinet Support Member in attendance - Johnny McMahon

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins and Keith Flunder

PART ONE

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	5	Personal	Owner of a small business

2. Decision notice of the meeting held on 21 June 2021

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021 be approved.

3. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the Council's ongoing response to and recovery from the coronavirus pandemic; the Prime Minister's announcement of a four week delay in the lifting of restrictions; the rising cases of the Covid Delta variant across the country, and in particular locally in and around Leek; the need to keep following the guidance - get tested regularly, and book your vaccine as soon as you can; the recent news that Newcastle-under-Lyme has secured a £23.6m Town Deal from Government; the launch the Council's free holiday food and activities programme to support children who receive free school meals; and Uttoxeter swim sensation Adam Peaty winning four gold medals at the European Championships last month; be noted.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 2 June 2021

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 2 June 2021 be received.

5. 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 new cases nationally and in Staffordshire rising over the last four weeks, largely due to the emergence of the delta variant of the virus; the Covid vaccination programme was continuing to make excellent

progress with 1,000,000 doses being administered to Staffordshire residents with uptake of two doses being close to 95% in over 65s, and 80% in 50 to 64 year olds; and the Council's plans to maintain Covid defences for at least the next financial year.

Decision – That the report be received.

6. 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:

(i) Whilst the delay in easing restrictions by central government was understood, the impact on the hospitality sector was of deep concern.

(ii) The number of people on some form of government job support scheme in Staffordshire was estimated to be lower than the rest of the country, 16% compared to 19% nationally, and had decreased slightly over the last month as more workers on furlough and Universal Credit returned to work.


(iii) Figures released this week showed that 4.4% of the county population claimed out-of-work benefits in May, a fall from the previous month, when the figure was 4.6%. The regional figure is 7% and national 6.1%.

(iv) The economic recovery could also be seen in the job vacancy figures which increased by 9% in Staffordshire between April and May, equivalent to 2,100 more job vacancies. This improvement in recruitment had seen vacancy levels rise above those seen prior to the start of the pandemic.

(v) The key areas of support for the Staffordshire economy through the Staffordshire Means Back to Business strategy including:

- Staffordshire Start-Up Loans - Launched in December 2020 - £250,000 pilot to support businesses
- Staffordshire To Thrive Grants - Supported by our partners Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council, South Staffordshire Council and Tamworth Borough Council - £370,000
- Staffordshire Apprenticeship 500 initiative - Pays a grant of £5,000 to employers who recruit a new apprentice
- Nil Cost Training Top Up - an initiative that enables small and medium employers to access training that is needed to help reskill or upskill their employees and supports the businesses in their recovery from Covid restrictions or to access new markets and ways of working.
- Ignite - a new 3-year programme of free advice, workshops mentoring and support for students in year 12/13 looking to set up their own business in Staffordshire.



7. Executive Responses for All Party Working Groups

	<p>“The County Council has an ambitious agenda to deliver benefits for our residents through driving economic growth and transforming public services to help deliver better lives for Staffordshire people. In view of the scale and complexity of our strategy, frontline members have a key role to play in driving forward our thinking.</p> <p>In 2020-21 this has included All Party Working Groups, as a forum taking an overview, to help inform thought leadership through an informed debate on long term issues that affect all the communities of Staffordshire.”</p> <p>Alan White, Leader of the Council</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the initial Executive Responses from the portfolio holders with regards to the recommendations from the two All Party Working Groups and the investigations focusing on Aspiration, Future Economy and Enterprise and Communities and Isolation, which identified a number of issues for Cabinet to consider.

Decision – That the initial executive responses of portfolio holders to the All Party Working Group recommendations be received.

8. Final Financial Outturn 2020/21

	<p>“Coping with the Covid-19 pandemic continues to put extra pressures on our finances, but we continue to manage them effectively and target our resources where they are needed most.</p> <p>As a county council we will maintain our sound management, despite the challenges, to keep us in as strong a position as possible and ensure that we provide good value for money for our communities. In addition to supporting those who are most in need, we are looking to invest in reigniting our economy through investment in skills, training and supporting businesses to adjust to a post-pandemic world.”</p>
	<p>Alan White, Leader of the Council</p> <p>“We were in a stable position financially before the pandemic hit but like all councils its impact has been significant. We have adapted and targeted our services, with many of our employees taking on additional roles and hours.</p>

	<p>Since the 2020/21 budget was set the Covid-19 pandemic struck, needing a combined response from the public sector to support health initiatives and the economy. We have had additional funds and grants worth over £110m from central government to help deal with the effects of the pandemic. These have been used to help reduce the additional pressures of continuing to provide vital services while protecting our residents and businesses.</p> <p>At the end of 2020/21, the financial outturn position is a saving of £1.9m, which is 0.4 per cent of our overall budget – a budget of half a billion pounds – and this has been achieved during a global pandemic. The capital programme shows expenditure of £132m as we have continued to make significant investment in Staffordshire, again achieved during a pandemic year.”</p> <p>Ian Parry, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the 2020/21 final financial outturn position of the county council including delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.


Decision – (a) That the final outturn position be noted.

(b) That the request for £591,000 to be carried forward from the Health and Care underspend for future commitments be approved.

(c) That the capital financing arrangements, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, including the capitalisation of transformational revenue expenditure, be approved.

9. National Bus Strategy - Enhanced Partnership

Note by Clerk: The Chairman agreed that this item be added to the agenda as an urgent item of business.

	<p>“The Government’s National Bus Strategy offers this authority an opportunity to work with operators to bid for money to update old vehicles, improve passenger facilities and encourage bus companies to innovate for the future. While we need to understand any residual costs for Staffordshire taxpayers, there is the potential to fund cleaner, more modern buses and make it easier, cleaner and more convenient for passengers.”</p> <p>David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider whether the County Council, as the Local Transport Authority, should form an Enhanced Partnership or Franchise model by end of

June 2021 as part of the Department for Transport's recently published National Bus Strategy.

Decision – (a) That the County Council commits to developing an Enhanced Partnership (EP), as outlined within the National Bus Strategy (NBS).

(b) That it be noted that additional capacity funding of £100k has been received to date, and further capacity funding is expected to be announced following confirmation of intention to work towards an EP.

(c) That the implications for the local bus network in Staffordshire, should it be decided not to develop an EP, be noted.

(d) That the potential impact on other DfT funding opportunities (not public transport related), should it be decided not to develop an EP, be noted.

10. 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 Children and Young People	In approving proposals for the usage of the additional income from the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme.
Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources	In approving the implementation and commencement of a new, bespoke apprentice pay structure for all apprentices recruited into Staffordshire County Council.
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	In approving proposals in respect of the delivery of the Department for Education's (DfE) Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme during Summer 2021
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	In approving proposals for the usage of the additional income from the COVID-19 Local Support Grant

11. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 21 July to 17 November 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
Outcome Focused 1-1 Support, and Home Care and Community Support (Including Domiciliary Care) for Staffordshire Children with Disabilities	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Disability Facility Grant Funding 2021/22	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 1 2021/22	Name: Kerry Dove / Rob Salmon

	Tel: (01785) 276354
Recommissioning of Staffordshire Integrated Advocacy Services (Cabinet Member for Health and Care	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Public Health Commissioning Plans	Name: Anthony Bullock Tel: (01785) 276649
Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People Service	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
UK Community Renewal Fund - Priority Projects	Name: Anthony Baines Tel: (01785) 895984
Future Delivery of Replacement Care Services in Staffordshire (Learning Disabilities)	Name: Dr Richard Harling Tel: (01785) 278700
Retender for Disposal of Sweepings	Name: Clive Tompson Tel: (01785) 276522
Framework Agreement for the Provision of Asbestos Removal and Encapsulation Services	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
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
Recommissioning of Care Home Services	Name: Helen Trousdale Tel: (01785) 277008
Entrust Service Delivery Agreement	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Household Waste Recycling Centre Update	Name: Clive Tompson Tel: (01785) 276522
Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2021/22	Name: Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 276354

Alan White
Leader of the County Council