

Minutes of the Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2021

Present: Tina Clements (Chairman)

Attendance	
Philippa Haden	Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf
Philip Hudson	David Smith
Graham Hutton	Ross Ward (Vice-Chairman (Scrutiny))
Ian Lawson	Bernard Williams

Apologies: Keith Flunder, Syed Hussain, Julia Jessel, Jonathan Price, Mark Sutton, Simon Tagg, Philip White, David Williams and Victoria Wilson

PART ONE

1. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED – There were no Declarations of Interest made.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2021

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Introduction to Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee received a joint presentation (PowerPoint slides attached Appendix 1 to the signed minutes) from the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities on their respective service areas (including budgets, visions and key priorities for the ensuing year) and suggested topics for scrutiny where Members' attention could add most value, as follows:-

a) Economy, Infrastructure and Skills (Table 1)

Service Area	Suggested Topics for Scrutiny
Highways and Built County	(i) Highway Contract Performance; (ii) Major infrastructure Projects; (iii) Climate Change and Flood Risk Management; (iv) Safer Roads Partnership.
Business and Enterprise	(i) Ensuring Infrastructure led growth; (ii) Reviewing the effectiveness and refresh of the Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation Strategy;

	(iii) Achieving more higher value jobs for Staffordshire in light of the Supporting Town Centre Regeneration Strategy.
Learning and Skills	(i) Training & Skills and the Future Economy; (ii) Community Learning Self-Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan.
Connected and Sustainable County	(i) North Staffs Air Quality Plan; (ii) National Bus Strategy and Staffordshire Bus Strategy Improvement Plan; (iii) Future Travel Agenda – ‘Live Lab’ Project Outcomes; (iv) Household Waste Recycling Centres Project Progress; (v) Climate Change Action Plan 2.

b) Families and Communities (Table 2)

Service Area	Suggested Topics for Scrutiny
Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Service	(i) Service Transformation; (ii) Covid-19 Recovery Plan; (iii) Digital Offer; (iv) Collections Development.
Regulatory Services and Community Safety	(i) Service Development; (ii) Covid-19 Recovery Plan.
Rural County	(i) Re-organisation of Operating Model; (ii) Countryside Estate Review; (iii) Covid-19 Recovery Plan.
Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service	(i) Libraries Review; (ii) Community Engagement Plan; (iii) Library Relocations. (iv) Digital Offer
Education Strategy and Improvement	(i) Education and Skills Strategy; (ii) Special Education Needs and Disabilities Strategy and Written Statement of Action; (iii) Covid-19 Recovery; (iv) Strong Academy Trusts; (v) Vulnerable Learners; (vi) Pupil Place Planning.

In the discussion which ensued Members noted the wide-ranging scope of services within their remit. They sought clarification on various strategic management and operational issues highlighted in the presentation and identified areas of particular interest to them, as follows:-

Areas of Interest (Table 3)

Service Area	Topic
Libraries and Arts (Families and Communities)	Supporting Community Managed Libraries (as part of a Holistic Service).
Education Strategy and Improvement (Families and Communities)	Sexual Harassment and Safeguarding in Education.
Business and Enterprise (Economy Infrastructure and Skills)	Economic Recovery in the Hospitality Sector.
Learning and Skills (Economy Infrastructure and Skills)	Skills Funding post Brexit.
Highways and Built County (Economy Infrastructure and Skills)	(i) Highways Contract Performance and Transformation (including innovation); (ii) Major Projects Funding and Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); (iii) Safer Roads Partnership, Enforcement and Future Partnership Working; (iv) Safer Roads Partnership, Enforcement and Future Partnership Working.
Connected and Sustainable (Economy Infrastructure and Skills)	(i) Climate Change (including provision of EV charging Infrastructure); (ii) Flood Risk Management; (iii) 20 mph Speed Limits and Divisional Highway Programmes; (iv) High Speed Broadband/Digital Infrastructure Strategy.

In response to requests from Members, the Scrutiny and Support officer undertook to circulate copies of the joint presentation PowerPoint slides to Members for their information/future reference.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That further consideration be given to the inclusion of the potential items for scrutiny identified in Table 3 above, in the Committee’s Work Programme for 2021/22 Municipal Year.

4. Developing the Work Programme

The Committee considered a report by the Scrutiny and Support Officer (Schedule A to the signed minutes) outlining:- (i) the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee Structure in Staffordshire; (ii) their remit; (iii) key considerations for them in the development of their Work Programme for 2021/22 Municipal Year; (iv) the various matters to be carried forward from their previous years’ Work Programme; (v) potential items for scrutiny included in the County Council’s rolling Forward Plan of Key Decisions; (vi) recurring Work Programme Items previously agreed; (vii) training and development considerations; (viii) the various methods of scrutiny available to them in implementing their Work Programme and; (ix) the need for the Work Programme to be kept under

regular review having regard to any new issues which might arise requiring priority consideration.

During the discussion which ensued Members noted the draft Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report which already provisionally included two Standing Items (ie quarterly updates on:- (i) HS2 and the Impact on Prosperity in Staffordshire and; (ii) Economic Recovery, Renewal & Transformation). They also noted three Additional Items for Discussion/Programme ie:- (i) Local Industrial Strategy/Strategic Infrastructure Plan; (ii) Delivering Housing in Staffordshire and; (iii) Live Labs) and a Working Group (Community Transport and the Supported Bus Network) which had been provisionally included. Owing to the wide-ranging scope of the Committee's remit and the various dates which had been included in the County Council's Calendar of Meetings for Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, the Chairman sought authority to schedule-in items, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen and report back to their next meeting, as necessary.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen, schedule-in items for scrutiny into their Work Programme against the various dates available, as appropriate and report back to their next meeting, with a view to seeking formal approval, as necessary.

5. Chairman's Correspondence

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter received from Eccleshall Flood Action Group dated 18 May 2021 (attached at Appendix 2 to the signed minutes) regarding the scrutiny of Highways Infrastructure and connectivity and flood and water management.

RESOLVED – (a) That the oral report be received and noted.

(b) That consideration of the inclusion of an item relating to flood risk management in Staffordshire into their Work Programme for 2021/22 Municipal Year, be given by the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen, before their next meeting.

(c) That the outcome of the discussions referred to in (b) above be reported back to their next meeting, as appropriate.

6. Proposal for Scrutiny Review - 20 mph Speed Limits

The Chairman reported receipt of a Proposal for Scrutiny Review Form submitted by Mr. Mike Barr dated 16 March 2021 (attached at Appendix 3 to the signed minutes) on behalf of 20's Plenty for Staffordshire campaign regarding the adoption of 20 mph speed limits in the County.

RESOLVED – (a) That the oral report be received and noted.

(b) That the Chairman thank Mr. Barr, on behalf of the Committee, for his submission.

(c) That consideration of the inclusion of an item on the proposed adoption of 20 mph speed limits in Staffordshire, into their Work Programme for 2021/22 Municipal Year, be given by the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen, before their next meeting.

(d) That the outcome of the discussions referred to in (c) above be reported back to their next meeting, as appropriate.

7. Date of Next Meeting - Friday 23 July 2021 at 10.00 am, Venue to be Confirmed

RESOLVED – That the date, time and venue of the next meeting be noted.

Chairman