

DECISION NOTICE

Cabinet Meeting - 21 July 2021

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

Cabinet Support Member in attendance - Johnny McMahon

Also in attendance - Charlotte Atkins

Apologies for absence: Philip White

PART ONE

12. Decision notice of the meeting held on 16 June 2021

Decision – That the notes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 be approved.

13. Leader's Update

Decision – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the lifting of Covid restrictions on 19 July being great news for people and businesses across Staffordshire; the increase in Covid cases in parts of Staffordshire and across the country; hospitalisations and deaths remaining low thanks to the vaccine programme; the need for people to take personal responsibility as fewer restrictions increases the risk of people catching the virus; the Council's plans to accelerate action on climate change; the continuing investment in the infrastructure Staffordshire people and businesses need to thrive; the recent media coverage of the National Football Centre at St George's Park near Burton; the return of the Staffordshire 70.3 Ironman on 18 July; and the Council's best wishes to all of our Staffordshire Olympians taking part in the Tokyo Olympics, including reigning 100m breaststroke champion Adam Peaty, boxer Frazer Clarke, canoeist Adam Burgess and triple jumper Ben Williams, be noted.

14. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 7 July 2021

Decision – That the minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 7 July 2021 be received.

15. 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 continuing to rise steeply, and cases being particularly high in Tamworth, although the vaccination programme appeared to be successfully limiting the number of hospitalisations and deaths; The Government's announcement that Step 4 on the national roadmap would proceed from 19 July; the need for people to exercise personal responsibility and continue to take sensible precautions to limit the spread of infection; the Covid vaccination programme continuing to make excellent progress with nearly

1,200,000 doses administered to Staffordshire residents; uptake of two doses of the vaccine being close to 95% in over 65s, 80% in 50 to 64 year olds, but lower in younger adults; and the Council's plans to maintain Covid defences for at least the remainder of 2021/22.

Decision – That the report be received.

16. 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:

- The Universal Credit claimant count in Staffordshire seeing a decrease of 1,380 claimants between April and May 2021 to a total of 23,400 claimants (and the claimant rate declining to 4.4% of the working age population in May compared to 7.0% regionally and 6.1% nationally).
- Significant announcements for local businesses and wider economy including the growth of Stone Based Midlands 3D printing; up to 30 new jobs looking set to be created by Alpha Manufacturing; a start on site for the first phase Quintus employment land development at Branston Locks near Burton-upon-Trent; food company, Ornuo Ingredients investing £500,000 at its facility in Leek; and an 500 additional jobs across JCB's operations on top of the 850 announced earlier this year.
- Progress on the 60 acre i54 Western Extension site where the physical works to create development platforms for end users to be substantially completed by the end of July.


17. Intensive Support for Staffordshire Children with Disabilities



“Whilst we know that families value the support they receive, we aspire to improve it further and make it easier to receive this as early as possible. This not only helps prepare these young people for when they move into adulthood but helps reduce the long-term demand on services”.

Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

“This proposal builds on work implemented since 2018 to develop choice, quality and value for money in the provision of support for children with disabilities. The current framework has continued to meet the needs of this group of children and young people, despite an increase in demand over that period.

	<p>The key here is to redouble our efforts to ensure parents understand what support is available without a formal Social Care assessment, to allow them to continue to care for their children in a way which is sustainable for them and remains affordable for the local authority in the medium to long term”.</p> <p>Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals to bring together the commissioning of the previously separate arrangements for Children with Disabilities’ Community Support and Aiming High 1-1 intensive support and short breaks into one contracting arrangement.


Decision – (a) That the commissioning of the previously separate arrangements for Children With Disabilities’ Community Support and Aiming High 1-1 intensive support and short breaks be brought together into one contracting arrangement, to achieve a more seamless and flexible system of support for eligible children, and one that is administratively more efficient for SCC to manage;

(b) That the open tender approach and implementation of a Flexible Framework (including delegated approval to relevant officers to award contracts) detailed in the costed Options Appraisal to secure the required provision at optimal Value for Money commencing from April 1st 2022, be supported;

(c) That the regular break clauses in the proposed contracts (2+1+1 years), which will allow time to develop joint approaches to the commissioning and procurement of this provision with Adult Social Care colleagues and other Authorities including with other West Midlands Authorities to attempt to overcome the current challenges for providers (and especially new entrants) with respect to service volumes, be noted; and

(d) That the first two years of the new contract be used to further investigate the merits and risks associated with In-house delivery of this support, and the efficacy of this model within the proposed new Children’s System, as the Options Appraisal demonstrated a number of potential strengths to this approach.

18. Future Delivery of Replacement Care Services in Staffordshire (Learning Disabilities)


	<p>“The Covid-19 pandemic has meant we have had to look at different ways of offering our services to adults with a learning disability. It has given us the chance to ensure our service users and their carers can get the services they need by embracing new ways of delivering services within people’s own homes without having to rely on building-based provision.</p> <p>We now have the opportunity to examine our services and explore the options open to us to ensure our service users</p>
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	<p>and their carers can continue to access the services they need post-pandemic in a way that helps people to lead full and independent lives for as long as possible”.</p> <p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider granting approval for an options appraisal for the future provision of replacement care for people with learning disabilities in Staffordshire.

Decision – That the commencement of an options appraisal for the future provision of replacement care for people with learning disabilities in Staffordshire, including engagement with service users, carers and stakeholders, be endorsed and the results be presented to Cabinet in the third quarter of 2021.

19. Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People Service

	<p>“Protecting children from exploitation is, and always will be, a priority for this authority. As the forms of exploitation evolve, so our response and preventative work change too and the newly commissioned service will provide a layered approach to support children and their families, which will aim to intervene and improve situations at an early stage.”</p> <p>Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider the commissioning intentions of Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner in relation to the development of a Pan-Staffordshire Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People’s Service.

Decision – (a) That the commissioning intentions of Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Office in relation to the development of a Pan-Staffordshire Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People’s Service, be endorsed.

(b) That the procurement of a Pan-Staffordshire Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People’s Service by Staffordshire County Council, on behalf of Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, be approved.

(c) That decisions in relation to the Pan-Staffordshire Child Exploitation and Missing Children & Young People’s Service be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities.

(d) That it be acknowledged that the delegation to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People includes acting on behalf of the County Council to finalise the Joint Commissioning Deed of Agreement and the entering of required contractual arrangements with the successful bidder.

20. Public Health Contracting Plans



	<p>“The Council commissions services that improve people’s lives, often at moments of great individual stress. We place great emphasis on providing the best possible support while securing value for money for taxpayers. This decision will allow us to maintain our work promoting good sexual health and supporting those with alcohol and drug dependencies, while offering a range of healthy living advice to people including giving up smoking, preventing diabetes and staying active later in life.”</p>
	<p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care.</p> <p>“The commissioning plans build on our commitment to work with partners in the NHS, as well as the wider public and third sectors in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for Staffordshire residents and ensure that public money is used efficiently and effectively. I look forward to seeing improved services and vaccination programmes in the coming years.”</p>
	<p>Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated care.</p>

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the forthcoming commissioning plans for Public Health services and to seek approval to delegate the authority to award and authorise entering into contracts to the Cabinet Member for Health and Care in consultation with the Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated Care and the Director for Health and Care.

Decision – (a) That the forthcoming plans for sexual health, drug and alcohol and lifestyle services as detailed in the report be noted; and

(b) That authority to award and enter into relevant contracts for the services detailed in the report in the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23 be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Health and Care in consultation with the Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated Care and the Director for Health and Care.

21. Recommission of Staffordshire Integrated Advocacy Service


	<p>“The availability of a professional advocacy service is essential to provide support and a voice to those who, for a variety of reasons, may not otherwise be able to fully express what they want. Every year this service supports hundreds of people across the county to take more control of how they live their lives.”</p> <p>Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care.</p>
	<p>“Dealing with the authorities and institutions can be a daunting experience for any of us, let alone potentially vulnerable children and young people who need support at a key stage in their lives. The recommissioning of the Staffordshire Integrated Advocacy Service will provide the continuation of effective, focused help for those who need it most.”</p> <p>Mark Sutton, Cabinet member for Children and Young People</p>

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the options available for the procurement of Advocacy services.

Decision – (a) That the commencement of a competitive tender process to procure the commissioned service in accordance with Option A (recommission of an equivalent Integrated Advocacy service model), as detailed in this report, be approved.

(b) That approval for the contract to be awarded and entered in to with the successful provider, following the competitive tender process, be delegated to the Director for Health and Care and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities.

22. UK Community Renewal Fund - Priority Projects

	<p>“It is a priority to the county council to reinvigorate our communities and businesses through investment, skills development, job creation and regeneration. The UK Community Renewal Fund could be another lever to support our continued drive to deliver this for the people of Staffordshire. We have received strong project applications and prioritised a selection to go forward for consideration by the Government. We’re confident these will make a real difference to communities and businesses and look forward to seeing successful bids beginning later this summer.”</p>
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	Philip White, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals for the County Council to take on the additional role of Accountable Body for the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF).


Decision – (a) That it be agreed that Staffordshire County Council (the “Council”) continues its role as Lead Authority for the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) and moves to the additional role of Accountable Body for the UKCRF;

(b) That it be agreed that the Director of Economy, Infrastructure & Skills be given delegated authority to:

- (i) authorise the Council to enter into an agreement (Accountable Body Agreement) with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) formalising the Council’s role as Lead Authority and Accountable Body for the UKCRF.
- (ii) authorise the Council to enter into an individual grant funding agreement (Grant Agreement) with each of the successful providers

(if applicable) authorise any formal variations or extensions required to the Accountable Body Agreement or to the individual Grant Agreements based on performance or changes in UKCRF Guidance.

23. Waste Management - Retender for the Disposal of Sweepings and Gully Waste

	<p>“As a county council, we are committed to caring for our environment and how we manage waste goes hand in hand with this.</p> <p>This procurement exercise will allow us to explore all the options for managing waste from our roads and get the best deal for taxpayers’ money.”</p> <p>Simon Tagg, Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals to provide treatment facilities for sweepings (street cleaning residues) collected by Staffordshire Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and gully waste collected by Amey LG (Amey) on behalf of the County Council.

Decision – That authority be delegated to the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change, to let a contract (or contracts) between the County Council and the successful tenderer (or tenderers) in the event that a combination of service providers provides the optimum solution.

24. Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 1 2021/22



“Our focus remains firmly on tackling Covid-19 and doing what is needed to control the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable. Work to manage outbreaks is ongoing as is work dealing with the immediate economic and social consequences of the last eighteen months.

Throughout the pandemic we have supported those who need us most, including the care sector, vulnerable families and local businesses. Our COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan continues to help manage local outbreaks. The emergence of the Delta variant remains a concern and recent outbreaks show just how quickly the virus can spread through our communities. Teams have also delivered targeted testing facilities across the county and continue to provide support to the NHS vaccination programme.

In other council business, we continue to provide support for vulnerable adults and children and with this, we still need longer-term help from the Government for funding adult social care and children’s and family services. We continue to lobby Government for a long-term sustainable solution to this as well as more clarity on future settlement grants and funding opportunities.

The government have also confirmed an additional £5.7m funding increase for the upkeep of Staffordshire County Council maintained schools which is welcome news. A new source of funding to provide more specialist places and improve provision for SEND pupils has also been confirmed.

We continue to provide advice and support for businesses, as we work to get our economy back on track. We have plans in place to ensure we bounce back stronger and generate new opportunities for better jobs, improved lives, and a greener county for everyone.”

Alan White, Leader of the Council



“Coping with the Covid-19 pandemic continues to put extra pressures on our finances, but we continue to manage them effectively and are doing what is needed and spending what is required.


We have had additional funds and grants from Government which have been used to help support the additional pressures of continuing to provide vital services

	<p>while protecting our residents. All council departments continue to deliver against their recovery priorities, whilst progressing with activities in the organisation’s Delivery Plan. The latest revenue forecast outturn shows a forecast saving of £8.119m (1.5%).</p> <p>We will continue to keep our finances in as strong a position as possible and to ensure that we provide good value for money for local tax-payers. Well managed finances also mean we can invest in our future and grow our economy post pandemic.”</p> <p>Ian Parry, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider an overview of Staffordshire County Council’s progress, performance and financial position in delivering against its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan.

Decision – That the report be received.

25. Framework Agreement for the Provision of Asbestos Removal and Encapsulation Services

	<p>“As a county council we are committed to getting the best services delivered at the best value for Staffordshire taxpayers.</p> <p>The procurement of a framework agreement will give us both flexibility and rigour for the removal of asbestos when needed.”</p> <p>Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial Matters</p>
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Reasons for the Decision – To consider proposals for a new Framework Agreement for the Provision of Asbestos Removal and Encapsulation Services.

Decision – (a) That Staffordshire County Council (the “Council”) concludes its regulated procurement in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the “Regulations”) for the Framework Agreement;

(b) That, following the procurement process, the successful suppliers be appointed to the Framework Agreement for the period 1st March 2022 to 28th February 2024 and that, dependent on the quality of their delivery, the 24-month service extension be implemented to a final contract end date of 28th February 2026; and

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

- (i) Approve the initial awards of the tendered suppliers to the Framework Agreement and authorise the Council entering into the Framework Agreement with successful suppliers;

- (ii) Approve all subsequent call-off contracts under this Framework Agreement and authorise the Council entering into any call-off contracts with suppliers under the Framework Agreement; and
- (iii) (if applicable) approve the 2-year extension to the Framework Agreement in its 2nd year.

26. 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 Highways and Transport	In approving the 2021 version of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for publication on Staffordshire County Council's website.
Cabinet Member for Health and Care	In approving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) That Disabled Facilities Grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is transferred to the District and Borough Councils as required by the MHCLG. (ii) That the County Council enters into legal agreements with the relevant District and Borough Councils to cover transfer of funding and to ensure that it is used in line with Disabled Facilities Grant conditions. (iii) That delegated authority is given to the Director of Health and Care, to approve the transfer of Disabled Facilities Grant monies to the District and Borough Councils in future years, whilst the current arrangements and grant conditions persist.
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills	In approving Staffordshire County Council's Community Learning funding allocation and distribution 2021 to 2022.

27. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 18 August to 1 December 2021, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

Subject Matter	Contact
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

Developing Family Hubs in Staffordshire	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Impact of COVID-19 on SCC Communities, Economy and Organisation and Recovery Progress - Update September 2021 and Way Forward	Name: Janene Cox Tel: (01785) 278368
Entrust Service Delivery Agreement	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Household Waste Recycling Centre Update	Name: Clive Tompson Tel: (01785) 276522
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 2 2021/22	Name: Kerry Dove/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 276354
Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2021/22	Name: Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 276354

28. 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

29. Proposed Sale of Former Burntwood Children's Services Office and Oakdene Day Centre, Sycamore Road, Burntwood (Exemption paragraph 3)

Reasons for the Decision – To consider the sale of the former Burntwood Children's Services Office and Oakdene Day Centre, Sycamore Road, Burntwood.

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

Alan White
Leader of the Council