

## Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 17 November 2021

Present: Alan White (Chairman)

### Attendance

Mark Deaville	Simon Tagg
Julia Jessel	Philip White
Ian Parry	David Williams
Jonathan Price	Victoria Wilson
Mark Sutton	

**Also in attendance:** Johnny McMahon (Cabinet Support Member)

### PART ONE

#### 67. 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	77	Personal	Director of Nexxus

#### 68. Decision notice of the meeting held on 20 October 2021

**Decision** – That the notes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 be approved.

#### 69. Leader's Update

**Decision** – That the oral report of the Leader of the Council giving an update on a range of issues including the recent death of former County Councillor Terry Dix who was Leader of the Council between 2001 and 2007; the nation falling silent last week for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday to pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, the announcement by Government this week that Covid boosters are being extended to the over 40s; the steady growth in demand this year for adult social care and the support the Council is giving to the care sector to tackle the difficulties being faced by home care providers in recruiting and keeping staff; the launch of a new campaign as part of national Road Safety Week showcasing Staffordshire's road safety champions; the agreements reached at the COP26 summit together with the Council's Climate Change Action Plan; and the official opening of the Stafford Western Access Route, delivered by the

County Council with funding from developers and the Local Enterprise Partnership, be noted.

#### **70. Minutes of the meeting of the Property Sub-Committee held on 3 November 2021**

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

#### **71. Update from COVID-19 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 of Covid in Staffordshire remaining high, and above the England average. Cases rates were highest in school age children, although these were falling due to schools adopting proportionate measures to limit transmission of infection, the 12-15 vaccination programme, and rising natural immunity in this age group.
- The NHS plans to accelerate booster vaccinations for over 50s and first doses for 12-15 year olds. The NHS and social care were coping at the moment but continued to experience considerable pressure from Covid and other conditions.
- The need for residents to continue to take sensible precautions to limit the spread of infection such as good hygiene, keeping a respectful distance, and wearing face coverings in crowded indoor places; and also continuing to get a Covid test twice weekly.
- The Council was continuing to maintain Covid defences for the remainder of 2021/22. This included testing and contact tracing, as well as managing outbreaks and supporting the most vulnerable. These would be reviewed in line with emerging Government policy.

**Decision** – That the report be received.

#### **72. 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 County Council was successful in its bid for Community Renewal Funding, £751,000, to support the Staffordshire Means Back to Business Programme. Working with Staffordshire Districts and Borough

Councils, this takes the total amount available to the business community in Staffordshire to in excess of £6M to support apprenticeships, training and business start-up activity.

- The Council's Business and Enterprise Team, as part of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Directorate, have been able to secure £581,800 of One Public Estates Brownfield Land Release Fund to support the demolition of the former Magistrates Court in Stafford. This site forms part of the efforts to drive forward town centre regeneration through the Eastgate Programme.
- Cannock Chase District Council have also been successful in their Levelling Up Fund bid and have been awarded £20M to support key regeneration schemes in their town centre.
- Staffordshire continues to see job vacancies increase, which grew by 18% between September and October, equivalent to over 5,400 more job vacancies. Through the Staffordshire Means Back to Business the Council is making good progress not least through supporting nearly 240 apprenticeships.
- The co-ordinated and quick response Redundancy and Recruitment Triage Service was continuing to offer free bespoke plans to any Staffordshire and Stoke business who need to restructure but also want to help their staff get into other work in growth sectors as quickly as possible. Following the conclusion of the Governments Job Retention Scheme on the 30th September, very few redundancy notification forms had been received for the Staffordshire area. The few that had received mainly related to changes in T&C's and not potential risk of redundancy.
- Responding to the increased job vacancies and limited redundancies, with partners, the Council has tweaked the name of the service from 'Redundancy and Recruitment Triage Service' to the 'Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Triage Service'. This is in recognition that people don't have to have been made redundant to contact the service which is very much about ensuring people and jobs have access to each other.

### **73. Half Yearly Treasury Management Report for the Period Ended 30 September 2021**



“The UK economy continues to face an uncertain environment in 2021/22, with the on-going Covid-19 pandemic and an uncertain financial environment. The County Council continues to follow its Treasury Management Policy of using internal cash balances instead of borrowing money.

We also continue to provide advice and support along with access to funding for local businesses, as we work to get our economy back on track. And like many other councils we continue to face financial pressures and uncertainty over long term funding of some services. We will continue to spend and invest where necessary, focusing our efforts and resources on where they are most needed”.

Ian Parry, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider a summary of the Council’s borrowing and investment activities during the first six months of the year.

**Decision** – (a) That the treasury management activities for the half-year ended 30 September 2021 be noted.

(b) That the Prudential Indicators detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be noted and that the increase to the Upper Limit of variable rate interest exposure, as detailed in paragraph 47 of the report, be approved.

(c) That the proposed revision to the Non-Standard Investment limits, detailed in paragraphs 40-43 and Appendix 5 of the report, be noted and approved.

**74. Decisions taken by Cabinet Members under Delegated Powers**

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

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	In approving proposals for the usage of the additional income from the COVID-19 Local Support Grant
Cabinet Member for Health and Care	In approving the decision to award a contract for drug and alcohol services for inpatient detoxification following a competitive procurement process and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Decision</b>
	the 14 Local Authorities of the West Midlands Consortium.
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture	Approval to the decision to cease trading and decommission Staffordshire's Schools' Library Service (SLS) on 31 December 2021 and to provide a new offer from Staffordshire's Libraries and Arts Service from 1 January 2022:

## 75. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 15 December 2021 to 20 April 2022, which detailed the following issues, was approved:

<b>Subject Matter</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Burton Town Deal - River Trent Cycle / Footbridge Update	Name: Wayne Mortiboys Tel: (01785) 276578
VCSE Capacity Building Recommission	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112
IA2609 Framework for Responsive Property Maintenance and Day Works	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Burton Town Deal - Proposed Library Move	Name: Wayne Mortiboys Tel: (01785) 276578
Diversity and Inclusion - Principles, Objectives and Action Plan	Name: Kerry Dove Tel: 07855 679112
Proposed Relocation and Expansion of St Leonard's Primary School, Stafford	Name: Tim Moss Tel: (01785) 277963
Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service: Contract Extension	Name: Natasha Moody Tel: 07976 191079
Home to School Transport - Review of Temporary Vacant Seat Scheme	Name: Clive Thomson Tel: (01785) 276522
Chatterley Valley West - Project Update	Name: Anthony Hodge Tel: (01785) 277204
Formal Report from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman regarding SEND	Name: Tim Moss Tel: (01785) 277963
Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022 - 2027	Name: Rachel Spain Tel: (01785) 854455
Potential Joint Coroners Service, Business Case	Name: Janene Cox MBE Tel: (01785) 278368
Options Appraisal for the Future Commissioning Model for Supported Living Services in Staffordshire	Name: Andrew Jepps Tel: (01785) 278557
Future Contracting Options for Supported Living from 1st October 2022 Onwards	Name: Andy Marriott Tel: (01785) 277754

Business Case for Care Home Developments	Name: Helen Trousdale Tel: (01785) 277008
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 3 2021/22	Name: Kerry Dove/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 276354
Entrust Service Delivery Agreement	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Staffordshire Rural Economic Strategy	Name: Anthony Hodge Tel: (01785) 277204
2022/23 Schools Capital Programme	Name: Ian Turner Tel: (01785) 277228
Integrated Performance Report - Quarter 4 2021/22	Name: Kerry Dove/ Rob Salmon Tel: (01785) 276354

## **76. 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.

## **77. The Future of Replacement Care Services (Learning Disabilities)** (Exclusion paragraph 3)

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider proposals for the future provision of replacement care for people with learning disabilities in Staffordshire.

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

## **78. Green Homes Grant (Sustainable Warmth Competition)** (Exemption paragraph 3)

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider approval of Council Grant Award Expenditure and appropriate spend for the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme (GHG-LADS) Sustainable Warmth Competition.

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

## **79. Winter Funding for Home Care** (Exemption paragraph 3)

**Reasons for the Decision** – To consider proposals for the use of the NHS funding available to address winter pressures by supporting home care.

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

**Alan White**  
**Leader of the Council**