

## **COUNCIL AGENDA**

### **To:- The Members of the Staffordshire County Council**

Notice is given that the meeting of the Staffordshire County Council will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Stafford at 10.00 am on Thursday, 25 July 2013 to deal with the matters set out on the agenda.

Nick Bell  
Chief Executive  
17 July 2013

## **AGENDA**

(Note: The meeting will begin with prayers)

### **PART ONE**

#### **General Housekeeping and Declaring an Interest**

1. **Apologies for absence (if any)**
2. **Declarations of Interest under Standing Order 16**
3. **Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 May 2013 (Pages 5 - 16)**
4. **Chairman's Correspondence**

The Chairman will mention a range of recent items of news which may be of interest to Members

5. **Statement of the Leader of the Council (Pages 17 - 22)**

The Leader will inform the Council about his work and his plans for the Council, and will give an overview of decisions taken by the Cabinet (and Portfolio Holders) since the previous meeting of the Council

6. **Questions**

Questions to be asked by Members of the County Council of the Leader of the Council, a Cabinet Member, or a Chairman of a non-Scrutiny Committee. The question will be answered by the relevant Member and the Member asking the question may then ask a follow up question which will also be answered

7. **Notices of Motion**

(a) Mr G. Adamson to move the following motion:-

“This Council notes and supports the campaign by Unite the Union to stamp out the deplorable practice of 'blacklisting' of individuals because of their affiliation and association to a trade union within the construction industry. Blacklisting is a national scandal and too many construction workers have had their lives ruined just because they had legitimate concerns over health and safety in one of Britain's most dangerous industries or just because they belonged to a trade union.

The Council expects our joint venture partners or any organisation or contractor working with or on behalf of the council to have a zero tolerance policy towards this practice and if applicable to be co-signatories to the Construction Industry Joint Council Working Rules Agreement which aims to ensure that this practice is not prevalent in the construction industry.

This Council will take every legitimate step necessary to ensure that the County Council never knowingly engages or contracts with a company that operates a blacklist or has been found to operate a blacklist.”

(b) Mr G. Adamson to move the following motion:-

“This council condemns the forced academisation of Norton Canes Primary School & Heath Hayes Primary School and fully supports their campaign to avoid this process.”

(c) Mr P.E.B. Atkins to move the following motion:-

“That we call upon all Staffordshire health organisations, through the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to join with us and all our other partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors by pooling our resources and maximising all our efforts and influence to achieve the County Council's shared vision for Staffordshire to be a place where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.”

8. **Recommendations to the Council** (Pages 23 - 24)

Report of the Director for Democracy, Law and Transformation

9. **Report of the Chairman of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority** (Pages 25 - 28)

10. **Petitions**

An opportunity for Members to present and speak on petitions submitted by their constituents

11. **Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman of the Council will move the following motion so that the County Council can consider confidential business in private:-

“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 the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

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**PART TWO**

(All reports in this section are on pink paper)

Nil



## NOTICES FOR COUNCILLORS

### 1. Fire/Bomb Alerts

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts, do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

### 2. Attendance Record

Please sign the Attendance Record Book, which will be located at the top of the main staircase. Please ensure that the book is signed again in the afternoon if you are attending the adjourned Council meeting.

### 3. Mobile Phones

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

### 4. Tea/Coffee

Refreshments will be available from 9.30 am.

### 5. Questions

Questions must be addressed to the Chairman, or to the Leader of the Council or to a Portfolio Holder or to the Chairman of a Committee. Notice in writing of any question must be delivered to the office of the Chief Executive by no later than 1:00 pm on the third working day preceding the Council Meeting i.e. **by not later than 1:00 pm on Monday, 22 July 2013**. All questions and answers will be circulated around the Chamber before the commencement of the meeting. The questioner will be invited to read out his/her question. Similarly, the person responding will read out the reply. The Chairman will then permit the questioner to ask one supplementary question on each question/answer. Only the first 15 questions received by the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation before the deadline will be dealt with at the Council meeting. Further information on Questions can be found in Paragraph 8 of Section 11 of the Constitution.

**NB. Questions for the County Council meeting on 10 October 2013 must reach the Chief Executive by not later than 1:00 pm on Monday, 7 October 2013.**

### 6. Notices of Motion

A Notice of Motion must reach the Chief Executive nine clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council, i.e. **by not later than midnight on Monday, 15 July 2013**. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Paragraph 11 of Section 11 of the Constitution.

**NB. Under the new arrangements approved by the Council on 20 May 2010, Notices of Motion for the County Council meeting on 10 October 2013 must reach the Chief Executive by not later than midnight on Monday, 30 September 2013.**

## GUIDANCE ON DECLARING DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AT MEETINGS - WHAT SHOULD YOU SAY

### DEFINITION OF WHAT IS A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

A 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interest' is an interest of yourself or your partner, ie your spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners, (but only where you are aware that your partner has the interest) within the following descriptions:

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Staffordshire County Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you or your partner in connection with you carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you or your partner (or a body in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest) and Staffordshire County Council- (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Staffordshire County Council
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Staffordshire County Council for a month or longer
Corporate Tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) (a) the landlord is Staffordshire County Council and (b) the tenant is a body in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Staffordshire County Council; and (b) either-  (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you or your partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU SAY?**

If you also have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you must notify the Chairman of that interest and withdraw from the room when the matter is being discussed.

An example of what you should say

*"I have a disclosable pecuniary interest in item number..... on the agenda. The interest is ..... I shall leave the room when that matter is being discussed"*

## **DECLARING INTERESTS AT FULL COUNCIL**

The Code of Conduct only requires that disclosable pecuniary interests are declared where the matter to which the interest relates is being considered. Some items will be mentioned in the papers for Full Council but are not actually being considered by Full Council. In particular, some items are mentioned in the Leader's Statement as having been dealt with in Cabinet but are not actually mentioned or discussed at full Council. In such circumstances the Monitoring Officer's advice to members is that there is no need to declare an interest unless the particular matter is mentioned or discussed. As a general rule, members only need to declare an interest at full Council in the following circumstances:

- Where a matter is before the Council for a decision and/or
- Where the matter in which the member has an interest is specifically mentioned or discussed at the Council meeting.





**Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 16 May 2013**

Present:

<b>Attendance</b>		
Ben Adams	John Francis	Ian Parry
George Adamson	Bob Fraser	Sheree Peale
Charlotte Atkins	Michael Greatorex	Kath Perry
Philip Atkins	Mrs S Hambleton	Trish Rowlands
Ann Beech	Gill Heath	Jeff Sheriff
Len Bloomer	Ian Hollinshead	David Smith
Frank Chapman	Derrick Huckfield	Alison Spicer
Ron Clarke	Kevin Jackson	Mark Sutton
Maureen Compton	Keith James	Stephen Sweeney
Chris Cooke	Brian Jenkins	Simon Tagg
Tim Corbett	Philip Jones	John Taylor
Mike Davies	Mike Lawrence	Martyn Tittley
Peter Davies	Ian Lawson	Diane Todd
Derek Davis, OBE	David Loades	Alan White
William Day	Robert Marshall	Conor Wileman
Carol Dean	Geoffrey Martin	David John Williams
Mark Deaville	Shelagh McKiernan	Mark Winnington
Janet Eagland	Christine Mitchell	Susan Woodward
Brian Edwards	Geoff Morrison	Caroline Wood
Terry Finn	Mark Joseph Olszewski	Mike Worthington

Apologies for absence: Margaret Astle and Alan Dudson

**PART ONE**

**1. Election of the Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year**

Mr M. Deaville proposed, and Mr L. Bloomer seconded, and it was:

**RESOLVED** – That Mr I.S. Lawson be elected Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

**2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 March 2013**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2013 be confirmed.

**3. Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year**

Mr T. Finn moved, and Mrs K. Perry seconded, and it was:-

**RESOLVED** – That Mrs J. Eagland be appointed Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

#### **4. Chairman’s Correspondence**

##### **Chairman’s Civic Service**

The Chairman extended an invitation to all Members to attend the Civic Church Service to be held at St. Mary’s Church, Stafford on Sunday, 9 June commencing at 11:30 am.

#### **5. Questions**

Mr J. Taylor asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation whose reply is set out below the question:-

##### **Question**

In the light of media reports last week saying that the number of officers at Staffordshire County Council earning over £100,000 had increased, can the Leader tell me how many staff (in-house and agency staff) are on the National Minimum wage?”

##### **Reply**

Staffordshire County Council employs no one on the National Minimum wage; all of our employees currently earn more than the National Minimum wage.

##### **Supplementary Question**

Being as there are no employees of the County Council on the National Minimum Wage, does that include agency staff and, secondly, does that mean that it is a policy of the County Council not to have employees on below the “Living Wage”?

##### **Reply**

It would be our policy not to pay people at or below the National Minimum Wage; similarly, it would be our policy not to pay people who work indirectly for us at or below the National Minimum Wage. As far as the Living Wage is concerned, I do not have that information here with me today and so I will respond after the meeting.

Mr J. Taylor asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills whose reply is set out below the question:-

##### **Question**

The Labour Group is committed to enhancing opportunities for all young people in Staffordshire, including through apprenticeships. Can the Leader therefore tell me how apprenticeships have been created within the Authority and across Staffordshire in the last 4 years?

## **Reply**

Between 2009/10 to 2011/12 14,146 young people from Staffordshire have started an apprenticeship. Over the three year period apprenticeships have increased year on year with 5,212 young people starting an apprenticeship in 2011/12 compared to 3,912 in 2009/10, an increase of 33% in apprenticeship starts over the period.

Within Staffordshire County Council, since September 2009, a total of 336 apprentices have been recruited and successfully completed the apprenticeship course. Of these, 130 have been successful in gaining a substantive post within Staffordshire County Council following completion of their apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship opportunities have been offered in a variety of functions including corporately as Outdoor Education Instructors, Grounds maintenance, ICT technicians, Catering, Social Care and customer services, Business Administration and Animal Health. In addition within Schools as Teaching Assistants, ICT Technicians, Support Supervisors and Business Administration Support.

## **Supplementary Question**

Of the 336 apprentices that have been recruited by the County Council, can the Cabinet Member tell me how many of those were young people from the "Looked After" system?

## **Reply**

I do not have that information here with me today and so I will respond after the meeting.

Ms S. Woodward asked the following question of the Leader of the Council whose reply is set out below the question:-

## **Question**

A consortium of charities, including Barnardo's & the Fostering Network, said last week that care leavers were being abandoned by their corporate parents, by which they mean each and every member here, and called for care leavers to be entitled to on-going support until they are 25 including being able to remain with foster carers with until they are 21. What plans does the Leader have to respond to this call in the light of every member's responsibility as a corporate parent?

## **Reply**

Staffordshire County Council is very proud of the services it provides to its looked after children and care leavers. As these children and young people's corporate parents we take these responsibilities seriously. I am pleased to be able to advise Ms Woodward that, despite the challenging financial situation, Staffordshire has protected its services to this vulnerable group of young adults, ensuring that we meet these young people's needs in accordance with our statutory responsibilities.

Staffordshire has developed a strong profile regionally as Corporate parent through the work of its Corporate Parenting Panel and its relationship with the Children in Care Council. The current legislation requires this corporate parenting responsibility to extend until a child who has been cared for by Staffordshire County Council reaches the age of 21. Where a child is still receiving education this extends until the young person reaches the age of 25.

Across the region Staffordshire has led on a regional supported accommodation tender to ensure that our young people leaving care are able to reside in suitable accommodation that meets their needs and where they can receive the correct amount of support. Staffordshire also has policies that allow children, in certain cases, to remain with their foster carers after they reach the age of 18 where this is considered in their best interests.

Staffordshire offers a range of support to care leavers post 18 years of age.

The combined pressures that exist across front line services to our looked after children and care leavers needs to be considered in the context of increased demand. Nationally it is estimated that an extra 9000 foster carers are required for those children aged up to 18. Locally we are campaigning hard with considerable success, to ensure that more people come forward to foster for Staffordshire's children. Extending the age that all children can remain with their foster carers into adulthood would increase pressures on the availability of carers and our capacity to meet the needs of younger Looked After children.

### **Supplementary Question**

The Leader says in his response that Staffordshire County Council lead on a regional supported accommodation tender to ensure that our young people leaving care are able to reside in suitable accommodation including support; I would like to know what the result of that tender was and what sort of liaison took place between the County Council, District Councils (with their housing responsibility) and registered social landlords. Clearly providing appropriate accommodation for young people leaving the care system is crucial and I would welcome more information on this?

### **Reply**

I obviously have not got all that information to hand now but would suggest that Ms Woodward has a good look at Families First and the way that we work.

## **6. Results of the County Council Elections - 2 May 2013**

The Chairman presented an Election return detailing the names of candidates elected and the number of seats won by each of the political parties, together with the percentage of votes cast.

**RESOLVED** – That the Election return be received.

## **7. Members not re-elected**

The Chairman presented a report detailing those former Members of the Authority who were not re-elected at the County Council Elections on 2 May 2013. The Leader of the Council and Mr D. Davis paid tribute to the contributions the former Members had made to the work of the Council.

**RESOLVED** – That the former Members named below be thanked for the valuable contribution they had made to the work of the Authority during their term(s) of office:

- Paul Atkins – 2009 - 2013 - Burntwood South (Lichfield)
- Ray Barron – 2009 - 2013 - Stafford North (Stafford)
- John Bernard – 2009 - 2013 - Hednesford and Rawnsley (Cannock Chase)
- John Cooper – 2009 - 2013 - Wolstanton (Newcastle)
- Pat Corfield - 2009 - 2013 - Cannock Town Centre (Cannock Chase)
- Dylis Cornes – 2009 - 2013 - Audley and Chesterton (Newcastle)
- Christina Jebb – 1989 - 2013 - Biddulph South and Endon (Staffordshire Moorlands)
- Ivan Jennings – 2009 - 2013 - Stafford West (Stafford)
- Geoffrey Locke – 2009 - 2013 - Kidsgrove and Talke (Newcastle)
- David Nixon – 2001 - 2005 and 2009 – 2013 - Cross Heath and Silverdale (Newcastle)
- Jeremy Oates – 2009 - 2013 - Amington (Tamworth)
- Michael Oates – 2009 - 2013 - Bolebridge (Tamworth)
- John Rowley - 2009 - 2013 - Cannock Villages (Cannock Chase)
- Liz Staples – 2009 - 2013 - Horninglow and Stretton (East Staffordshire)
- Steve Tranter – 2009 - 2013 - Burntwood North (Lichfield)

## **8. Appointment of the Leader of the Council**

Mr I.M. Parry moved and Mr B. Adams seconded, and it was:-

**RESOLVED** – That Mr. P.E.B. Atkins be appointed Leader of the County Council.

## **9. To set the maximum number of members of the Cabinet**

On the motion of Leader of the Council it was: –

**RESOLVED** – That the maximum the number of members of the Cabinet be set at five, plus the Leader of the Council.

## **10. Statement by the Leader of the Council of the members appointed to the Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council outlined his plans for the Council for the next four years including promoting economic prosperity for the County and protecting the most vulnerable in our society. He also circulated a statement setting out his Cabinet, as follows:-

### **Cabinet Member**

Leader of the Council	Philip Atkins
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation	Ian Parry
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	Robbie Marshall
Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills	Ben Adams
Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure	Mark Winnington
Cabinet Member for Communities and Localism	Mike Lawrence

### **Support Members (4)**

Care	Alan White
Public Health and Community Safety	Mark Sutton
Environment and Rural Affairs	Gill Heath
Transport and the Connected County	Simon Tagg

The Leader of the Labour Group on the Council made a statement setting out his Shadow Cabinet, as follows:

- George Adamson
- Maureen Compton
- Brian Jenkins
- Sheree People
- Sue Woodward

### **11. Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Section 10 (Officers)**

The Council considered a report of the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation concerning proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution by providing for a new Scheme of Delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the new Scheme of Delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) be approved.

(b) That the Constitution, as revised, be approved.

## **12. Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Committee Arrangements**

The Council considered a report of the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation concerning proposed changes to Cabinet Member responsibilities; the Council's Committee arrangements and the re-introduction of the proposal for a Shadow Cabinet. In response to questions from Members, the Monitoring Officer explained that the report had been tabled rather than being sent out with the papers for the meeting due to the tight timescale between the elections and the Annual Council Meeting.

Mrs Compton enquired as to which Select Committee would be responsible for scrutinising Entrust. The Leader of the Council responded by indicating that Entrust was a separate legal entity and that the County Council had two seats on the company's management board. He added that one of the Council's Select Committees would be responsible for scrutinising the commissioning of services through Entrust.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- (a) the Council be recommended to make the amendments to the Constitution as outlined in this report;
- (b) the Constitution is amended to reflect changes to Cabinet titles and the Shadow Cabinet with Cabinet responsibilities being determined by the Leader following Full Council;
- (c) authority is given to the Political Group Leaders to agree membership of the All Party Member Groups following Full Council;
- (d) the powers of Health Scrutiny be discharged by the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee;
- (e) the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee becomes the Council's statutory crime and disorder panel;
- (f) the Director for Democracy, Law and Transformation be granted authority to make any minor subsequent changes to the Constitution as a consequence of the changes set out in this report; and
- (g) the Constitution, as revised, be approved by Council.

## **13. Committee Membership**

**RESOLVED** – That the members indicated below serve on the Committees indicated for the period up to the annual Council meeting in 2013:-

<b>Corporate Review Committee</b>	
Frank Chapman	Brian Jenkins
Carol Dean	Philip Jones
Tim Corbett	Kath Perry
Brian Edwards	John Taylor
John Francis	Sue Woodward
Derrick Huckfield	Mike Worthington
Keith Jackson	

<b>Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee</b>	
George Adamson	Geoff Martin
Ann Beech	Geoff Morrison
Len Bloomer	Mark Olszewski
Mark Deaville	Martyn Tittley
Brian Edwards	Diane Todd

<b>Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee</b>	
Margaret Astle	John Francis
Maureen Compton	Alison Spicer
Michael Davies	Stephen Sweeney
Derek Davis	Conor Wileman
Terry Finn	David Williams

<b>Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee</b>	
Charlotte Atkins	Christine Mitchell
Frank Chapman	Sheree People
Chris Cooke	Kath Perry
Bob Fraser	Trish Rowlands
Michael Greatorex	David Smith
David Loades	Mike Worthington
Shelagh McKiernan	

<b>Planning Committee</b>	
Ann Beech	Ian Lawson
Ron Clarke	David Loades
Chris Cooke	Geoff Martin
Tim Corbett	Mark Olszewski
Mark Deaville	Jeff Sheriff
Alan Dudson	David Smith
John Francis	David Williams
Ian Hollinshead	



<b>Pensions Committee</b>	
Philip Atkins	Philip Jones
Ron Clarke	Mike Lawrence
Derek Davis	Shelagh McKiernan
Carol Dean	Stephen Sweeney
Bob Fraser	

<b>Audit and Standards Committee</b>	
Frank Chapman	Philip Jones
Derek Davis	Alison Spicer
Bill Day	Martyn Tittley
Janet Eagland	Diane Todd
Michael Greatorex	Conor Wileman
Derrick Huckfield	Caroline Wood
Kevin Jackson	Mike Worthington
Keith James	

<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>	
Margaret Astle	Mike Lawrence
Peter Davies	Ian Lawson
Bill Day	David Loades
Janet Eagland	Geoff Morrison
Bob Fraser	Trish Rowlands
Terry Finn	Jeff Sheriff
Sandra Hambleton	Caroline Wood
Keith James	

#### **14. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees**

**RESOLVED** – That the under-mentioned be appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committees stated for the period up to the annual Council meeting in 2014:-

##### **Corporate Review Committee**

Chairman	Philip Jones
Vice-Chairman	Frank Chapman

##### **Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee**

Chairman	Brian Edwards
Vice-Chairman	Martyn Tittley

### **Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee**

Chairman John Francis  
Vice-Chairman David Williams

### **Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee**

Chairman Kath Perry  
Vice-Chairman David Loades

### **Planning Committee**

Chairman Tim Corbett  
Vice-Chairman David Smith

### **Pensions Committee**

Chairman Stephen Sweeney  
Vice-Chairman Bob Fraser

### **Audit and Standards Committee**

Chairman Mike Worthington  
Vice-Chairman Keith James

### **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Chairman Mike Lawrence  
Vice-Chairman Janet Eagland

## **15. Appointment of Members to Outside Bodies 2013/14**

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the following members be appointed to serve on the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority for 2013/14:

Charlotte Atkins	Sandra Hambleton
Len Bloomer	Ian Hollinshead
Ron Clarke	Keith James
Bill Day	Geoff Martin
Peter Davies	Christine Mitchell
Mike Davies	Jeffrey Sherriff

Mark Deaville	Stephen Sweeney
Terry Finn	Mark Winnington
Bob Fraser	Caroline Wood
Michael Greatorex	

(b) That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to approve the appointment of members to the remaining Outside Bodies for 2013/14 and. subsequently to make any changes to those appointments as necessary.

**16. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority Periodic Report of the Chairman on Authority Matters**

Mr P. Davies paid tribute to Mr L. Bloomer for is Chairmanship of the Fire and Rescue Authority over the past four years.

**RESOLVED** – That the Periodic Report of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority be received.

**Chairman**



## Statement of the Leader of the Council

### 1. Staffordshire's People

#### 1.1 Review of Usual Costs for Care Home Provision

The County Council has a duty, where applicable, to assess the care needs of people in Staffordshire who appear to be in need of community care services. If an assessed need for care home services is identified and the individual does not fund their own care, the county council may make arrangements for the provision of that care. The County Council sets out what it usually expects to pay before each financial year; this is called the 'usual cost'. In 2011 the County Council was legally challenged for keeping its fees for the 2011-12 financial year the same as in 2010-11. In November 2011, the County Council settled the issue temporarily by agreeing to carry out a review of fees for residential and nursing homes. As part of this review the Council consulted care home providers and other interested parties.

The Cabinet have now approved the fees for 2013/14 and have agreed that backdated payments be made at these levels from 1 April 2013. The Cabinet have also agreed to work with an independent body to establish a fund to assist providers where hardship has been caused to them as a result of the lower fees in previous years and thus support the maintenance of a financially viable market place.

The financial impact of the proposal is £3.8 million from 2013-14 onwards of which £2.4 million has been provided in the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

*(Cabinet – 19 June 2013)*

### 2. Staffordshire's Communities

#### 2.1 Replacement Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Contract Award and Site Leasing Arrangements

A procurement exercise has been undertaken to establish a single replacement contract for management of the County Council's 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and one Waste Transfer Station, allowing the County Council to fulfil its statutory and legal obligations as a Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). The new contract will commence 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013 with a maximum duration of 15 years.

The Cabinet have agreed that the Contract for the operation and management of Household Waste Recycling Centres be awarded to FCC Waste Services (UK) Limited (FCC). The Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure has been given delegated authority to approve all necessary site leases.

*(Cabinet – 19 June 2013)*

### **3. Our Staffordshire**

#### **3.1 Infrastructure +**

The Infrastructure + project aims to establish and implement a preferred approach to deliver the County Council's outcomes related to economic growth and physical infrastructure. It seeks to identify and contract with an organisation that has the technical skills and abilities to help improve the highways and other assets whilst improving public satisfaction.

The Cabinet have agreed that a Strategic Delivery Partner be procured to assist the County Council with the delivery of the services within the scope of the project. They have also agreed that the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure, be given delegated authority to select the shortlist of potential partners to tender to be the County Council's preferred partner. The Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure has been given delegated authority to take decisions around the scope of services and select the County Council's preferred delivery partner.

The final decision to award a contract to the preferred partner will be decided by Cabinet. The Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure has been given delegated authority to approve interim arrangements for delivery of the current highways maintenance activities during the 6 month mobilisation period of the new contract.

*(Cabinet – 19 June 2013)*

#### **3.2 2012/13 Final Outturn Performance and Finance Report**

The Cabinet have noted the Final Outturn Performance & Finance Report which provided an overview of the Council's performance and the progress being made in delivering its nine priority outcomes. Over the last 12 months, savings of over £46m had been delivered whilst crime levels had continued to fall, hundreds of new jobs had been created and school results had improved.

*(Cabinet – 19 June 2013)*

#### **3.2 Portfolio Holder Delegated Decisions**

Portfolio holders have recently taken decisions in respect of the following matters:

- In approving the adoption of a revised Enforcement Policy for the County Council.
- In approving:
  - (a) the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2014/15.

- (b) the coordinated admission scheme for primary and secondary schools for 2014/15.
- In approving the following governance arrangements for a proportion (£3 million) of the anticipated Capital receipts from the sale of land at Pye Green, Cannock:
  - (a) That the money be held in a joint account with Cannock Chase District Council.
  - (b) That use of the money thereafter be by agreement of both of the two councils.
  - (c) That the money be earmarked for projects in the Cannock Chase area but not used until such projects have the necessary approval/authorisation from the County Council.
  - (d) That finalisation of the detailed arrangements for the management of the joint account to be delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources.
- In approving that no change be made to the post 16 transport policy or level of contribution for the 2013/14 academic year. (Officers will then consult before issuing a statement of policy by 31 May 2013 as statutorily required).
- In approving that the sum of £34,727.49 from the estate of a deceased resident of Staffordshire be utilised to support uniformed services personnel who have medically discharged staff who need assistance back into work.
- In approving the letting of Nos. 111 and 124 Lower Penn Estate on fixed term tenancies under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.
- In approving the Highways Capital Investment Strategy for 2013/14.
- In approving that the contract for the delivery of Superfast Broadband in Staffordshire be awarded to BT Group.

### **3.3 Forward Plan**

The Cabinet have approved the Forward Plan for the period 17 July 2013 to 20 November 2013, which contains details of the decisions which the Cabinet are expected to take during that period.

### **3.4 Powerhouse Central**

Members will be aware of our on-going discussions with the government on our ambitious plans for a City Deal in Staffordshire. Following a meeting with the Rt. Hon Greg Clarke MP, we were approved to make our pitch to the Local Growth Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg MP on the 17<sup>th</sup>

July. The meeting went well, delivering a clear vision for ministers to get behind that would bring jobs and growth to the area and benefit both the County and City.

Throughout this process many officers and members within the County, City Council and the LEP have shown incredible dedication in putting together a fantastic bid of which I am immensely proud. We are now entering into the final stages and I will update members as soon the results of the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> are known.

### **3.5 LGA Conference**

Along with several members of this authority, I attended the LGA conference in Manchester this month. This annual conference is a valuable opportunity to see what our colleagues across local government are doing and promote what we have achieved here in Staffordshire.

This year I was pleased to attend a fringe event promoting a new report written by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council to promote the tremendous work around the City Deal. The event was well attended and had an expert panel including Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis, former Guardian journalist Hannah Fearn and the director of LGiU Jonathan Carr-West.

We were also privileged to be in the audience to hear Dr Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, to announce that the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Enterprise Partnership had been selected as one of just three pilot areas nationwide for a new approach to skills.

Our selection for one of the pilot areas is a huge endorsement of the approach taken locally and in particular the establishment of an Education Trust. For some time we have been working to better match training and skills to both the needs of existing business and the new jobs we are working so hard to create. The pilot is a perfect opportunity to prove how local government can lead and succeed when it works with its partners to tackle local issues.

### **3.6 The 2013 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards**

The County Council won the "Innovation in Communications" and "Community Investor" categories in the 2013 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards. The County Council also received a "Highly Commended" in the "Best Achieving Council" category of the Awards.

The Community Investor Award recognised our efforts (in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council and South Staffordshire Council) to invest in the i54 site and support the development of hundreds of jobs in the area, and stimulate growth. i54 is now home to international companies including Moog, Eurofins and Jaguar Land Rover. Jaguar Land Rover alone is investing £500million in a new advanced Engine Manufacturing Centre and bringing with



## LEADER'S STATEMENT

them nearly 1,400 jobs. The whole site is forecast to employ almost 3,000 workers by 2015 and to expand still further by 2020.

Our Innovation in Communication Award recognised the comprehensive communications approach that launched Families First – our early interventions services for children and young people that makes sure they have the right support at the right time so that children have the best start in life. The communications supported 1700 staff through a large-the large scale restructure.

**P.E.B. Atkins**  
**Leader of the County Council**



## Recommendations to the Council

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### Members' Allowances Scheme - Independent Remuneration Panel Addendum to Annual Report 2013/14 following County Council Elections on 2 May 2013

1. The County Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. Any decisions on the nature and level of allowances are a matter for the full Council, but the Council must have regard to any recommendations submitted by the Independent Remuneration Panel before establishing or amending the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel meets each year to consider the recommendations to be made to the Council in respect of the level and nature of the forthcoming year's allowances. These recommendations were made and approved in March 2013.

2. The County Council asked the Independent Remuneration Panel (The Panel) to reconvene to consider specific aspects of the members' allowance scheme following the County Council Elections on 2 May 2013. The issues the Panel were asked to consider included: the level of special responsibility allowances (SRA) following the re-introduction of the role of Cabinet Support Members; reinstating the SRAs paid to Shadow Cabinet Members; and the allowances paid to the Leaders of the principal and minority opposition groups.

3. In 2008/09 the Cabinet consisted of the Leader of the Council plus six Cabinet Members. The Leader of the Opposition formed a shadow cabinet of six members including himself. Consequently, only five SRAs were paid to Shadow Cabinet as the Shadow Leader received the SRA for being Leader of the Principal Opposition. For 2013/14, the Cabinet consists of the Leader of the Council plus five Cabinet Members. The Leader of the Principal Opposition Group has appointed five members to his Shadow Cabinet (excluding himself), If the same principal were to be followed in 2013 as in 2008 then there would be four Shadow Cabinet SRAs paid together with an SRA to the Leader of the Principal Opposition. The interpretation from 2008 would mean that one of these shadow cabinet members will not receive an SRA, a decision that would be for the Leader of the Principal Opposition to make. Alternatively full council could confirm that SRAs should be paid to five Shadow Cabinet members.

**(Note:** The Independent Remuneration Panel's Addendum report of May 2013 detailing further recommendations on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 has been sent to all members of the County Council and a copy is available at:-

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/members/membersallowances/home.aspx>

4. **Recommend** – That:

(a) the recommendations of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 24 June 2013 to approve the addendum report to the Annual Report 2013/14 of the Independent Remuneration Panel be approved and allowances be backdated to the Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2013, as detailed below:-

- (i) **Cabinet Support Members** - the allowance be set at a level of 25% of the Leader of the Council's Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) (£8,750).
- (ii) **Leader of the Principal Opposition** - the allowance be set at a level of 50 % of the Leader of the Council's SRA (£17,500).
- (iii) **Leaders of the Minority Opposition Groups** - the allowance be set at a level of 5% of the Leader of the Council's SRA (£1,750).
- (iv) **Shadow Cabinet** - the allowance be set at 15% of the Leader of the Council's SRA (£5,250).

(b) the number of SRAs for Shadow Cabinet be confirmed as either:-

- (i) 5 (including the Leader of the Principle Opposition) **or**
- (ii) 5 (plus the Leader of the Principle Opposition).

## **Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority Periodic Report of the Chairman on Authority Matters**

### **Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

1. The Authority has appointed Mr L W Bloomer as its Chairman and Mrs K M Banks as its Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

### **Membership of the Authority**

2. The Authority has fourteen new representatives from Staffordshire County Council which were reported to the Annual Authority meeting on 10 June 2013 and with effect from 4 July two new representatives from Stoke-on-Trent City Council. The Chairman has welcomed Members to the Authority.

A Members' Induction/Development Session covering the duties of the Authority and its Members and the connections to and duties of the Fire Service has been held for new and existing Members.

### **Fire Minister Visit**

3. The Fire Minister Brandon Lewis MP visited the Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on 27 June 2013. The opportunity was taken to show him a number of the new innovative initiatives that the Service has underway and how it is using the ideas and creativity of staff to develop new ways of working to assist in dealing with the ongoing financial challenges. The Minister also officially opened the new national resilience and incident command facilities at the Learning and Development Centre. The Minister was extremely impressed by what he saw and heard and was very pleased with the positive way the Authority and Service are responding to the difficult challenges that the public sector is facing currently.

### **Barton under Needwood Community Fire Station Official Opening**

4. The official opening of Barton under Needwood Community Fire Station took place on Tuesday 16 July 2013. The opening of the newly refurbished Community Fire Station was undertaken by Lady Hilda Clarke, wife of the late Sir Stanley Clarke. Both Lady Clarke and her late husband have strong links with both Burton and Barton under Needwood Fire Stations and named the vintage fire engine, housed in Burton Fire Station, after their first daughter. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Authority together with local Fire and Rescue Authority Members attended the opening.

### **Report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive**

5. The Service attended 9291 incidents from April 2012 to March 2013, a decrease of 2363 when compared to the same period in 2011/12. This was testament to the proactive preventative work undertaken by the Service which has reduced both demand and risk.

There were 16 injuries and 4 deaths in accidental dwelling fires for the period April 2012 to March 2013, a decrease of 7 when compared to 2011/12. There were 21 injuries and 6 deaths for the same period in 2011/12. This improved performance, an approximate reduction of 35% in fire deaths, has come at the same time as a 6%

reduction in funding to the Service. It is a credit to all involved, along with partners who have assisted in achieving these reductions. This is a continuing reducing trend although the figures are fragile due to the small numbers.

There were 562 accidental dwelling fires in 2012/13 compared to 598 in 2011/12, a reduction of 36. The Service continues to work with partners with regard to lifestyle issues to reduce these numbers further.

There were 28 injuries and 5 deaths in primary fires (fires involving property) for the period April 2012 to March 2013. There were 37 injuries and 10 deaths for the same period in 2011/12.

There were 1532 primary fires in 2012/13 compared to 1758 in 2011/12, a reduction of 218. There were over 1000 less fires in 2012/13 than there were eight years ago.

The number of small fires, excluding grass, had decreased by 551 from 1836 to 1285 when compared to 2011/12, a 30% reduction. The use of the Targeted Response Vehicle (TRV), Student Firefighters courses and Street Stadia has made a significant contribution to this reduction.

Grass fires for 2012/13 decreased by 1296, from 1720 to 424, when compared to 2011/12. This was a 75% reduction and although the weather had contributed to these results the Service had been actively involved in preventative work with young people.

The total number of accidental commercial fires had decreased by 12 from April 2013 to March 2013, from 224 in 2011/12 to 212.

Deliberate commercial fires had decreased by 20 from 2011/12 to 2012/13, from 103 to 83. The loss of a business through fire affected the whole economy and also the local authority through the loss of business rates.

There were 652 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which the Service attended in 2012/13, an increase of 17 (just under 3%) when compared to 2011/12. This was one area over which the Service did not have direct control and influence. Budget reductions at local authorities had meant that some road safety initiatives such as road safety education had to be cut. Members and officers indicted their willingness for all partners to work together with regard to road safety issues. The Service was keen to ensure a downward trend on RTCs.

The fire and rescue service was working in partnership with the Police and others in order to ensure a reduction in RTCs. Members were advised that ACPO guidance had suggested a new concept of anti-social driving, for tail gaiting and undertaking.

An example of successful partnership working was the decision to close a layby on the A500 where there had been a number of accidents and near misses in the proximity, mainly due to lorries manoeuvring in and out of the layby. Due to the evidence provided by the Police and the joint working with the Service, the Highways Department agreed to the closure of the layby.

Members discussed the issues of flooding and the need for authorities to work together to ensure that gullies were cleared etc. If flooding was prevented by frequent gully clearing then this would mean reduced calls for the Fire Service and Police.

There were 2097 unwanted fire signals from April 2012 to March 2013. This was a decrease of 43 when compared to the same period in 2011/12. The Scrutiny and Performance Committee had helped to develop a revised Policy which required control staff to challenge callers to check whether a fire was occurring and this has been commended by the Chief Fire officer/Chief Executive. Unwanted fire signals came from mostly commercial and industrial premises from automatic systems and it was normally through bad maintenance that they were set off. There were consequences for businesses that were repeat offenders whereby no attendance would be sent unless the Service got a confirmed call of a fire.

There were 337 hoax calls from April 2012 to March 2013 which showed a decrease of 143 when compared to the same period in 2011/12. This was nearly a 30% reduction in calls. The Service has the technology to deactivate mobile phones which have made hoax calls. The reduction of hoax calls has reduced the demand for operational response.

There had been a 4997 increase in Home Fire Risk Checks between April 2012 and March 2013 compared to the same period in 2011/12 – in total 32256 have been completed. These had been provided free of charge. In comparison with Derbyshire in 2011/12 they had conducted just 11,000 HFRCs and had 73 casualties and Staffordshire had completed 27259 and had 27 casualties. A direct correlation could not be claimed although the more that was invested in proactive work then the less time was needed for response.

The Authority has been advised of the death of an elderly lady in a static mobile home in Tamworth. Her death was still under investigation and subject to a Coroner's inquest. The casualty was reported to be suffering from mobility issues. A mains wired smoke alarm was fitted. There was limited effectiveness from smoke detectors as they still may not allow sufficient time for a person with mobility issues to get to a place of safety. A sprinkler system may have been more effective under the circumstances. HFRCs were offered to other residents on the site.

Coroners rule 43 letter noted shortfalls following two high rise fires at Lakanal House, London in July 2009 and Shirley Towers, Southampton in April 2010 where eight people, including two firefighters, died. The Service had looked into detail at the lessons learned and had written to local authorities and housing providers outlining the recommendations, most notably the fitting of sprinklers in high rise dwellings.

**National Resilience Assurance** - On 5 April the Service received the report from the National Resilience Assurance Team who carried out a review of the Service's Chemical Biological Radioactive Nuclear Environmental (CBRNE) response capabilities during February this year. Pleasingly and reassuringly the review reported conformance in all areas of the Service's capability along with a few suggestions where improvements could be considered by the Service.

**Operational Assurance Review** - During the second week of April the Service received the full report of its Operational Assurance Review, which was a very positive and successful report. An action plan had been produced and the Service is using the comments made by the Team to assist in continuing the Service improvement journey.

**Long Service and Good Conduct Awards** - On 5 and 19 March the Service hosted two Long Service and Good Conduct Award Ceremonies at Headquarters. In total 22 members of staff, were awarded with their medals and certificates in recognition of their good conduct, loyalty and dedication to their duty.

**More Awards Winners** - The 2013 winner of the Sonja Oatley Award for Member Involvement in the Community was awarded to Cllr Kath Banks.

**Chief Fire Officer's Commendations** - Catherine Armstrong, Marie Downes, Sarah Jayne Rockey, Ian Cooper, Pete Walker, Nicky Smith and Matt Bettany all from Fire Control were awarded Chief Fire Officers Commendations on 12 March. The awards were in recognition of the exemplary way in which two serious life threatening incidents were dealt with and the contribution that the Control staff made to ensure both incidents were concluded with positive outcomes.

**Facing the Future** - On 17 May Sir Ken Knight's report entitled "Facing the Future" was published. Sir Ken's report presented his findings from the review of efficiencies and operations in fire and rescue authorities in England which he carried out earlier this year. The report indicated that £196 m in savings could be made across all fire and rescue services if they were to reduce their spending to those of the average cost of fire and rescue services. The Service in Staffordshire was the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest costing per head of population and was in the lowest quartile of expenditure. The report was presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 24 June 2013 and Members would give further consideration to a response to this paper at a Member Development event in August.

**Exercise Triton** - A joint exercise with the Police, Fire, Air/Sea Rescue etc had recently been held. The exercise was conducted in a professional way and all agencies had done a fantastic job. The Exercise covered various emergencies throughout the County including flooding.

**L W Bloomer  
Chairman**