

Work Programme

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2023/2024

This document sets out the work programme for Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023/2024.

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee are responsible for scrutiny of highways infrastructure and connectivity, flood and water management, education, learning and skills. As such, the statutory education co-optees will sit on this committee. The Work Programme is linked to the Vision, Outcomes and Priorities detailed in the Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26.

We review our Work Programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something important comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

Councillor Tina Clements

Chairman of Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee

If you would like to know more about our Work Programme or how to raise issues for potential inclusion on a Work Programme, then please contact Jonathan Lindop, Scrutiny and Support Officer (jonathan.lindop@staffordshire.gov.uk).

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Friday 2 June 2023 at 10.00 am (Informal meeting)	Work Programme Planning	Annual consideration of potential areas of scrutiny focus during 2023/24. Resolved to be considered at informal meeting at 27 April Committee meeting.	
Wednesday 7 June 2023 at 10.00 am	1. Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Scheduled at request of Chairman at 2 November 2022 Triangulation meeting. Previous update given 22 March 2023.	(a) That the oral report and presentation be received and noted. (b) That satisfactory progress had been made in the Highways Transformation Programme to date. (c) That the Cabinet Member be urged to have regard to the above-mentioned comments in his work to implement the new future delivery model for Staffordshire Highways. (d) That Highways Functional Service Level Commissioning be added to their Work Programme for the meeting on 6 July 2023.
	2. Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation six-monthly Progress Report Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Hodge	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 22 September 2022 Committee meeting.	(a) That the report be received and noted. (b) That the good progress made towards delivery of the County Council's Economic Strategy 2023-2030, be welcomed. (c) That further updates on the various ambitions set out in the Strategy and targets in the accompanying Delivery Plan be brought to the Committee at six-monthly intervals. (d) That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills arrange for Members to receive an update on the development of the West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange.

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			<p>(e) That the Deputy Leader investigate the potential of promoting some of the initiatives available in support of the Economic Strategy, as set out in the report, through Staffordshire Schools.</p>
	<p>3. Digital Infrastructure – Update Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/David Atkinson</p>	<p>Proposed by Cabinet Member at 12 May 2022 Triangulation meeting. Considered at 10 November 2022 Committee meeting and six-monthly update requested.</p>	<p>(a) That the report and PowerPoint presentation be received and noted. (b) That the County Council’s approach to deploying the Digital Infrastructure Strategic Framework continue to be supported. (c) That a further update be brought to the Committee in six-months time.</p>
<p>Thurs 6 July 2023 at 10.00 am</p>	<p>1. Staffordshire Bus Strategy Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Richard Rea</p>	<p>Requested by Cabinet Member 12 May 2023 (Teams message from Richard Rea).</p>	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted. (b) That the proposed Enhanced Partnership (EP) and full review of the previously agreed Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) be welcomed having regard to the likely availability of future Government funding for public transport. (c) That the Cabinet Member consider revised ambitions for the new BSIP aimed at ensuring both rural and urban areas in the County are better served by public transport having regard to the feedback received from Government following the previously unsuccessful bid and County Council’s Strategic Priorities.</p>

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			<p>(d) In establishing an EP, the Cabinet Member prioritise Partnership working and communication with 'Local' Members particularly in respect of future significant service reconfigurations.</p>
	<p>2. Functional Level Service Commissioning Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey</p>	<p>Requested at 7 June 2023 Committee meeting.</p>	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the proposed new approach to the development of Functional Specifications for the delivery of highway works including the 'Main Headings' set out in the presentation, be welcomed.</p> <p>(c) That the Committee's concerns regarding the need for improved communication (especially with 'Local' Members'), responsiveness of third-party contractors to service requests, performance monitoring and enforcement, partnership working with other Public Sector organisations and actions to improve consistency, sustainability and tackle climate change be addressed in future revised Specifications across the range of Highway Works, as necessary.</p> <p>(d) That the Committee welcome the opportunity to input into the annual development of revised Functional Level Service Plans and Specifications and that further consideration be given as to what this should involve, at the appropriate time, having regard to</p>

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			their other Work Programme priorities.
	<p>3. Strategy for Special Provision Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Tim Moss/Halit Hulusi/Karen Withington</p>	<p>Requested by Cabinet Member 6 June 2023 (email from Karan Withington).</p>	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the actions set out in Staffordshire's Special Education Needs and Disabilities Accelerated Progress Plan particularly in respect of Special Provision continue to be endorsed.</p> <p>(c) That the positive feedback received from the Department for Education following their twelve month review of progress against the APP be welcomed and that the 'next steps' and further actions required by the next review be implemented as necessary.</p> <p>(d) That the County Council's proposed Strategy for Special Provision be endorsed.</p> <p>(e) That the Cabinet Member continue his efforts to improve the processing of applications for statutory Educational Health and Care Plans so that pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities might have appropriate additional support, according to their needs, at the required time.</p>
<p>Thurs 28 September 2023 at 10.00 am</p>	<p>1. Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update</p>	<p>Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 2 June 2023 Committee meeting.</p>	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That satisfactory progress had been made in the Highways Transformation Programme to date.</p>

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey		(c) That the Cabinet Member be urged to have regard to the above mentioned comments in his work to implement the new future delivery model for Staffordshire Highways. (d) That the Cabinet Member investigate what additional support (financial and practical) could be provided to local communities by the County Council during Highway Improvement Works, in the future.
	2. HS2 six-monthly update – Impact on and Opportunities for Staffordshire (focusing on Economy, Training and Skills) Cabinet Members: David Williams/Phillip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Sarah Mallen	Requested at 26 February 2021 Committee meeting, amended at 23 July 2021 Committee meeting.	(a) That the oral report and presentation be received and noted. (b) That the efforts made to date to maximise the opportunities available to Staffordshire residents from the construction of the high-speed rail line, by HS2 be welcomed. (c) That a further update be brought to the Committee in April/May 2024. (d) That any further information received in relation to the above-mentioned requests be forwarded to Members as soon as possible.
	3. Staffordshire Employment and Skills Strategy Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Darren Farmer	Requested by Cabinet Member 11 May 2023 (email from Darren Farmer).	(a) That the report be received and noted. (b) That the Cabinet Member have regard to the various comments made by the Committee in finalising Staffordshire's Employment and Skills Strategy 2023-2030. (c) That the Cabinet Member explore how the County Council's

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			<p>engagement with school pupils (including those with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)) wishing to undertake work experience placements could be improved having regard to the various ambitions contained in the Strategy.</p> <p>(d) That the Committee receive a progress update on implementation of the Strategy in six-months' time taking into consideration their other Work Programme priorities.</p>
<p>Thurs 17 October 2023 at 10.00 am</p>	<p>1. Avanti West Coast Main Line Rail Services Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Mark Osborne (Avanti West Coast)</p>	<p>Identified at 22 March 2023 Committee meeting. Request programme for October Meeting by Chairman (email 18 July 2023).</p>	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That news of Avanti West Coast's improved performance along the West Coast Mainline in Staffordshire be welcomed.</p> <p>(c) That Avanti West Coast provide a progress update on their performance in six-month's time having regard to the Committee's on-going concerns.</p> <p>(d) That Network Rail and HS2 be invited to attend the above-mentioned meeting so that the Committee can better understand the implications of recent Government announcements on rail services in the County.</p>
<p>Thursday 9 November 2023 at 10.00 am</p>	<p>1. Community Learning Self- Assessment Report 2022/23</p>	<p>Requested by email 7 June 2023 (Amanda Darlington on behalf of Cabinet Member).</p>	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the 'Good' performance of the Community Learning Service during 2022/23 be welcomed.</p>

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Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Amanda Darlington		<p>(c) That the Cabinet Member continue his efforts to address the above-mentioned areas of weakness with a view to achieving significant improvement by December 2023.</p> <p>(d) That the Cabinet Member consider reconfiguring future Self-Assessment reports to the Committee to include Key Performance Indicators listed by gender.</p> <p>(e) That the Cabinet Member consider reconfiguring future Self-Assessment reports to the Committee to better illustrate learners by ethnicity so that any inequalities highlighted can be addressed, as appropriate.</p>
	2. Highways Network Management Plan (Including Permits) – Annual Report Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023. Request programme for November Meeting by Chairman.	<p>(a) That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>(b) That the Street Works Permit Scheme Annual Report for Years 1 and 2 (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2022) indicating the successful operation of the Scheme during that time, be welcome.</p> <p>(c) That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport consider lobbying Central Government regarding the level of fees and charges applicable under the Scheme to ensure they better reflect the scope of the Authority's strategic aims, as set out above.</p> <p>(d) That the proposed format/headings for the Traffic and</p>

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			Network Management Plan be supported and that the draft Plan be presented to the Committee for Scrutiny when it becomes available in Spring 2024.
Wed 22 November 2023 at 2.00 pm	1. Staffordshire History Centre Delivery Update Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Catherine Mann	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023. Cabinet Member requested programme for November 2023 Committee meeting (email Catherine Mann 7 June 2023).	(a) That the report be received and noted. (b) That the key findings of the Independent Evaluation Report on the Staffordshire History Centre Capital Works progress be welcomed. (c) That consideration be given to the citing of a Time Capsule at the Staffordshire History Centre, as part of the celebrations to mark its opening in 2024.
	2. Libraries Performance Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Catherine Mann	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023. Cabinet Member requested programme for November 2023 Committee meeting (email Catherine Mann 7 June 2023).	(a) That the report be received and noted. (b) That the overall direction of travel for the Staffordshire's Libraries and Arts Service, as set out in the report, be supported. (c) That the performance of the Service continue to be monitored and further scrutiny be undertaken at the appropriate time, as necessary.
Thurs 21 December 2023 at 2.00 pm Wednesday 13 December	1. Economic Recovery, Renewal and Transformation six-monthly Progress Report Cabinet Member: Philip White	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 2 June 2023 Committee meeting.	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
2023 at 2.00 pm	Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/Anthony Hodge		
	2. Review of Schools' Performance Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Bhardwaja/Tim Moss	Requested at 21 August 2023 Triangulation Meeting.	
	3. Natural Environment Strategy Cabinet Member Simon Tagg Lead Officers Darryl Evers/Catherine Mann	Requested by email 16 August 2023 (Sarah Bentley on behalf of Cabinet Member). Postponed to 13 December 2023 Committee meeting at request of Cabinet Member (email Simon Tagg 6 November 2023).	
Thurs 11 January 2024 at 2.00 pm	1. Local Transport Plan 4 Development Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023. Request programme for October Meeting by Chairman. Postponed to December 2023/January 2024 Committee meetings at request of Cabinet Member (email from Darryl Evers 8 September 2023 with clarification from David Atkinson 4 October 2023).	
	2. Lighting for Staffordshire Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Evers/James Bailey	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023. Scheduled at request of Chairman at 25 October 2023 Pre-Agenda Preview.	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey		
Fri 2 February 2024 at 10.00 am	1. Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly update Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Previous update given at 28 September 2023 Committee meeting. Re-Scheduled to January 2024 at request of Chairman at 25 October Pre-Agenda Preview.	
	2. Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership – performance Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023. Cabinet Member requested programme for March 2024 Committee meeting (email James Bailey 26 June 2023). Item brought forward at 13 December 2023 Committee meeting.	
Thurs 28 March 2024 at 10.00 am	1. Cultural Strategy Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Catherine Mann	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023. Cabinet Member requested programme for March 2024 Committee meeting (email Catherine Mann 7 June 2023).	

Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	2. Household Waste Recycling Centres Performance Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Tim Cooper	Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023.	
	3. HS2 six-monthly update – Impact on and Opportunities for Staffordshire (focusing on Economy, Training and Skills)	Requested at 26 February 2021 Committee meeting, amended at 23 July 2021 Committee meeting. Previous update given to 28 September 2023 Committee meeting.	

Any provisional matters requiring Committee confirmation/approval are shown in green

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting
Tourism and Visitor Economy: Cabinet Member: Phillip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting.	To be advised
School Age Education – Development Post Pandemic (including school attendance (request by County Councillor Paul Snape Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officers: Neelam Bhardwaja/Tim Moss	Identified at 15 June 2022 Committee meeting	To be advised

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting
<p>Avanti West Coast (West Coast Mainline train operator) Cabinet Members: Philip White and David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey</p>	<p>Identified at 22 March 2023 Committee meeting following request from County Councillor Jeremy Pert.</p>	<p>To be programmed Programmed for 17 October Committee meeting. Six-month update requested at 17 October Committee meeting for April 2024.</p>
<p>Lighting for Staffordshire Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey</p>	<p>Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023.</p>	<p>To be advised (email from James Bailey 26 June 2023). Programmed for 11 January 2024 Committee Meeting at 25 October Pre-Agenda Preview.</p>
<p>On Street Parking Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/James Bailey</p>	<p>Identified at Work Programme Planning session on 2 June 2023.</p>	<p>To be advised (email from James Bailey 26 June 2023).</p>
<p>People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Baines</p>	<p>Identified at 9 November 2023 Committee meeting.</p>	<p>To be advised.</p>
<p>Zero by Nature Strategy Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/ Catherine Mann</p>	<p>Proposed by Cabinet Member at 18 August 2022 Triangulation Meeting. Programmed for 10 November 2022 Committee meeting at 29 September Committee meeting. Postponed until April 2023 (indicative) Committee meeting at request of Cabinet Member (email from Sarah Bentley 18 October 2022) owing to national delays in funding settlement. Further postponed</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>

Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting
	at request of Cabinet Member (email Sarah Bentley 14 March 2023) owing to delay in publication of commissioned report. Cabinet Member requested item programmed for February 2024 Committee meeting (email Catherine Mann 7 June 2023). Deferred at the request of the Cabinet Member to a date to be confirmed.	

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Standing Items 2022/2023



Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
HS2 Six-monthly Update – Impact on Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officer: Darryl Eyers/ Sarah Mallen	Requested at 26 February 2021 Committee meeting (amended at 23 July 2021 Committee Meeting). Update given to 22 March and 28 September 2023 Committee meetings. Next update due March 2024.	See above
Economic Recovery Renewal and Transformation Six-Monthly Progress Update (incorporating former APMG Report – Future Economy and Enterprise – Update) Cabinet Member: Philip White Leads Officer: Darryl Eyers/ Anthony Hodge	Requested at 15 July 2020 Triangulation meeting (amended at 23 July 2021 and 13 January 2022 Committee meetings). Further update incorporated into County Economic Strategy report to 23 March 2022 Committee meeting. Updates given to 19 October 2022, 7 June 2023 Committee meetings. Next update due December 2023 Committee meeting.	See above

Standing Items 2022/2023

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Highways Transformation Progress and Performance Quarterly Update. Cabinet Member: David Williams Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/ James Bailey	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee meeting. Next Update due September 2022 (Update for Q2 postponed until later in Q3 at request of Director (email from James Bailey 18 August 2022). Updates due 16 December 2022, 7 June and 28 September 2023 Committee Meetings. Next Update due January 2023.	See above
Digital Infrastructure Plan Progress Update. Cabinet Member: Simon Tagg Lead Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Baines	Identified at 26 May 2022 Committee Meeting. Considered at 10 November 2022 and 7 June 2023 Committee Meetings. Next update due December 2023.	See above

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Briefing Notes / Updates / Visits 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
13 December 2023	Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Management Plan		
13 December 2023	Digital Infrastructure in Staffordshire Update		



Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
In progress	Civil Parking Enforcement	Requested by Cabinet Member on 10 August 2022.	Inquiry Day held on 17 April 2023. Working Group established at 7 June 2023 Committee Meeting. Working Group meeting #1 held on 5 September 2023; #2 held on 17 October 2023; #4 held on 11 December 2023.

Any provisional matter requiring Committee confirmation/approval are shown in green



Membership – County Councillors 2023-2024*	Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2023-2024 (All meetings to be held at County Buildings, Stafford unless otherwise stated)
<p>Tina Clements (Chairman) Ross Ward (Vice-Chairman – Scrutiny) Peter Kruskonjic (Vice-Chairman – Overview) Charlotte Atkins Philippa Hadden Philip Hudson Graham Hutton David Smith Samantha Thompson Bernard Williams Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf (Co-optee)</p> <p>* Unless otherwise stated.</p>	Friday 2 June 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 6 July 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 28 September 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 10.00 am (additional meeting);
	Thursday 9 November 2023 at 10.00 am;
	Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 2.00 pm (additional meeting);
	Thursday 21 December 2023 at 10.00 am; Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 2.00 pm;
	Thursday 11 January 2024 at 2.00 pm (additional meeting);
	Friday 2 February 2024 at 10.00 am;
	Thursday 28 March 2024 at 10.00 am.