

## **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**