

15 July 2019

Dear Members

**Council Meeting**

I hereby give notice that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford on **Tuesday 23 July 2019 at 7.00pm** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.



Tim Clegg  
Chief Executive

## COUNCIL MEETING - 23 JULY 2019

### MAYOR, COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES

#### A G E N D A

- 1 Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2019, as published in Digest No 256 on 14 June 2019.
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Announcements (Paragraph 3.2(iii) of the Council Procedure Rules)
- 5 Public Question Time - Nil
- 6 Councillor Session - Nil
- 7 Notice of Motion

A Notice of motion pursuant to Paragraph 13.1 of the Council Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor A N Pearce and seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey as follows:-

#### Proposed Motion on Climate Emergency

#### Notes:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible:
3. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;
4. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;
5. Many councils have already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, signing the Nottingham Declaration in 2010 accepting the scientific evidence of climate change and publicly declaring the commitment to achieve a

significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from its operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.

6. Unfortunately, current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5<sup>0</sup>C limit before 2050;
7. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5<sup>0</sup>C, published Oct 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2<sup>0</sup>C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5<sup>0</sup>C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5<sup>0</sup>C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;
8. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'climate emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

We believe that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments recognise this and should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Stafford and the UK that councils commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
2. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5<sup>0</sup>C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority;
3. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

In light of the above, Stafford Borough Council Agrees to:

1. Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency, and commit to the vision of carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest;
2. Pledge to make Stafford Borough Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)
3. Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other elected bodies (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5<sup>0</sup>C;

5. Continue to work with partners across the Borough to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Prepare a report within 6 months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.
7. Explore the expansion of community energy to keep the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy.
8. Establish a Citizens Assembly made up of a representative range of our citizens to make recommendations for our council on how we, as a community, can best achieve these objectives.

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**Chief Executive**

Civic Centre  
Riverside  
Stafford  
ST16 3AQ

ITEM NO 8

ITEM NO 8

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Development</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>John Holmes</b>
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>01785 619302</b>
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Council 23/07/19 (Only)</b>

**COUNCIL**  
**23 July 2019**  
**HS2 Phase 2a – Planning Memorandum**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek authority to sign the HS2 Phase 2a Planning Memorandum, the effect of which is that the Council will become a Qualifying Authority for the purposes of the HS2 Phase 2 Hybrid Bill.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That authority be given to the Chief Executive to sign the HS2 Phase 2a Planning Memorandum to enable Stafford Borough Council to become a Qualifying Authority for the purposes of the HS2 Hybrid Bill.

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The scope of the HS2 project provides the Council as a local planning authority with no ability to determine the route or its' alignment or elevation, therefore the option to retain some influence over how the detail of the scheme develops is considered appropriate.
- 3.2 There are expected to be a substantial number of applications for consents and approvals which are likely to be for relatively minor matters. These need to be dealt with expeditiously.
- 3.3 In July 2016 Council received a similar report to this and resolved that:
  - (a) authority to sign the HS2 Phase 2 Planning Memorandum (to enable the Council to become a Qualifying Authority for the purposes of the HS2 Hybrid Bill) be given to the Chief Executive;
  - (b) the Constitution be amended to delegate authority to the Head of Economic Development and Planning to issue consents and approvals

in relation to the detailed design and appearance of structures and other elements of the HS2 scheme.

- 3.4 The July 2016 report was written before the Phase 2a Hybrid Bill had been introduced to Parliament. As three years have passed and members have become more familiar with HS2, and the implications of becoming a Qualifying authority have become clearer, this report is submitted to seek a resolution specific to HS2 Phase 2a.

## **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This supports the Corporate Business Plan Objective 1 - To deliver sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs

## **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 The HS2 Phase 2a Hybrid Bill currently before Parliament will grant planning permission for the construction of a high speed railway between Birmingham and Crewe. The permission will be the subject of a number of conditions requiring the nominated undertaker (the party/parties who will construct the railway) to obtain the consent or approval of the Local Planning Authorities along the route for some matters of detail including the detailed design and materials of buildings and structures such as bridges and tunnel portals.
- 5.2 The Bill gives each Local Planning Authority a choice between having a wide or narrow range of controls over the approval of such details. Local Planning Authorities opting for a wider range of controls are referred to as 'Qualifying Authorities'.
- 5.3 Qualifying Authorities will be responsible for issuing consents and approvals in relation to the detailed design and appearance of structures and other elements of the scheme but that responsibility does not extend to the principle of their construction which is permitted by the Bill itself. Examples of structures and features, the details of which Qualifying Authorities will be able to consider include:
- Buildings and road vehicle parks;
  - Terracing;
  - Cuttings;
  - Embankments and other earthworks;
  - Fences & walls;
  - Telecommunication masts;
  - Pedestrian access to the railway line;
  - Artificial lighting;
  - Bridges and viaducts;
  - Borrow pits and waste disposal sites;
  - Site restoration.

- 5.4 The Council must choose whether to become a Qualifying Authority before the Bill is reported from Select Committee in the House of Lords. If the Council chooses to become a Qualifying Authority, it will have responsibility for the details of the majority of the above matters with the exception of borrow pits (created by excavation works) and waste disposal sites which would be dealt with by Staffordshire County Council.
- 5.5 If the Council decided to be a non-Qualifying authority, it would have a significantly more restricted role, thereby effectively losing what little control there is over the majority of features and structures within the Borough.
- 5.6 The works to construct HS2 will have the equivalent of outline planning permission such that the Council will only be able to consider aspects of the reserved matters (i.e. the details of design and materials, etc.) in the manner described in this report.
- 5.7 There are, in broad terms, two grounds on which the details of structures and features forming part of the railway may be refused or permitted subject to conditions, by a Qualifying Authority. These are:
- i. That the design or external appearance of the works ought to be modified:
    - a) To preserve the local environment or local amenity,
    - b) To prevent or reduce prejudicial effects on road safety or on the free flow of traffic in the local area,
    - c) To preserve a site of archaeological or historic interest or nature, conservation value, in respect of which the relevant aspect of the scheme is reasonably capable of being so modified
  - ii. That the development ought to, and could reasonably, be carried out elsewhere on land within the Act limits.
    - a) This aspect would only relate to development within specially sensitive areas such as Historic Parks.
- 5.8 It should be noted that it would only be appropriate to raise an objection to the design or details of a particular structure or feature if the impact of that design would be very significant within the surrounding area beyond that which might reasonably be expected as part of the HS2 railway scheme.
- 5.9 The reduced level of control applying to non-Qualifying Authorities only enables them to refuse permission in respect of reasons i)a. and ii)a. above - all other matters would remain with HS2. To enable the implications for the road network within the Borough to be considered, it is necessary that the Council takes full advantage of the powers that would be conferred on it by becoming a Qualifying Authority.
- 5.10 Councils wishing to become Qualifying Authorities are required to sign the 'Planning Memorandum'. This is a document that will set out the rules of

conduct and administrative arrangements for both the Local Planning Authorities and the nominated undertaker leading up to and during the construction of HS2. It will require the Council to commit to dealing with applications for consent in an expeditious manner and to being sufficiently resourced to be able to do so. There are expected to be a substantial number of applications which are likely to be for relatively minor matters.

- 5.11 Some of the matters will require consultation, and on specific consents it will be necessary for Planning and Environmental Health officers to work together to be able to deal with applications in the determination period.
- 5.12 Councils along the route of HS2 Phase 1 were involved in negotiating the form and content of the Planning Memorandum with HS2 Limited. A similar Memorandum will be produced for HS2 Phase 2a.
- 5.13 It is proposed that the Council will either be reimbursed for the cost of dealing with the additional workload resulting from these applications and approvals by way of either the payment of application fees or the funding of a temporary post within the Council.
- 5.14 In summary, becoming a Qualifying Authority involves a commitment by the Council to deal with applications appropriately and within specified timescales, in return for greater control over a wider range of matters than would otherwise be the case.
- 5.15 The extent of the Council's control will need to be clearly communicated to the public so that there is a clear understanding of the limited level of influence that the Council can exercise.

<b>6 Implications</b>	
<b>6.1 Financial</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. Paragraph 5.13 outlines the resource/financial implications in relation to planning applications in relation to HS2 Phase 2a.
<b>Legal</b>	Nil
<b>Human Resources</b>	There are no direct HR implications arising from this report. Paragraph 5.13 outlines the potential resourcing implications. Any new post will need to be agreed and evaluated in line with Council policy
<b>Human Rights Act</b>	Nil
<b>Data Protection</b>	Nil
<b>Risk Management</b>	1) If the Council decides not to become a Qualifying Authority, it would reduce the influence that the Council could have over the HS2 development and its impact on the Borough.

	2) There is a risk that the Council may not be able to adhere to the required timescales and would be at risk of losing any powers and/or financial reimbursement if it cannot recruit and retain suitably experienced planning officers.
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<b>6.2 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations</b>	<p>The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:-</p> <p>Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.</p>

**Previous Consideration** – Council 26 July 2016 - Minute No C23/16

**Background Papers** - Nil

ITEM NO 9

ITEM NO 9

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Development</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Alex Yendole</b>
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>01785 619536</b>
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	<b>Barlaston</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Cabinet 04/07/19 Council 23/07/19</b>

**COUNCIL****23 JULY 2019****Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan - Adoption**

The following report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 July 2019 and is submitted to Council for approval.

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To approve that the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan is formally adopted as part of the statutory development plan for Stafford Borough following a successful referendum held on 2 May 2019.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' to form part of statutory development plan for Stafford Borough and used when determining planning applications in Barlaston Parish.
- 2.2 That the Decision Statement (set out in the attached **APPENDIX**) is approved and published with the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan (please refer to [BOOKLET](#) as circulated with this agenda).

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by a robust community consultation. It has undergone successful Examination to ensure it satisfies the basic conditions set out below:-
- (a) The plan must have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
  - (b) Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

- (c) Be in general conformity with strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
  - (d) Be compatible with European Rights (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (EUCR) obligations.
- 3.2 Following a successful Examination, the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan received a yes vote in favour of the plan at a referendum held on 2 May 2019. Local people endorsed the plan with 636 yes votes, to 116 people who voted no. It is the fifth Neighbourhood Plan in Stafford Borough to pass a referendum.
- 3.3 To comply with the Localism Act 2011 local planning authorities are required to 'make' a Neighbourhood Development Plan as soon as reasonably practicable following a successful referendum.
- 3.4 As with any planning decision, there is a risk of a legal challenge to the Neighbourhood Plan, and / or judicial review of the Council's decision to agree or refuse to make the Neighbourhood Plan. At all stages of preparing the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan the Council has ensured that the process meets the statutory requirements and follows Regulations, so that the decision making process is clear and transparent.

#### **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 From the Corporate Business Plan 2018-2021 the following Corporate Business Objectives are relevant:

*Corporate Business Objective 1 'To deliver sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs.'*

*Corporate Business Objective 2 'To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities that promote health and wellbeing.'*

#### **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 In November 2012 Barlaston Parish Council applied to designate the Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area, which was approved by the Council in July 2013. Subsequently a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group consisting of local volunteers was established to produce the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.2 The Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to extensive community consultation, and supported by an evidence base. The Parish Council published a pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan and invited the public to comment between 10 November 2017 and 5 January 2018. Following the consultation, Barlaston Parish Council made subsequent amendments in order to produce the submission version of the plan.

- 5.3 In June 2018 Barlaston Parish Council submitted their Neighbourhood Plan, with supporting documents (Basic Conditions Statement, Consultation Statement and a Screening Assessment), to the Council for a six week publication period of consultation between 18 July and 7 September 2018. In December 2018 and January 2019 the independent Examination took place when the appointed Examiner considered the representations received and all of the relevant documents.
- 5.4 On 22 January 2019, the Council received the Examiner’s Report on the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan, which recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan, subject to the Examiner’s recommended modifications, should proceed to Referendum.
- 5.5 Barlaston Parish Council has considered the Examiner’s Report and its recommendations, and is satisfied with the proposed amendments to the Plan.
- 5.6 After considering the Examiner’s Report, the Council are satisfied that the modifications made to the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan satisfy the basic conditions and subsequently published a decision statement to take forward the Neighbourhood Plan and proceed to referendum.
- 5.7 A referendum was held on 2 May 2019 to enable local people within the Parish to vote on making (adopting) the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan (please refer to the [BOOKLET](#)).

<b>6 Implications</b>
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6.1 <b>Financial</b>	The costs incurred in arranging an independent Examination and Referendum are supported by grant aid from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). £20,000 has now been claimed to cover the costs incurred by the Council.
<b>Legal</b>	The Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan meets the legal requirements and Basic Conditions of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. As stated above, there is a risk of a legal challenge to the Neighbourhood Plan, and / or judicial review of the Council’s decision to proceed or not proceed to ‘make’ (adopt).
<b>Human Resources</b>	The Council supports Parish Councils through the Forward Planning section in the Neighbourhood Planning process and administer the legislative requirements. The Elections and Corporate Support Team have provided support throughout the referendum.

<b>Human Rights Act</b>	Nil
<b>Data Protection</b>	Nil
<b>Risk Management</b>	The risk issues contained in this report are not strategic and therefore should not be included in the Strategic Risk Register.

<b>6.2 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations</b>	<p>The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:-</p> <p>Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation</p> <p>The Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan provides clear guidance to developers and also members of the public through planning policies and proposals in the Parish. This will enable any resident or business to see the requirements related to future development.</p> <p>Working from a consistent evidence base through the Parish Council and with partners, ensures that Community Impact Assessment recommendations made in relation to the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan with policy-specific areas are also consistent and complementary to an approach that supports equality in both service provision and health outcomes.</p>
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**Previous Consideration** - Cabinet - 7 March 2019 - Minute No CAB56/19  
Cabinet - 4 July 2019 - Minute No CAB17/19

**Background Papers** - File available in Development Department (Forward Planning)



## **Barlaston Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### ***Decision Statement published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A (9) and Regulations 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.***

At the Cabinet meeting on 4 July 2019, Stafford Borough Council formally decided to make (adopt) the Barlaston Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). This means the Barlaston Neighbourhood Development Plan has now been brought into legal force, forming part of the statutory development plan for Stafford Borough. Consequently the plan will be used to determine planning applications in Barlaston Parish.

#### **Reasons for decision:**

The Barlaston Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the basic conditions and is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 38A (4) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum upon the plan have voted in favour of the plan being used to inform planning applications in the area. The Plan was endorsed by more than the required threshold in the referendum held on 2 May 2019.

This statement and the Barlaston Neighbourhood Development Plan (made / adopted version) can be viewed on the Stafford Borough Council website:

<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/barlaston-neighbourhood-plan1>

Hard copies can be viewed at:

Stafford Borough Council  
Civic Centre,  
Riverside  
Stafford  
ST16 3AQ

Please telephone 01785 619000 for up to date opening times.

ITEM NO 10

ITEM NO 10

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Development</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Jenny Boulton</b>
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>01785 619514</b>
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Cabinet 04/07/19 Council 23/07/19</b>

**COUNCIL****23 JULY 2019****Sport Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy**

The following report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 July 2019 and is submitted to Council for approval.

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To recommend the adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy, alongside the supporting evidence base (please refer to the [BOOKLETS](#) as circulated with this agenda).

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 To approve and adopt the evidence base and the recommendations contained within the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy;
- 2.2 To establish a working group with partners to oversee the development and monitoring of action plans in order to secure delivery of the strategies, subject to availability of resources.
- 2.3 To use the information and recommendations within these Strategies to inform policies and allocations as part of the New Local Plan 2020-2040.

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) sets out 'Key Issues' relating to each pitch based sport across Stafford Borough, as follows:
- 3.2 **Football:** when factoring in future demand there is a shortfall in:
- Youth 11v11;
  - Youth 9v9; and
  - Mini 5v5

**3.3 Third Generation Turf (3G), Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS):**

- Insufficient supply of full 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand for football in Stafford Borough / Town
- Need for an additional 4 3G pitches

**3.4 Cricket:**

- Insufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current senior demand across Stafford Borough / Town
- When factoring in future demand there is a shortfall for junior cricket and a continuing worsening for senior cricket.

**3.5 Rugby:**

- Currently there is a shortfall of 7.75 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand;
- Shortfall is further exacerbated when considering future demand, resulting in a shortfall of 11.25 match equivalent sessions.

3.6 However, the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Stafford Rugby Club will assist in alleviating grass pitch issues and therefore its impact should be reviewed following installation to determine whether further provision is required.

**3.7 Hockey:**

- A need for two full size hockey suitable Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) to accommodate existing and future demand. This requirement relates to if there are effective levels of scheduling to ensure there is only the recommended amount of match equivalent sessions taking place at peak time at both Beacon Sports and Fitness (5 home matches) and Stone Hockey Club (4 home matches)
- If this is not a feasible option, there will be a requirement to retain the pitch at Alleyne's Sports Centre, Stone in order to accommodate overspill and potential future levels of demand. This would require the surface pitch to be resurfaced.

**3.8 Golf:**

- Current supply of facilities in Stafford Borough / Town can meet current and future demand.

**3.9 Bowls:**

- There is enough capacity to cater for current needs and future demand.

**3.10 Tennis:**

- There is sufficient supply of courts to accommodate club based demand.
- Furthermore spare capacity existing on non-club courts. Therefore the future focus should be on improving quality and encouraging further use.

**3.11 Athletics:**

- Protect the track located at Rowley Park Stadium

3.12 The Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy sets out the following 'Key Issues':

- Current shortage of water space which currently equates to an 8-lane x 25m pool. When population projections are factored in this shortfall increases to a 10-lane x 25m pool;
- Development of a larger sports hall (6 court) which would serve both current and future needs ;
- Increase the volume of activity (classes etc... ) provided in community / village halls;
- Further analysis of bowls community to ascertain the likely demand for an indoor bowls centre; and
- Focus on ensuring that all school sports facilities continue to accommodate for community use.

3.13 It is recommended that the evidence bases together with the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (please refer to the [BOOKLETS](#)) be adopted for use by the Council.

3.14 To support this work it is recommended that the 'Key Issues' be acknowledged and that these issues be addressed, where possible, through policies and allocations as part of the New Local Plan 2020-2040.

#### **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 From the Corporate Business Plan 2018-2021 the following Corporate Business Objective 2 is relevant:

*'To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities that promote health and wellbeing.'*

#### **5 Report Detail**

5.1 In order to provide an up-to-date evidence base for the New Local Plan 2020-2040 Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP) were commissioned to assess all formal sport and leisure facilities across the Borough, in order to assist the Council in strategically planning for future provision.

5.2 As part of this work KKP undertook consultation with sporting clubs and key stakeholders including national governing bodies, Sport England, local clubs and schools etc. to produce the evidence base and the subsequent strategies.

5.3 The work commissioned has resulted in the development of the Playing Pitch Strategy and an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

5.4 Both of these strategies set out the position in terms of current provision and the impact of future growth on facilities and provision.

5.5 The **Playing Pitch Strategy** (PPS) has the following 'Strategic Aims and Recommendations':

Aim 1: To protect the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs:

Recommendations:

- Ensure the use of the PPS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy;
- Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements;
- Maximise community use of education facilities where needed;

Aim 2: To enhance outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

- Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary;
- Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites;
- Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding;
- Secure developer contributions

Aim 3: To provide new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so:

Recommendations:

- Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock;
- Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

5.6 The PPS identifies the following major issues:

5.7 **Football:** in terms of grass pitches, when future demand is taken into account, there will be a shortage of youth 11 v 11, youth 9 v 9 and mini 5 v 5 and therefore new provision will be required in the coming years to accommodate this demand

5.8 There is already a shortage in available 3G pitches and this will be exacerbated by future growth. There is a requirement to supply 4 additional

3G pitches across the Borough. Potential locations are Walton High School, the North Stafford Strategic Development Location (SDL), Beacon Sport and Fitness, Alleynes Sport Centre and Wellbeing Park at Yarnfield.

- 5.9 **Cricket:** there is currently insufficient supply of senior cricket facilities within the Borough. This will increase when future growth is taken into account. Additionally when future growth is taken into account there becomes a shortage of supply for junior cricket. These shortages result in the need to provide additional facilities. The Action Plan contained within the Strategy sets out locations that should investigate the potential of Non Turf Pitches (NTP). Creation of new NTPs would go some way to help alleviate the current over use of pitches and also the increase for future demand.
- 5.10 **Hockey:** There are currently 3 full size hockey Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) within Stafford Borough / Town. Current demand requires the need for two full sized hockey suitable AGPs if fixtures are effectively scheduled i.e. matches aren't all played on the same day at the same time. Effective scheduling means that, for Stafford Hockey Club, this would mean a maximum of five designated home fixtures per week at Beacon Sports and Fitness with a minimum of four matches played away. In regard to Stone Hockey Club this would mean a maximum of four designated home fixtures a week at Stone Hockey Club with minimum of one match played away.
- 5.11 If effective scheduling cannot occur there is a requirement to retain the pitch at Alleyne's Sport Centre (the sand pitch has been identified as a potential site for conversion to a 3G pitch for football) in order to accommodate overspill and potential future levels of demand. If this is required then the surface of the pitch will need resurfacing.
- 5.12 The 'Key Issues' identified within the **Sports Facilities Strategy** are set out in para 3.12. However of these Key Issues there are two matters that are major issues, these being the current shortage of water space and the development of a new 6 court sport hall.
- 5.13 Current shortage of water space, which currently equates to an 8-lane x 25m pool, when population projections are factored in this shortfall increases to a 10-lane x 25m pool.
- 5.14 The development of a new swimming pool is a major investment requirement for the Council and the key issue is where the best location is to locate additional water space, based on current demand, new build housing and ownership of land.
- 5.15 The Strategy has identified four possible sites for a new pool in and around the town of Stafford to be investigated, these being:
- Rowley Park Sport Stadium;
  - Walton High School;
  - Extension of the North Stafford Strategic Development Location;
  - Extension of the East Stafford Strategic Development Location.
- 5.16 Following on from the adoption of the evidence base, and the Sports Facilities Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy, further work will need to be undertaken in terms of acting on the strategic recommendations.

- 5.17 A working group will be established with relevant Stakeholders, including Sports England, to develop an action plan.
- 5.18 The delivery of all these facilities is reliant on planning obligations and external funding. The Council will need to agree the priorities using the emerging New Local Plan to identify the need and also the delivery mechanisms working jointly with partners including regional sporting bodies.

<b>6 Implications</b>	
<b>6.1 Financial</b>	Staff resources required to manage and co-ordinate the finances associated with the projects. There will be a need to use external resources through consultancy studies in order to complete projects.
<b>Legal</b>	Nil
<b>Human Resources</b>	The requirements of the projects will be delivered by existing staff from within the Development Department and the wider organisation.
<b>Human Rights Act</b>	Nil
<b>Data Protection</b>	Nil
<b>Risk Management</b>	The Council will need to work collaboratively with key stakeholders to deliver the projects. Therefore the commitment for other organisations will be necessary to achieve the vision and corporate business objectives. If insufficient funding is provided there is a risk that the strategy and evidence based approach will be undermined or lead to the inefficient use of resources.
<b>6.2 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations</b>	<p>The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:-</p> <p>Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.</p> <p>The Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy partnership of projects, evidence base and strategies will improve sport and recreation across Stafford Borough. It will reconnect people and communities with sport and recreation to enjoy as part of a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>As this report covers a number of independent strategies an individual CIA considering any impact will be undertaken when the Strategies</p>

	<p>have been developed. If appropriate management and maintenance plans etc. will be developed as part of the Strategies. Investigation as to whether these plans can have specific Health and Wellbeing targets will be investigated as part of the individual strategies.</p> <p>As part of the development of the Strategies consultation with Stakeholders and members of the public where appropriate will be undertaken. It is envisioned that this work will help identify any targets or measures to meet specific needs.</p>
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**Previous Consideration** - Cabinet - 4 July 2019 - Minute No CAB16/19

**Background Papers** - Development Department (Forward Planning)

**ITEM NO 11****ITEM NO 11**

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Development</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Anna Nevin</b>
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>01785 619176</b>
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Council 23/07/19 (Only)</b>

**COUNCIL****23 JULY 2019****Changes to Governance Arrangements with Stafford and Rural Homes****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The Stafford and Rural Homes (SARH) Board are making a decision on whether to agree to a merger with Housing Plus. To ensure continued influence at a governance level Council are being asked to agree the principles surrounding three changes to the current arrangements, prior to the existing Partnership Agreement lapsing.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Council agree to the principle of three changes to current governance arrangements should SARH decide to proceed with a merger with Housing Plus.

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 On 25 July 2019 the Board of SARH will make a decision on whether to proceed with a merger with Housing Plus. If the decision is positive, the current governance arrangements between SARH and SBC will come to an end when the merger becomes effective on 01 October 2019.
- 3.2 This has necessitated a review of the current arrangements contained within the Partnership Agreement and three changes are required to ensure SBC still have influence at a Board level under the new arrangements. The principle of the three changes are:
- Reducing Local Authority Board Membership from two members to one to reflect the enlarged size of the organisation;
  - Allowing for all Board Members to be treated equally; and
  - Allowing some flexibility around Governance arrangements in line with future Board structures as the new organisation integrates into a new enlarged organisation.

- 3.3 Work is ongoing at a strategic and operational level to ensure existing positive relationships continue if the merger is agreed.

#### **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 An ongoing strong partnership with SARH and the successor organisation (if the merger proceeds), is essential in delivering corporate objectives one and two, “To deliver sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs” and “To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities that promote health and wellbeing”.

#### **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 Stafford Borough Council and SARH have a strong relationship. This is reflected at Board level, at a strategic level and operationally. The two organisations work very closely together to ensure the delivery of high quality, well designed affordable housing, well managed neighbourhoods, strong support services to tenants and a wide ranging health and wellbeing offer to not only SARH tenants, but also to other residents of the Borough.
- 5.2 On 25 July 2019 the SARH Board will be deciding on whether to agree to a merger with Housing Plus. A Special Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was arranged on 16 July 2019 to enable SARH to explain the background to the proposed merger and the benefits it would bring. All elected members were invited to attend.
- 5.3 If on 25 July 2019 approval is given by the SARH board for the merger to proceed, the current SARH board will disband and new governance arrangements will become effective on 01 October 2019. This is outside the control of the Council and the priority is to ensure a strong and positive outcome should the merger proceed. This will ensure that the Council can continue to influence the new organisation at a Board level, as well as on a strategic and operational basis.
- 5.4 If the current arrangements came to an end without a new agreement being reached with the Council, Stafford Borough Council would lose some of its influence at a Board level. Therefore the Council are looking to make three changes to the current arrangements:
- The council would have one place on the Homes Board; this is a reduction from two members on the existing SARH Board to one on the enlarged Board, to reflect the enlarged size of the new organisation;
  - The council would allow for all Board members to be treated equally; and
  - The council should allow for some flexibility around governance arrangements in line with future Board structures.
- 5.5 Housing Plus covers the local authorities of South Staffordshire and Shropshire. Neither of these local authorities have a place on the Board of the

organisation. Due to our close partnership working with SARH it has been negotiated that Stafford Borough would have one seat on the Homes Board going forwards, should the merger proceed. This enables influence to continue at a Board level as well as close day to day working between the two organisations, including quarterly strategic meetings between senior management of both organisations.

- 5.6 The new governance arrangements need to recognise that all Board Members should be treated the same, given they will be supporting the day to day workings of the Board. Board membership is by Council nomination and already is based on ensuring a skills match with those required by SARH.
- 5.7 The final issue to be reflected in new governance arrangements recognises the current situation. This is a complex process bringing together two organisations and there is a requirement to be able to review governance as the process develops to ensure it is fit for purpose and effective. This is an area that the Regulator for Social Housing will be monitoring, as Housing Associations need to be independent of Local Authority controlling influence. It is important that a degree of flexibility is allowed to facilitate the long term composition of corporate organisations.
- 5.8 It is recommended that the principle of these three changes are agreed to ensure that the Council is able to have influence in the new organisation, should a merger be agreed.

<b>6</b>	<b>Implications</b>
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6.1	<b>Financial</b>	
	<b>Legal</b>	
	<b>Human Resources</b>	
	<b>Human Rights Act</b>	
	<b>Data Protection</b>	
	<b>Risk Management</b>	

6.2	<b>Community Impact Assessment Recommendations</b>	<p>The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate:-</p> <p>A strong relationship between the council and SARH benefits all current and future tenants of SARH as well as wider residents of Stafford Borough. A positive relationship enhances the health and wellbeing offer to residents with partnerships and projects established to take this forward.</p> <p>Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.</p>
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**Previous Consideration - Nil**

**Background Papers - Nil**