

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

28 March 2023

TITLE:	Annual Report
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Paul Roberts - Council Leader SMDC
CONTACT OFFICER:	Tanya Cooper - Head of Organisational Development and Transformation
WARDS INVOLVED:	Non-specific

Appendices Attached – Appendix A: Annual Report 2021/22

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Council's Annual Report for 2021/22. This is a core document which compares Staffordshire Moorlands' performance and costs with Councils in the West Midlands region and nationally.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the findings of the benchmarking exercises.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Annual Report establishes the context for the Council in planning its performance delivery. This includes both the financial backdrop against which the Council must deliver its services, the risk profile and also the local place context of the area and how it compares against a range of socio-demographic measures.
- 3.2 The report looks back over the Council's achievements in 2021/22 and uses national benchmarking data 2020/21 to assess value for money.
- 3.3 The analysis is built around the Corporate Plan priorities.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The Annual Report is built around the priorities contained within the Corporate Plan and therefore links into all four main aims and the supporting objectives.

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The report is for information with no decision required of the Panel.

6. **Implications**

- 6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)
None

- 6.2 Workforce
None

- 6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment
None

- 6.4 Financial Considerations
None

- 6.5 Legal
None

- 6.6 Climate Change
None

- 6.7 Consultation
None

- 6.8 Risk Assessment
The report outlines the principal above tolerance strategic risks facing the council

ANDREW P STOKES
Chief Executive

Web Links and Background Papers

Information Team files
Benchmarking platforms

Contact details

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7. Introduction

7.1 The purpose of an Annual Report is to look back and take stock of the progress and achievements made against the Council's stated objectives and to use this intelligence to understand what still needs to be done and what new challenges lie ahead. The Annual Report does this by:

- Presenting a place profile for Staffordshire Moorlands, such as health factors, deprivation levels, economic indicators, and access to housing;
- Looking at the Council's performance against its targets;
- Analysing performance and costs against national and regional comparisons;
- Presenting the principal risks facing the Council; and
- Outlining the financial challenges facing the authority over the course of its Medium Term Financial Plan.

8. Place Profile

8.1 The highlights from the place profile are as follows:

- Over 30% of the area is classed as rural.
- Aging population, 65+ years projected to become the largest resident group by 2028 with forecasts showing an upward trajectory.
- Higher than average levels of unqualified residents but also a higher level of residents educated to degree level and above.
- Health outcomes – issues with adult obesity levels and smoking prevalence.
- Employment – employment is higher than the county average and unemployment levels are low, however, earnings remain below average.
- Crime – nationally sits amongst the lowest 10% of areas for recorded crime.

9. Council's Performance/Benchmarking

9.1 Benchmarking shows that Staffordshire Moorlands is a low cost Council: at £83.15 per head, net expenditure is very low when compared to all district councils in England.

9.2 Headline findings from the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge identified that the Council: *'Delivers high-quality, low cost services that are value for money and have been well managed over a number of years'*; highlighted our *'Strengths in governance and financial management and in investing in staff and elected members'*; and recognised the Council as being *'At the forefront of creative thinking with a clear focus on efficiency and resilience'*.

