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Press Release – For Immediate Release

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UNISON Welcomes Decision To Keep Services In House

UNISON today welcomed Staffordshire County Council's announcement that services previously being considered as part of the Core+ project will remain in house. The announcement today draws to an end a nine month project that has been considering the future of back office services such as ICT, HR, Procurement and Finance where business cases for two potential options have been considered.

The two options being considered were:

- To transfer the services to Entrust (Staffordshire County Council & Capita's Joint Venture)
- Keep services in house and redesign the delivery models whilst working with SAP, the Council's current IT systems provider.

Steve Elsey, Staffordshire UNISON's Branch Secretary, said:

"We are delighted at the decision to maintain services in house, UNISON have been concerned since the start of this project that the likely change in shape and function of the council over coming years is likely to change the requirement for these services more than could be imagined and on that basis it seemed unwise to commit to a 19 year contract for delivery of services which in time may no longer be required, with services maintained in house the flexibility remains to tailor services and staffing requirements to the ever changing face of local government."

He added: "UNISON have been doing a lot of work with the staff affected and throughout the process many questions have been asked which have challenged the Council's thinking over the viability of outsourcing these services. We would like to thank our members for getting involved and for making their concerns known, the road ahead will be challenging for all of us, with the financial challenges clear."

ENDS.

Notes to editors:

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