

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader and Town Centres Regeneration Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A N Pearce	-	Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio
A F Reid	-	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Also present - Councillors F Beatty and A P Edgeller

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
G Stott	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Place
A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
D Piper	-	Head of Economic Development and Planning
W Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

## **CAB77 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2025 as published on 11 April 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

## **CAB78 Housing Options Funding 2025 - 2026**

Considered a report requesting authority be delegated to the Head of Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member to agree the detailed spending of the Government allocated Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Funding 2025/2026.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce noted that said Team were doing an excellent job leading to positive results in this area of work.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio be approved as follows:

That the content of the report be noted and permission be given to delegate authority to the Head of Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member to agree the detailed spending of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Funding 2025/2026.

## **CAB79 Funding for Voluntary Sector Organisations**

Considered a report:-

- seeking approval of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Grant Policy which detailed how, and what, support would be given by the Council to voluntary sector organisations;
- Recognising that Stafford Borough Council had renewed its Corporate Plan (2025-2028), and that work was underway to develop a Community Wellbeing Strategy, the report requested that Cabinet agreed the grants currently given to voluntary sector organisations be extended by a 12-month period, back dated from April 2025. This would allow time for the new policy to be agreed, and for the strategic framework that would guide applications to be set.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio, introduced the report noting the changes made following the 'Call-In' of the item before detailing the content of paragraphs 1 to 5. Councillor Hood concluded her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the VCSE Grant Policy be approved, and the changes made to the Assessment Criteria and the funding matrix within the policy, as a result of a previous call-in to the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (b) the spend of £130,250 which would enable the extension of the current grant agreements until 31 March 2026 be approved;

- (c) the element of the policy which delegated the decision on allocation of funding to the Head of Wellbeing (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities) be noted.

**CAB80 Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED:- that pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst the next following item of business be discussed, on the grounds that it includes the disclosure of exempt information of the type specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act

*Recording of the meeting was paused at this point, all members of the press and public left the room.*

**CAB81 Stafford Town Centre Regeneration Capital Programme Change - Part Confidential**

Considered a report recommending approval to amend the capital programme to reflect the freehold purchase of 2 sites as set out in the confidential appendix to the report as part of the Stafford Town Centre Transformation Programme.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the capital programme be updated to reflect the acquisitions of sites as identified on the plans in the confidential appendix to the report, funded by the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF);
- (b) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning (in consultation with the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning and the Council Section 151 Officer) to take appropriate necessary steps to complete the acquisitions set out in (a);

- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning (in consultation with the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, the Council Section 151 Officer) to progress the delivery strategy of the acquired sites. This would include appointment of external contractors, preparation and submission of regulatory approval applications, conducting relevant surveys and entering into any necessary license agreements to deliver the programme as a whole.

*Recording of the meeting was restarted, members of the press and public were invited to re-join the meeting.*

**CAB82 Development Management - External Review Outcome and Resource Request 2025/26**

Considered a report informing Cabinet on the outcome of the external independent review of the Council's Development Management service and setting out the next steps.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio recommended that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the report, the findings of the external review, the Service Plan and Improvement Plan be noted;
- (b) the resource proposals for Development Management and Planning Enforcement for 2025/26 which would maintain current service delivery whilst the improvement plan was being implemented be agreed;
- (c) the drawdown of £234,790 from planning/fee reserves to fund agency staff to maintain service delivery whilst the improvement plan was being implemented and funding for consultancy support to support delivery of the improvement plan be recommended to Council (the funding will be in addition to the approved 2025/26 budget).

CHAIR