

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

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
J Presland	-	Head of Operations
R Wolfe	-	Revenues and Benefits Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

CAB55 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2026 as published on 27 January 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB56 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026-27

Considered a report:-

- seeking approval of the proposed changes to the Council's Local Council Tax Reduction scheme with effect from 1 April 2026 and;
- recommending that Council formally adopts those changes at its meeting on 24 February 2026.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and the associated appendix 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 proposals of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio be approved as follows:

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) at its meeting on 24 February 2026, Council be asked to adopt the changes to the scheme, explained in this, regarding:
 - (i) increases in Income Band Thresholds, in line with changes to Universal Credit to increase the standard allowance by more than inflation and to remove the 2-child limit;
 - (ii) protection for disabled Universal Credit claimants, who receive other incomes in addition to Universal Credit;
 - (iii) closing a potential loophole in respect of, usually self-employed, claimants who earn less than the minimum wage;
 - (iv) disregarding certain payment types relating to LGBT compensation scheme for armed forces, in line with national benefits;
 - (v) extending the period of time for which a claimant can receive LCTR whilst temporarily away from home, in 'war-torn' areas.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 24 FEBRUARY 2026.

CAB57 Biodiversity Duty Reporting: Stafford Borough Council's New Biodiversity Strategy 2026-30

Considered a report seeking approval of the Council's response to the statutory biodiversity duty.

The Cabinet Member, Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3, 5 and the associated appendix.

Continuing, Councillor Pearce highlighted the considerable improvements made in this area of work which represented a celebration of the Council's successes through various initiatives, both those in progress and those brought to fruition.

Councillor Pearce concluding his comments by noting the end date of the associated public consultation before recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The Leader of the Council and his Cabinet colleagues thanked Officers for their efforts 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, Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio be approved as follows:

- (a) the revised biodiversity strategy be approved;
- (b) delegated authority to approve the LNRS be granted.

CHAIR