

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
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Resources
A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
W Conaghan	-	Press and Communications Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

CAB51 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025 as published on 12 December 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB52 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2025-28

Considered a report proposing to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2026-27, the updated Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2028-29 and indicative budgets for 2027-28 to 2028-29.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 and the associate appendices before reminding colleagues that the settlement figures were provisional at this stage, and could be subject to change,

Councillor Cooke concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor Kenney was pleased to see the Council's commitment in providing continued financial support for the regeneration of Stafford town centre.

Councillor Pearce welcomed the funding allocated to support the climate change agenda of the Council.

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:

That the following be recommended to the Council:-

- (a) the Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2026-27 be set at £20.888 million;
- (b) the indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £20.724 million for 2027-28 and £20.987 million for 2028-29;
- (c) the General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million;
- (d) the detailed capital programme as set out in appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (e) the Council Tax for 2026-27 be increased by 2.99% to £184.09;
- (f) the Council's Tax Base be set at 50,296.31 (as determined by the Deputy Chief Executive Resources S151);
- (g) it be noted that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2026-27 was generally set at 4%;
- (h) delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)/S151 Officer in consultation with the Resources portfolio holder to add items to the budget funded from reserves in line with the purpose of the reserve;
- (i) the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)/S151 Officer be authorised to adjust reserve contributions to reflect any grant and local taxation changes announced in the final 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026.

The Leader of the Council and his Cabinet colleagues paid tribute to the Officers of the Finance Department for their efforts in this area of work.

CAB53 Fees and Charges Review 2026/2027

Considered a report proposing to the Council the Fees and Charges for 2026/27.

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

Councillor Fordham was pleased to note those charges which had been frozen at 2025/26 prices, as set out in paragraph 5.8 of the report.

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:

the proposed Fees and Charges for 2026/27 be recommended to Council for approval, specifically the new charges as set out in paragraph 5.10 of the report and the increases above 4.3% as detailed in appendix 1.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026.

CAB54 Allocation Policy Review and Changes

Considered a report reviewing and seeking approval for the proposed changes to the Council's Allocation Policy.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraph 3 and the associated appendices before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

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:

the proposed changes to the Council's Allocation Policy be approved.

CHAIR