

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 - Councillor A P Edgeller

Officers in attendance:

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------------------------------|
| T Clegg | - | Chief Executive |
| J Aupers | - | Head of Transformation and Assurance |
| A Nevin | - | Head of Wellbeing |
| J Dean | - | Democratic Services Officer |

CAB64 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2025 as published on 21 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB65 Corporate Plan 2025-26 to 2027-28

Considered a report setting out the new Corporate Plan for 2025-26 to 2027-28 and the supporting priority delivery plans, together with the results of the consultation on the draft corporate plan.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report highlighting its importance before noting in particular the content of paragraphs 4.1 and 5.3. Councillor Godfrey concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A F Reid was pleased to endorse the report and welcomed the detail as set out on page 13 of the agenda.

Councillor R Kenney stated that the Plan highlighted the Council's intentions for continued investment across the Borough.

Councillor A N Pearce welcomed the prominence of climate change and nature recovery in the Plan and noted the associated series of actions to be taken.

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

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Leader of the Council be approved as follows:

That the following be recommended to Council:-

- (a) the Corporate Plan 2025-26 to 2027-28; and
- (b) the outline Priority Delivery Plans for 2025-26 to 2027-28.

The Cabinet thanked Officers for their efforts in producing the Corporate Plan.

CAB66 VfM Progress Report - Quarter 3 2024/25

Considered a report advising Members on the progress in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan at the end of Quarter 3 2024/25.

The Cabinet Member, Resources 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.

Upon request Councillor Cooke provided an update regarding vacancies within the Finance Team.

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 progress at the end of Quarter 3 2024/25 in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan as set out in appendix 1 of the report be noted.

CAB67 Quarter 3 Performance Report for 2024-25

Considered a report advising Members on the progress in delivering the Council's priorities and performance at the end of the quarter 3 for 2024-25.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 and the associated appendices 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:

That the progress made during quarter 3 in the delivery of the Council's priorities and performance as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.

CAB68 Committee Cycle 2025/26

Considered a report proposing the Committee Cycle for 2025/26.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 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:

That the Committee Cycle for 2025/26 be approved.

CAB69 Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 3 - Part Confidential

Considered a report informing Cabinet of the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Service as regards:

- the collection of Council Tax during the first three quarters of the financial year;
- the collection of Business Rates during the three quarters of the financial year;
- the recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the first three quarters of the financial year and;
- seeking approval to the write off of the arrears listed in the confidential appendices.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 7 together with the associated confidential appendices. The Cabinet Member was pleased to note there were no irrecoverable Council Tax or Benefit Overpayments debts listed in the report.

Councillor Cooke concluded 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:

That:-

- (a) the information regarding collections be noted;
- (b) the arrears listed in the confidential appendices to the report be written off.

CAB70 National Planning Policy Framework and New Local Plan: Next Steps

Received a report allowing Cabinet to consider the new requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024 regarding progress of the New Local Plan 2020-2040 and having considered the new requirements of the NPPF, to recommend stopping work on the New Local Plan 2020-2040 and begin investigation of, and to develop a new plan, at a later date, under the new plan system in accordance with Section 3 and annex 1 of the NPPF.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, introduced the report confirming that this was a momentous decision for Cabinet to take. Councillor Reid noted the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 (confirming that the dates in paragraph 5.32 were indicative) before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce reiterated the value of taking correct decisions when dealing with this matter, and that the views of local residents were of paramount importance when considering this issue.

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

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

That:-

- (a) work on the current New Local Plan 2020-2040 be stopped and the process of advanced work prior to the official start of a new plan under the new plan system begin covering a plan period 2025-2045;
- (b) a new Local Development Scheme (Local Plan timetable) based on the latest information available from the Government, be agreed and brought into effect from 19 March 2025.

CAB71 Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2025 - 2030

Considered a report requesting approval for the adoption of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2025-2030.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 before concluding her comments by thanking the Head of Wellbeing and her Team and recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce gave his congratulations to Officers for their efforts in this area of work, for which the Council had a proven successful track record.

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 Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2025-2030 be approved
- (b) the content of the Evidence Review which set out the challenges impacting homelessness and rough sleeping in Stafford Borough be noted.

CHAIR