

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader and Town Centres Regeneration 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
A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
D Piper	-	Head of Economic Development and Planning
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
D Prosser-Davies	-	Food, Safety and Licensing Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

**CAB4 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2025 as published on 30 May 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

**CAB5 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I D Fordham and G P K Pardesi.

**CAB6 VfM Progress Report - Quarter 4/End of Year Report for 2024/25**

Considered a report advising Members on the progress in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan at the end of Quarter 4 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.

Councillor Cooke was pleased to report the publication of the statement of accounts for 2023/24 which represented a key achievement 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, Resources Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

(a) the progress made in 2024/25 in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan set out at appendix 1 of the report be noted;

(b) the proposals for refocusing the improvement plan for 2025/26 as set out in paragraph 5.7 of the report be noted.

#### **CAB7 End of Year 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 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 at the end of 2024/25 relating to the delivery of the Council's priorities and performance as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.

Councillor A F Reid requested that thanks to Officers for their efforts in this area of work be placed on record.

#### **CAB8 Updated Strategic Risk Register**

Considered a report setting out details of the Council's Strategic Risk Register as at 1 April 2025 and providing an update to Cabinet on the implementation of the new Risk Management Framework.

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 new Strategic Risk Register be approved.

### **CAB9 Proposals for an increase in Fares: Hackney Carriage Vehicles**

Considered a report enabling Cabinet to consider a request from Stafford Taxi Rank Association, on behalf of the Borough's Hackney Carriage Proprietors, for an increase in fares.

The Deputy Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraph 1 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, Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

(a) the revised table of fares set out in appendix 1 of the report for Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council be approved for consultation purposes;

(b) the revised charges be advertised in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;

(c) the revised charges be implemented as soon as possible, subject to any objections arising.

### **CAB10 Taxi Licensing Policy and Licence Conditions 2025 - 2030**

Received a report considering an amended Taxi Licensing Policy and Licence Conditions 2025 ("the Policy") which set out the Council's approach to regulating the Hackney and Private Hire Vehicle trade under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 as amended. The Policy had been updated and revised to incorporate provisions made to steer the trade towards carbon neutrality, new guidance on the determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney carriage and private hire industry and proposing an incentive to increase the number of Hackney Carriage Licensed by the Borough.

The Deputy Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1

and 3 and the associated appendices before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce was pleased to note the detail of appendix 11 of the Policy relating to idling vehicles.

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

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

That Council be recommended to:

- (a) approve and publish the revised 2025 Policy and Conditions, subject to minute (d) below;
- (b) authorise the Head of Regulatory Services to make any amendments to the Policy required due to changes in legislation or government guidance and minor variations to the Policy in the interests of operational efficiency;
- (c) authorise the Head of Regulatory Services, subject to broad headline dates being agreed by Council, and any external factors beyond the Council's control, to determine the dates/timescales within the revised Policy relating to vehicle emissions, the phasing out of licensed vehicles powered only by internal combustion engines and the introduction of electric and hybrid vehicles into the licensed taxi and private hire fleet.
- (d) approve or reject each of the three proposals from the Trade detailed in Paragraph 5.5 of the report and instruct the Head of Regulatory Services to update and implement the Policy accordingly.

**THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 22 JULY 2025.**

**CAB11 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, Members of the press left the room.*

## **CAB12 Stafford Town Centre Regeneration Capital Programme Change - Confidential**

Considered a confidential report recommending approval to amend the capital programme to reflect the leasehold purchase of a town centre site as part of the Stafford Town Centre Transformation Programme.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraph 1 before 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 Deputy Leader be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) it be recommended to Council that the capital programme be updated to include £332,000 in respect of the leasehold acquisition of the site as identified on the plan in appendix 1 of the confidential report, funded by the Council's reserves;
- (b) a revenue budget be established from reserves to support the associated activities £88,000 as identified in paragraph 5.15 of the confidential report;
- (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 and the Council Section 151 Officer) to take all necessary steps to complete the acquisition set out in minutes (a) and (b) above;
- (d) 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 and the Stafford Town Centre Transformation Programme Board) to progress the delivery plan of the acquired site. This will 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.

**THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 22 JULY 2025.**

### **CAB13 Land Acquisition - Stafford Station Gateway - Confidential**

Considered a confidential report updating Cabinet on progress made in relation to the Stafford Station Gateway project, following the receipt of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to the award of funding from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs before 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 update provided in relation to the LUF allocation be noted;
- (b) it be recommend to Council that the capital programme be amended to reflect an overall cost of £3.735m to complete the acquisition of the land identified within the red line boundary set out within confidential appendix 1 of the report, subject to the conditions as set out in paragraph 5.20;
- (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 and the Council Section 151 Officer)to take all necessary steps to complete the acquisition of the site;
- (d) a revenue budget of £90,000 be established to support the associated activities as identified in paragraph 5.21 of the report.

**THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 22 JULY 2025.**

CHAIR