



Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford

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Dear Members

Cabinet

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on **Tuesday 9 April 2024** at **6.30pm** in the **Sheridan Room, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.

Please note that this meeting will be recorded.

Members are reminded that contact officers are shown at the top of each report and members are welcome to raise questions etc in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Curran".

Head of Law and Governance

CABINET - 9 APRIL 2024

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of 7 March 2024 as circulated and published on 8 March 2024.
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Councillors' Question Time (if any)
- 4 Proposals of the Cabinet Members (as follows):-

Page Nos

(a) RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| (i) | Committee Cycle 2024/25 | 3 - 18 |
| (ii) | Housing Benefit - Modified Scheme in Respect of War Disablement and Bereavement Pensions | 19 - 23 |

Membership

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| A T A Godfrey | - Leader |
| R Kenney | - Deputy Leader |
| A N Pearce | - Climate Change Portfolio |
| J Hood | - Community Portfolio |
| A F Reid | - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio |
| I D Fordham | - Environment Portfolio |
| G P K Pardesi | - Leisure Portfolio |
| R P Cooke | - Resources Portfolio |

Agenda Item 4(a)i

Committee Cycle 2024/25

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	9 April 2024
Report of:	Head of Law and Governance
Portfolio:	Resources Portfolio

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the proposed Committee Cycle for 2024/25.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee Cycle for 2024/25 as submitted be approved.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.2 The Committee Cycle for 2024/25 has been produced on the basis of the current committee structure, and a similar basis to 2023/24. It also provides for the process leading to the 2025/26 budget.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Once again, timing of the Scrutiny Committees has been arranged in order to coincide with the production of performance and budgetary information. This enables the Scrutiny Committees to look at more current information with a view to taking more timely action, where necessary.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The Committee Cycle will assist the Council to support all Corporate Priorities

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The proposed Committee Cycle for 2024/25 is attached as an **APPENDIX**.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Risk Management

None

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

None

6.6 Health

None

6.7 Climate Change

None

7 Appendices

Appendix: Yearly Committee Cycle 2024-2025

8 Previous Consideration

None

9 Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Jackie Allen

Telephone Number: 01785 619552

Ward Interest: Nil

Report Track: Cabinet 9 April 2024 (Only)

Key Decision: No

Yearly Committee Cycle

2024 - 2025



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June	1
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Please Note: All meetings start at 6.30pm unless otherwise indicated

2024

May

Wednesday	1	
Thursday	2	Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Election
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	

Sunday	5	
Monday	6	May Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday	7	Cabinet
Wednesday	8	
Thursday	9	
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	Council (Mayor Making) (10.30am)

Sunday	12	
Monday	13	Council (Appointments) (7.00pm)
Tuesday	14	
Wednesday	15	
Thursday	16	
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	

Sunday	19		
Monday	20		
Tuesday	21		Call-in Ends
Wednesday	22	Planning Committee	
Thursday	23		
Friday	24		
Saturday	25		

Sunday	26	
Monday	27	Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday	28	
Wednesday	29	
Thursday	30	
Friday	31	

June

Saturday	1
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Sunday	2
Monday	3
Tuesday	4

Wednesday	5	Cabinet
Thursday	6	
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	

Sunday	9	Planning Committee
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	
Wednesday	12	
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	

Sunday	16	Audit and Accounts Committee	Call-in Ends
Monday	17		
Tuesday	18		
Wednesday	19		
Thursday	20		
Friday	21		
Saturday	22		

Sunday	23	Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee
Monday	24	
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	

Sunday 30

July

Monday	1	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	

Sunday	7	Planning Committee Cabinet
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	

Sunday	14
Monday	15
Tuesday	16
Wednesday	17
Thursday	18
Friday	19
Saturday	20

Sunday	21
Monday	22
Tuesday	23
Wednesday	24
Thursday	25
Friday	26
Saturday	27

Planning Committee**Call-in Ends**

Sunday	28
Monday	29
Tuesday	30
Wednesday	31

Council (7.00pm)**August**

Thursday	1
Friday	2
Saturday	3

Sunday	4
Monday	5
Tuesday	6
Wednesday	7
Thursday	8
Friday	9
Saturday	10

Cabinet

Sunday	11
Monday	12
Tuesday	13
Wednesday	14
Thursday	15
Friday	16
Saturday	17

Planning Committee

Sunday	18
Monday	19
Tuesday	20
Wednesday	21
Thursday	22
Friday	23
Saturday	24

Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**Call-in Ends**

Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Summer Bank Holiday
Tuesday	27	
Wednesday	28	
Thursday	29	
Friday	30	
Saturday	31	

September

Sunday	1	
Monday	2	
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	Planning Committee
Thursday	5	Cabinet
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	

Sunday	8	
Monday	9	
Tuesday	10	Council (7.00pm)
Wednesday	11	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Thursday	12	
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	

Sunday	15	
Monday	16	
Tuesday	17	Call-in Ends
Wednesday	18	
Thursday	19	
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	

Sunday	22	
Monday	23	Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday	24	
Wednesday	25	Planning Committee
Thursday	26	
Friday	27	
Saturday	28	

Sunday	29	
Monday	30	

October

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	Cabinet
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	

Sunday	6	
Monday	7	
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	
Thursday	10	
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	

Sunday	13	
Monday	14	
Tuesday	15	Call-in Ends
Wednesday	16	
Thursday	17	
Friday	18	
Saturday	19	

Sunday	20	
Monday	21	
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	Planning Committee
Thursday	24	
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	

Sunday	27	
Monday	28	
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	
Thursday	31	

November

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	

Sunday	3	
Monday	4	
Tuesday	5	
Wednesday	6	Planning Committee
Thursday	7	Cabinet
Friday	8	

Saturday 9

Sunday 10
Monday 11
Tuesday 12
Wednesday 13
Thursday 14
Friday 15
Saturday 16

Sunday 17
Monday 18
Tuesday 19

Call-in Ends

Wednesday 20 **Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee**
Thursday 21 **Audit and Accounts Committee**
Friday 22 **Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**
Saturday 23

Sunday 24
Monday 25
Tuesday 26
Wednesday 27
Thursday 28
Friday 29
Saturday 30

Resources Scrutiny Committee

Planning Committee

December

Sunday 1
Monday 2
Tuesday 3
Wednesday 4
Thursday 5
Friday 6
Saturday 7

Council (7.00pm)

Cabinet

Sunday 8
Monday 9
Tuesday 10
Wednesday 11
Thursday 12
Friday 13
Saturday 14

Audit and Accounts Committee

Sunday 15
Monday 16
Tuesday 17
Wednesday 18

Call-in Ends

Planning Committee

Thursday	19
Friday	20
Saturday	21

Sunday	22
Monday	23
Tuesday	24
Wednesday	25
Thursday	26
Friday	27
Saturday	28

Christmas Day
Boxing Day

Sunday	29
Monday	30
Tuesday	31

2025

January

Wednesday	1	New Year's Day
Thursday	2	
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	

Sunday	5	
Monday	6	
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	Planning Committee
Thursday	9	Cabinet
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	

Sunday	12	
Monday	13	
Tuesday	14	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday	15	
Thursday	16	
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	

Sunday	19		
Monday	20		
Tuesday	21		Call-in Ends
Wednesday	22		
Thursday	23	Cabinet	
Friday	24		
Saturday	25		

Sunday	26	
Monday	27	
Tuesday	28	
Wednesday	29	Planning Committee
Thursday	30	
Friday	31	

February

Saturday	1	
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Sunday	2	
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	Call-in Ends
Wednesday	5	
Thursday	6	
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	

Sunday	9	
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	Council (7.00pm)
Wednesday	12	
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	

Sunday	16	
Monday	17	
Tuesday	18	
Wednesday	19	Planning Committee
Thursday	20	Cabinet
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	

Sunday	23	
Monday	24	
Tuesday	25	Council (7.00pm)
Wednesday	26	
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	

March

Saturday	1	
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Sunday	2	
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	Call-in Ends
Wednesday	5	Resources Scrutiny Committee

Thursday	6	Cabinet
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	

Sunday	9	
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	
Wednesday	12	Planning Committee
Thursday	13	Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	

Sunday	16	
Monday	17	
Tuesday	18	Call-in Ends
Wednesday	19	
Thursday	20	Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	

Sunday	23	
Monday	24	
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	Audit and Accounts Committee
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	

Sunday	30	
Monday	31	

April

Tuesday	1	Planning Committee
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	

Sunday	6	
Monday	7	
Tuesday	8	Council (7.00pm)
Wednesday	9	
Thursday	10	Cabinet
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	

Sunday	13	
Monday	14	
Tuesday	15	

Wednesday	16		
Thursday	17		
Friday	18	Good Friday	
Saturday	19		
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Sunday	20		
Monday	21	Easter Monday	
Tuesday	22		
Wednesday	23	Planning Committee	
Thursday	24		Call-in Ends
Friday	25		
Saturday	26		
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Sunday	27		
Monday	28		
Tuesday	29		
Wednesday	30		
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May			
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Thursday	1	County Council Elections	
Friday	2		
Saturday	3		
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Sunday	4		
Monday	5	May Bank Holiday	
Tuesday	6		
Wednesday	7		
Thursday	8	Cabinet	
Friday	9		
Saturday	10		
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Sunday	11		
Monday	12		
Tuesday	13		
Wednesday	14	Planning Committee	
Thursday	15		
Friday	16		
Saturday	17	Council (Mayor Making) (10.30am)	
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Sunday	18		
Monday	19	Council (Appointments) (7.00pm)	
Tuesday	20		Call-in Ends
Wednesday	21		
Thursday	22		
Friday	23		
Saturday	24		
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Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday	27	
Wednesday	28	
Thursday	29	
Friday	30	

Saturday	31	
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NOTE: School Holidays 2024-2025

- Monday 6 May 2024 (May Day)
- Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May 2024 (Half Term)
- Tuesday 23 July to Friday 30 August 2024 (Summer Holiday)
- Monday 2 September 2024 (Inset Day)
- Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November 2024 (Half Term)
- Monday 23 December 2024 - Friday 3 January 2025 (Christmas Holiday)
- Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2025 (Half Term)
- Monday 14 April - Friday 25 April 2025 (Easter Holiday)
- Monday 5 May 2025 (May Day)
- Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May 2025 (Half Term)

Agenda Item 4(a)ii

Housing Benefit - Modified Scheme in Respect of War Disablement and Bereavement Pensions

Committee: Cabinet
Date of Meeting: 9 April 2024
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)
Portfolio: Resources Portfolio

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To review the Council’s modified Housing Benefit scheme which provides that payments under military compensation schemes are disregarded in the assessment of a claimant’s income for Housing Benefit purposes.
- 1.2 To recommend Council continues to provide this support for veterans wounded, injured or sick in such a way that affects their life in a permanent or significant way and to the widows of those who gave their lives in service.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted;
- 2.2 That at its meeting on 16 April 2024, Council be recommended to adopt the policy statement as set out in the attached **APPENDIX**.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.3 The Council has disregarded payment made under various military compensation schemes, in the assessment of Housing Benefit for many years. During that time legislation regarding benefit legislation and military compensation have changed and so a review and refreshment of the scheme is appropriate. The modified scheme needs to be adopted by resolution of Council.

- 2.4 The Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring those who serve or have served, and their families are treated fairly ensuring all members of the Armed Forces community have the same access to public and commercial services as any other citizen does. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Within the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement, most incomes are included in the assessment, but some may have certain disregards.
- 3.2 Current Housing Benefit Regulations allow for a standard disregard of £10 per week but local authorities have a power to modify the Housing Benefit scheme to disregard some or all of any prescribed war disablement pension or war widow's pension.
- 3.3 No government subsidy is paid in respect of the modified schemes and the Council meets the cost of the resulting additional Housing Benefit awards.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 Stafford Borough Council has proudly signed the Armed Forces Covenant. Continuation of this support for veterans and their widows is consistent with our obligations under that covenant.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 This Council, like many others have disregarded war pensions and war widow's pensions for many years, so as to increase the amount of help that affected veterans will get with their rent and council tax. We intend to continue to do so.
- 5.2 A recent audit of our benefit subsidy claim brought to our attention that the council resolution, to confirm this discretionary spend, needs to be refreshed. This report is therefore merely a refreshment of a longstanding scheme and does not change the levels of Housing Benefit that is paid, in any way.
- 5.3 5 claimants currently benefit from the modified scheme at a cost to the Council of around £14,000.
- 5.4 The incomes to be disregarded include:
- (a) pensions under the Armed Forces Pensions and Compensation schemes (and similar payments) for:
- War disablement
 - War widows
 - War widowers
 - War bereaved civil partners

- (b) payments compensating for non-payment of above.
- (c) equivalent payments from governments outside the UK
- (d) pensions paid to the victims of Nazi persecution by the governments of Germany or Austria or by the government of the Netherlands.

5.5 The Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme similarly disregards the above incomes from the assessment. This scheme is reviewed annually and no further action is required in that regard.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

There are no significant financial implications arising from this report. The effect of the report is to maintain the current level of spending of around £14,000 per year, as detailed at 5.3 above.

6.2 Legal

The Council's right to adopt a modified Housing Benefit Scheme to disregard War Pensions is given by of section 134 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Risk Management

None

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

None

6.6 Health

None

6.7 Climate Change

None

7 Appendices

Appendix: Modified Housing Benefit Scheme Disregards for War Disablement and Bereavement Pensions

8 Previous Consideration

None

9 Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Rob Wolfe - Local Taxation and Benefits Manager

Telephone Number: 01543 464397

Ward Interest: None

Report Track: Cabinet 9 April 2024
Council 16 April 2024

Key Decision: No

Modified Housing Benefit Scheme

Disregards for War Disablement and Bereavement Pensions.

April 2024

Within the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement, most incomes are included in the assessment, but some are disregarded.

The Council is given discretion by 134 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 to disregard some or all of any prescribed war disablement pension or war widow's pension (as defined in Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007)

Whereas statute defines that £10 per week of these must be disregarded in the assessment of a claimant's income, for Housing Benefit purposes, Stafford Borough Council resolves to disregard those incomes in full. This 100% disregard continues to support the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant.

The incomes to be disregarded are;

- (a) pensions under the Armed Forces Pensions and Compensation schemes (and similar payments for)
 - War disablement
 - War widows
 - War widowers
 - War bereaved civil partners
- (b) payments compensating for non-payment of above
- (c) equivalent payments from governments outside the UK
- (d) pensions paid to the victims of Nazi persecution by the governments of Germany or Austria or by the government of the Netherlands.

The Council's Chief Financial Officer is given delegated authority to update this policy with consequential changes in the event of changes to legislation regarding the payment of War Disablement and Bereavement Pensions, or their treatment within Housing Benefit legislation.