Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Wednesday 23 September 2026

Chairman - Councillor A P Edgeller

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

Councillors:

A D Hobbs	L Nixon
E G R Jones	J S Powell
A R McNaughton	J T Rose
J A Nixon	J Thorley

Officers in attendance:-

A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
L Booth	-	Streetscene Manager
V Cooper	-	Partnerships Manager
S Taylor	-	Housing Assistance, Health and Leisure Service Manager
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

Councillor A J Sandiford
County Councillor A Orlandi-Fantini
Charlotte Almond - Chief Executive Officer, Staffordshire Women's Aid
Wayne Gethings - Chief Executive, Housing Plus Group
Vicki Brownhill - Regional Director, Housing Plus Group
Alistair Gould - Area Manager, Freedom Leisure

CWB7 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2026, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

CWB8 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor D M McNaughton (substituted by Councillor A R McNaughton).

Apologies were also received from Cabinet Members:

G P K Pardesi - Leisure Portfolio

J Hood - Community Portfolio

CWB9 County Councillor - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Councillor A Orlandi-Fantini provided an update of recent topics covered by the County Council that were relevant to Stafford Borough, including:

- Urgent emergency care
- Stafford allocations to urgent treatment centre
- Winter pressures including travel within NHS
- NHS moving into community settings. Need to ensure services are accessible to residents and has enough capacity.
- Urgent care pathways
- Maternity services
- Pharmacies input to healthcare

Members were asked to raise any issues within their wards with the County Councillor

A link to the County Council website for agendas and minutes had been shared with the agenda.

CWB10 Staffordshire Women's Aid Presentation

Charlotte Almond, Chief Executive Officer at Staffordshire Women's Aid was welcomed to the meeting.

Charlotte delivered a presentation summarising the work of the organisation. This was followed by a question and answer session.

There would be a candlelit vigil on Wednesday 25 November at 4:30pm in the Market Square, Stafford. Names would be read out of those women killed by male violence in the UK over the past year, followed by a minutes silence.

RESOLVED:- that:

a) in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee, the contents of the presentation be noted

b) the slides be circulated to members.

CWB11 Housing Plus Presentation

Wayne Gethings, Chief Executive of Housing Plus Group and Vicki Brownhill, Regional Director presented a summary of the work undertaken within the last year, and their vision moving forwards. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Members hotline for queries MPCEnquiries@hpg.org.uk.

RESOLVED:- that:

a) in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee, the contents of the presentation be noted

b) the slides be circulated to members.

CWB12 Freedom Leisure Annual Report and Presentation

Alistair Gould, Area Manager of Freedom Leisure delivered a presentation summarising the work undertaken over the previous year and goals for the next twelve months.

Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

RESOLVED:- that:

a) in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee, the contents of the presentation be noted

b) the slides be circulated to members.

CWB13 Q1 Performance Report 2026-27

Head of Wellbeing presented the appendices and summarised the achievements for quarter 1.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the appendices be noted.

CWB14 Work Programme

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance presenting the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

Members requested Nature Recovery Action Plan for a future meeting, inviting Bill Waller, Biodiversity and Ecology Officer to provide an update.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report be noted, subject to the amendment above, and detailed in the amended schedule below.

CHAIR

SCHEDULE

Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Thursday 3 December 2026 at 6:30pm (to be preceded by presentation from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service at 6pm)

Report Deadline:	Thursday 19 November 2026
Officer Reports:	**Disabled Facilities Grants Presentation** Head of Wellbeing
	Veolia Annual Report 2025-26 and Waste and Recycling Update Head of Operations
	Q2 Performance Report Heads of Wellbeing/Operations/Regulatory Services
	Work Programme Head of Law and Governance

Wednesday 17 March 2027 at 6:30pm

Report Deadline:	Tuesday 2 March 2027
Officer Reports:	**Community Wellbeing Partnership Presentation** Head of Wellbeing
	Streetscene Update Streetscene Manager
	Q3 Performance Report Heads of Wellbeing/Operations/Regulatory Services
	Work Programme Head of Law and Governance

Future Items:

Obesity and Diabetes - joint with County Council

Provision of properties for independent living (large scale development)

Biodiversity / Air Quality in Town Centre and outside schools

Simpler Recycling - C Grade Plastics

Bereavement and Loss

Children in Care / Housing

Turning Point Presentation

Tree Management and Tree Protection Orders

Increase in “fast” cremations

Food Safety Annual Report

Air Quality Status Annual Report

Nature Recovery Action Plan (Bill Waller)