

8 May 2026

Dear Members

Council Meeting

I hereby give notice that a meeting of the Council will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford** on **Monday 18 May 2026 at 7.00pm** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.



Tim Clegg
Chief Executive

COUNCIL MEETING - 18 MAY 2026

Mayor, Councillor Mark Winnington

AGENDA

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| 1 | Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 16 May 2026 | (To be circulated at the meeting) |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 4 | Announcements (Paragraph 3.2(iii) of the Council Procedure Rules) | |
| 5 | To receive the Leader's appointments to the Cabinet and the appointment of a Deputy Leader of the Council from amongst the Members of the Cabinet | |
| 6 | To determine which Committees to establish for the municipal year and their size and terms of reference, the allocation of Committee seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules together with the nomination and appointments of Councillors to serve on each Committee, including the appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman as appropriate | (To be circulated at the meeting) |
| 7 | To consider the Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies | (To be circulated at the meeting) |
| 8 | Members Allowances: Access to Pension Scheme | 3 - 6 |
| 9 | To appoint the Town Warden for the ensuing year | |

Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Riverside
Stafford
ST16 3AQ

Agenda Item 8**Members Allowances: Access to Pension Scheme**

Committee:	Council
Date of Meeting:	18 May 2026
Report of:	Head of Law and Governance
Portfolio:	Resources Portfolio

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Members Allowance Scheme to include the right for members to access the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Councils Members Allowance Scheme be updated to include the right for councillors to opt-in to the Local Government Pension Scheme, as set out in **APPENDIX 1**.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.2 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Elected Member Pensions) Regulations 2026, come into force on 11 May 2026, and requires the Council to update its Members Allowance Scheme to include the right for its councillors to opt-in to the LGPS.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 From 11 May 2026, councillors will become eligible to opt-in to the Local Government Pension Scheme and local Members Allowance Schemes will need to be updated to specify that basic and special responsibility allowances are pensionable.

4 Report Detail

- 4.1 The Council is required to adopt a scheme setting out the payment of any allowances to its councillors ("Members Allowance Scheme"). When adopting or amending a scheme, the Council must have regard to recommendations made by an independent remuneration panel.

- 4.2 The current Members Allowance Scheme was adopted in February 2025 having regard to the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 4.3 The Local Government Pension Scheme is a statutory occupational pension scheme established primarily for local government employees. Although councillors previously had access to the scheme, this benefit was withdrawn for councillors in England in April 2014.
- 4.4 Following a period of consultation, the Government has now introduced legislation to restore access to the LGPS for councillors in England. The government believes that these proposals will help talented people come into public service and ensure a consistent position across the UK (with councillors in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales already having access to the LGPS).
- 4.5 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Elected Member Pensions) Regulations 2026 came into force on 11 May 2026. They amend the LGPS Regulations 2013 to permit councillors to become members of the LGPS in their office as a councillor.
- 4.6 Councillors are eligible to be a member of the LGPS if they are permitted to do so under their local Members Allowance Scheme. At the same time, the legislation requires local Member Allowance Schemes to provide that a councillor is entitled to a pension under the LGPS and that the basic allowance and special responsibility allowance are to be treated as amounts in respect of which such a pension is payable.
- 4.7 Admission to the scheme by individual councillors is voluntary and not compulsory. Once a councillor is eligible to become a member of the LGPS, they may apply in writing to the Council to join the pension scheme. They would then become an active member of the LGPS on the first day of the payment period following their application.

5 Implications

5.1 Financial

Where a councillor opts to become a member of the LGPS, the Council is required to pay employer pension contributions at rates set by the administering authority. These rates are not locally determined. The financial impact on the Council will therefore depend on the number of councillors who choose to opt in.

5.2 Legal

As set out in the report.

5.3 Human Resources

Any elected member opting into the LGPS will pay pension contributions against the same pay bands as any non-elected member of the pension scheme. The employing authority will likewise pay the same contribution rate for elected members joining the scheme as they would for non-elected scheme members. In other regards elected members will remain as office-holders and will not accrue any wider employment rights through membership of the scheme.

5.4 Risk Management

None.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

The restoration of pension access for councillors in England is promoted as supporting diversity and participation in elected office by addressing pension-related barriers to public service. The rights apply equally to all councillors.

5.6 Health

None.

5.7 Climate Change

None.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1: Additional wording for Members Allowance Scheme

7 Previous Consideration

None

8 Background Papers

Report of Independent Remuneration Panel as attached to Council report "Review of Members' Allowances" dated 11 February 2025

Contact Officer: Ian Curran
Telephone Number: 01785 619220
Ward Interest: N/A
Report Track: Council 18 May 2026 (Only)
Key Decision: N/A

Appendix 1

Members Allowances: Access to Pension Scheme

Addition of the following new paragraph in the Members Allowance Scheme:

8 Pension

- 8.1 From 11 May 2026, members will be eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Membership is voluntary and members wishing to join must complete the relevant “opt-in” form and return this to Staffordshire Pension Fund. The form can be accessed via the Staffordshire Pension fund website at www.staffspf.org.uk
- 8.2 Both the basic and special responsibility allowances shall be treated as amounts in respect of which such pension is payable. No other allowances or expenses paid under this scheme will be pensionable.