



## **Minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday 20 January 2026**

Chairman - Councillor M J Winnington

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

Councillors:

K M Aspin	P A Leason
E L Carter	A Nixon
M G Dodson	J S Powell
A D Hobbs	J Thorley
R A James	

Also present:- Councillors      R P Cooke, Resources Portfolio  
    A J Sandiford

Officers in attendance:-

C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)(CF)
I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance (IC)
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance (JA)
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer (JEA)

### **RSC18 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2025, as previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

### **RSC19 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A M Loughran (substituted by Councillor A D Hobbs) and J P Read (substituted by Councillor J Thorley)

### **RSC20 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme**

The Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 and referred to the recommendations in paragraph 2.

Councillor R P Cooke, Cabinet Member - Resources, commented that it was a good budget. The Band D Council Tax increase is approximately 10 pence per week. He thanked the finance team for the work carried out.

RESOLVED:- that the following be recommended to Council:

- a) The Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2026-27 be set at £20.888 million;
- b) The indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £20.724 million for 2027-28 and £20.987 million for 2028-29;
- c) The General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million,
- d) The detailed capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 be approved;
- e) That the Council Tax for 2026-27 be increased by 2.99% to £184.09;
- f) The Council's Tax Base be set at 50,296.31 (as determined by the Deputy Chief Executive Resources S151);
- g) Note that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2026-27 was generally set at 4%;
- h) That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)/S151 Officer in consultation with the Resources portfolio holder to add items to the budget funded from reserves in line with the purpose of the reserve;
- i) That the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)/S151 Officer be authorised to adjust reserve contributions to reflect any grant and local taxation changes announced in the final 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement.

The Scrutiny Committee gave their thanks to the Finance Team.

#### **RSC21 Fees and Charges Review**

The Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 and referred to the recommendations in paragraph 2.

RESOLVED:- that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2026/27 be recommended to Council for approval, specifically the new charges in paragraph 5.10 and the increases above 4.3% in Appendix 1

## **RSC22 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee**

Considered a report presenting the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

An item to be added to the Work Programme regarding LGR progress.

**RESOLVED:-** that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report be noted subject to the amendment noted above.

CHAIR