

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader and Town Centres Regeneration Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure 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
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Resources
G Stott	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Place
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

#### **CAB57 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2025 as published on 10 January 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **CAB58 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2024-28**

Considered a report proposing to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2025-26, the updated Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2027-28 and indicative budgets for 2026-27 to 2027-28. It was noted that the report had been considered by the Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025 and would be submitted to Council on 11 February 2025.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 and the associate appendices before reaffirming the Council's commitment in seeing its ambitious capital projects through to fruition and providing support to local businesses. Councillor Cooke concluded 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 following be recommended to the Council:-

- (a) the Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2025-26 be set at £18.347 million;
- (b) the indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £17.404million for 2026-27 and £17.950 million for 2027-28;
- (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 of the report be approved;
- (e) the Council Tax for 2025-26 be increased by 2.99% to £178.75;
- (f) the Council's Tax Base be set at 49,634.15 (as determined by the Deputy Chief Executive - Resources);
- (g) it be noted that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2025-26 was generally set at 3%.
- (h) the increase in stray dog budget be approved (£30k per annum)

**THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 11 FEBRUARY 2025.**

Councillor Cooke and his Cabinet colleagues paid tribute to the Officers of the Finance Department for their efforts in this area of work.

#### **CAB59 Fees and Charges Review 2025/2026**

Considered a report proposing to the Council the Fees and Charges for 2025. It was noted that the report had been considered by the Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2025.

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.

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 proposed Fees and Charges for 2025 as set out in appendix 1 of the report be recommended to Council for approval, specifically the new charges in paragraph 5.10 and the increases above 3.4%.

**THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 11 FEBRUARY 2025.**

**CAB60 Change of Lease between Stafford Town Football Club and Stafford Cricket Club**

Received a report considering the change of ownership of a Stafford Borough Council lease agreement with Stafford Town Football Club and the Football Foundation for a small area of land, approximately 1/3 of an acre (as detailed in appendix 1 of the report) that lay between the football club and Stafford Cricket Club. This land would be then leased to the cricket club on a 30-year lease from the Council.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her 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 proposal of the Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio be approved as follows:

That the change the of the leasing arrangement of the land marked in appendix 1 of the report with Stafford Borough Council from Stafford Town Football Club to that of Stafford Cricket Club be agreed.

*Having declared an interest in the next following item of business, Councillor A F Reid left his seat at the meeting table and sat in the public gallery, taking no part in the debate or voting thereon.*

**CAB61 Beech Road Play Area Allocation, Eccleshall**

Received a report considering the allocation of Section 106 funding towards the provision and enhancement of the Beech Road Play Area in Eccleshall and seeking approval to spend subject to the successful completion of the procurement process.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her comments by noting the support of local Members and 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, Leisure Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) allocation of an existing off-site contribution under the terms of a S106 agreement for £90,277.34 for the enhancement of the open space play area at Beech Road, Eccleshall be approved;
- (b) permission be given to progress to procurement, based on the proposals laid out in paragraph 5.2 of the report;
- (c) permission to spend the budget as identified in paragraph 3.3 of the report on delivering play and recreational facilities in Eccleshall at Beech Road be granted;
- (d) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Economic Development and Planning (in conjunction with the Leisure Portfolio Holder and the relevant Local Councillors) to approve the final plans and any further amendments to enable the project to be delivered based on the funds available.

CHAIR