



Councillor Frank James (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

Aspin K M	Loughran A M
Barron J A	McKeown B
Beatty F E	McNaughton A R
Carter E L	McNaughton D M
Cooke R P	Nixon A
Cooper A G	Nixon L
Cross B M	Pardesi G P K
Edgeller A P	Pearce A N
Edgeller P C	Pert J M
Fordham I D	Powell J S
Hobbs A D	Reid A F
Hood J	Rouxel D P
James R A	Sandiford A J
Jones E G R	Spencer S N
Jones P W	Thorley J
Kenney R	Winnington M J
Leason P A	

Officers in attendance:-

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)
I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance
W J Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

C35 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2024 were agreed as a true and correct record.

C36 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M G Dodson, A T A Godfrey, J A Nixon, M Phillips and J T Rose.

C37 Announcements

The Mayor thanked all those who attended the Christmas wreath making, fish and chip lunch and quiz night events, which were held in support of the Mayor's Charity Appeal. All three events were enjoyable and successful.

It was with sadness that the Mayor announced the passing of former Councillor J S Hartshorne. All present observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

C38 Councillor Session

- (a) Councillor J M Pert has submitted the following question in accordance with Paragraph 12.3(a) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

“Given the White Paper on Local Government Reorganisation launched just before the Christmas holidays last year, will the Leader of the Council give a commitment that he will always come back to Council with any proposals that affect Stafford Borough Council and its sovereignty so that a debate and a vote can be taken with a free vote for members, prior to submitting or agreeing anything?”

Councillor R Kenney, Deputy Leader responded as follows:

“The Government white paper on Local Government Re-organisation setting out proposals for devolution is of great importance to this Council and local people.

This administration will engage with all Members of the Council and our partners organisations to consider the arrangements for the future of Local Government and the services affecting the Borough and the wider County.

We will also consult with the public as part of this process.

The Leader will update Councillors regularly; any draft proposals will be considered by Council prior to submission of the final proposals to Government in November 2025.

The issue of whether Members have a free vote on this is for Group Leaders to consider.”

Councillor Pert asked the following supplementary question:

“How is the said public consultation on this matter achievable in light of the tight deadlines dictated by central Government?”

Councillor Kenney stated that this would be difficult, but that it would be done.

- (b) Councillor F Beatty has submitted the following question in accordance with Paragraph 12.3(a) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

"In the light of the cabinet's inexplicable failure, over the past eighteen months, to bring forward the new Local Plan - or even to offer a timetable to do so - a new house building target for Stafford Borough has been imposed by the government, which has eye wateringly doubled the number of houses required to be put up in our towns and villages each year; so when will the cabinet member update members and residents on where he is planning for all these extra houses to be built and for the accompanying infrastructure? Or does he plan to leave it to developers to dictate the pace and place of housing delivery?"

Councillor A F Reid, Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio responded as follows:

"Thanks go to Cllr Beatty for the question but it appears that my predecessor in the Planning and Economic Development portfolio has misunderstood how the Local Plan and NPPF process works. I find myself in the strange position of educating an experienced councillor in her own area of expertise, and that saddens me.

Our current position is that we have an adopted Local Plan and therefore the door is not currently open to developers to dictate the pace or place of development. The Current Local Plan continues to be used for planning purposes".

Councillor Beatty asked the following supplementary question:

"Is our current plan out of date and what is the cost of producing a new plan?"

Councillor Reid responded as follows:

"The Councillor now asks about the timetable for an updated plan. Let's review the timetable so far. To give context, let's compare with a nearby and similar authority and how they are doing with their Local Plan. In this way we can see whether we're doing reasonably well.

Stafford's current Local Plan was finalised in June 2014, at almost precisely the same time as Cannock's. Cannock proceeded to revise their plan in 2018, starting their consultations. Cllr Beatty chose not to take Stafford down this route at that time. Cannock then issued their 'issues and options;' consultation in May 2019. Cllr Beatty may recall she did not do this at this time - waiting until spring of 2020 instead. Cannock had a solid plan, with few risky elements, and had a lot of their evidence prepared and ready to roll - they opened their Preferred Options consultation in Spring of 2021. Cllr Beatty's Preferred Options consultation was much later, though - ending in the winter of 2022/23! With nearly two years gone it's no surprise that we

were quite behind Cannock when I took over, is it? Now, how long did it take Cannock to move on to their so-called regulation 19 stage? Well, this was submitted for examination in the Autumn of 2024, and Cannock's examination is likely this coming Spring - about a three-to four year gap would be usually expected under the old system, for a plan that carried low risk. So there's a reasonable view on the timetable - Cllr Beatty started reviewing our plan late, slowed down the process, added risky elements, and continued to preside over a slower and slower process as she went, and now demands we complete our evidence gathering twice as fast as reasonable. This is not reasonable, and Councillor Beatty surely knows this. Anyway, that's where we are now.

Further, under my guidance the Borough Council has continued to progress with the New Local Plan by updating the evidence base, carefully reviewing feedback from local communities, and carefully considering the significant announcements made by both Conservative and Labour Governments since December 2022".

Councillor J M Pert asked the following question:

"When will we get a confirmed date for the Local Plan Review?"

Councillor Reid responded as follows:

"Most confusingly, in the alternative budget proposed by the party opposite that we will debate later, they have proposed we dispense with the budget necessary to complete our Local Plan! I urge all sensible members opposite to refuse to back this alternative budget - to vote for no local plan at all would be to remove all chance of local communities having a say in the future growth of their area. Without funding to stabilise evidence for the Local Plan, our Officers and our Planning Committee will be unable to take reasonable decisions, and before long our communities would become dependent on national policy alone".

Councillor R A James asked the following question:

"Where are all of the proposed new houses to be built?"

Councillor Reid explained that he could not answer such a question tonight and that it was unreasonable to expect an answer.

The Mayor informed Members that the 10 minute time limit for consideration of such items as provided for under rule 12.6 of the Council Procedure Rules had been reached, and that the matter not be considered further.

C39 Recommendation Referred from Cabinet

Council was requested to consider the following recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 9 January 2025 in respect of the following matter:

Proposed Development of Rowley Park Sports Stadium Play Facilities
CAB54/24

“That:-

- (a) the allocation of existing off-site contributions under the terms of S106 agreements for the amount of £265,881 as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report be approved for the enhancement of the above open space in Rowley Park;
- (b) that permission to spend the above sum as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report be recommended to Council;
- (c) it be agreed that a master planning exercise be undertaken alongside a suitably qualified external consultant and a two-stage public consultation be undertaken, as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the report”

Councillor G P K Pardesi was thrilled to propose this matter, seconded by Councillor R P Cooke, that the recommendations of Cabinet be approved.

On being put to the vote the matter was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that:-

- (a) the allocation of existing off-site contributions under the terms of S106 agreements for the amount of £265,881 as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report be approved for the enhancement of the above open space in Rowley Park;
- (b) permission to spend the above sum as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report be approved;
- (c) it be agreed that a master planning exercise be undertaken alongside a suitably qualified external consultant and a two-stage public consultation be undertaken, as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the report”

Councillor D P Rouxel thanked the Cabinet Member for bringing this matter to fruition and was looking forward to noting residents’ response to the said consultation.

C40 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2024-28

Considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive - Resources.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report before reading the following prepared statement:-

“As Members will, no doubt, already have read this lengthy Report I shall cover only the salient points.

The Report’s purpose is to propose 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.

The recommendations are as set out in paragraph 2.1 and will be dealt with as I go through the report.

The report sets out the context for the budget, including the following headwinds and risks:

1. The proposed changes by central government to the structure of local government. The costs of this are at present unknown and so there are no figures for this in the budget. The first wave of new councils will start in April 2027 with the rest in April 2028. This will have a huge impact on our ability to deliver our services and plans during that same time period.
2. The uncertainties regarding Government policies for local government finance such as the reset of business rates. This change is likely to mean that the “growth” element of business rates (the amount greater than the baseline) will be removed. If we are not compensated for this by other means, then we, and others will be under a lot of pressure. So, we really have to watch this space.
3. 2025-26 will be the last year that the New Homes Bonus will be paid in its current format. At this time, it would be prudent to assume no further payments.
4. The Council is still operating with a one-year financial settlement from the government, which makes forward planning difficult.
5. The recent change in the Govts Autum Budget of the employer’s national insurance rates will have several adverse impacts on the Council, not least that the costs of the Council will increase and we are unlikely to obtain 100% compensation for this from the Government, There will also be an impact on our partners, whether they be direct suppliers of services, or others. The change will put them under more pressure and they may look to us for greater help. At worst, some organisations may be unable to provide services at the same level or increase our costs if they try to increase their changes.
6. There was a real terms cut in the provisional local government settlement for the Council, which was itself dependent on the Council increasing its Council Tax by the maximum amount of 2.99%.

All these headwinds argue for caution and prudence when setting the budget.

Now, let's look at Budget Issues and Adjustments 2025-26.

Inflation

The budget for 2025-26 includes the nationally agreed £1290 pay award for 2024-25 and 3% for 2025-26, 2% for 2026-27 and 2027-28.

Individual calculations have been completed on the budgets most affected by inflation. In October 2024 inflation was 3.2% CPIH and 3.4% RPI. For contracts and ongoing budgets, the general inflation assumption is 3%.

Spending Changes

These are covered in paragraphs 5.16 to 5.19.

The major changes in the 2025-26 portfolio budgets (recurring in future years) are: Insurance premiums, the national insurance increase and provision for the new local plan.

Now we turn to the 24-25 Forecast Outturn.

The overall council position reflects a strong performance on investment income over the year, due to higher interest rates. However, these benefits are windfalls as they cannot be guaranteed in the future. The Council is forecasting a £1m surplus over the budgeted for position for investment income. This results in a favourable overall forecast outturn for 2024/25 of £55k as can be seen in Table 2. (the £76k figure in the penultimate line in paragraph 5.22 is a typo).

Business Rates Pooling and Retention

There is an assumption that the reset of business rates growth to date will happen in 2026/27 with no transitional payments made to the Council. It is also assumed that the council will remain part of the Staffordshire pooling arrangements for future years.

Revenue Budget Summary 2025-26 to 2027-28

The Portfolio Budget position set out in Table 2 on page 10 reflects the forecast outturn position for 24/25, the proposed budget for 25/26 and indicative budgets for 2026-27 and 2027-28. The detailed budgets are included in Appendix 1.

Table 2 also shows a transfer to balances in 2025-26 of £22k and paragraph 5.33 explains why and how a cautious approach has been taken towards any national insurance support and to one-off grant settlements from government.

Details are only to hand for the 2025-26 financial year. Limited amendments have thus been made to assumptions for 2026-27 and 2027-28. Given the uncertainty it is hard to give anything like an accurate position over the medium term.

Paragraph 5.28 shows the need to increase the budget for the collection and kennelling of stray dogs due to a big increase in kennelling costs and demand for the service, which is included as a recommendation.

Table 3 shows the changes in the 2025-26 budget assumptions. These reflect the challenging landscape for the Council. Paragraph 5.32 deals with these but it should be noted that a new reserve, the Budget Support Reserve, has been created to mitigate potential future changes in funding regimes. There has also been a rise in Business Rates income.

Reserves and Balances

Paragraph 5.34 explains what these comprise and how they help the Council and the Section 151 Officer in providing reassurance to the Council on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves. See Appendix 6.

Earmarked reserves are shown in Appendix 4.

The policy over many years has been to maintain the level of the General Fund Balance at a minimum of £1m and this will be continued over the planning period.

Capital Programme 2024 to 2027-28

This is attached as Appendix 2.

A significant change is the inclusion of the Food Waste Budget of £1.458m in 2025-26. At present the budget reflects the one-off grant received. Other changes reflect schemes approved during the year.

The Council has capital resources of £0.702 million General Fund and £4.341 million of Section 106 resources not allocated at present.

Council Tax Base and Collection Fund

This is the final part of the Budget. The Tax Base is the number of properties in the Borough expressed in terms of Band D equivalents. See Appendix 5.

The Tax Base is now estimated to be 49,634.15, an increase of 0.7% on 2024-25 reflecting the net increase in new properties built, offset by the cost of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Council Tax 2025-26

The proposed increases of 2.99% is within the guidelines for district councils as contained in Govt policy. Each additional 1% increase would generate approx. £80,000 per year.

The proposed level of Stafford's Council Tax for 2025-26 is £178.75 for a Band D property with the overall level of Council Tax subject to final determination by Council late in February 2025 (for 2024-25 it was £173.56 so rise of £5.19).

How much per week extra is that compared with last year? About 10p.

The total Council Tax for the Borough will depend upon the spending decisions made by others e.g. the County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority together with some parish council precepts.

Remember that although we collect the taxes we only keep about 10%. The vast bulk goes to the County Council.

The final sections on Financial Planning and Horizon Scanning include:

- The uncertainties surrounding future funding streams.
- The effect of the austerity years on Council decision making.
- The minimal general fund uncommitted capital resources.
- The restructuring of LGs effect on recruitment and the impact on service delivery.
- Macro economic issues impacting on the Council.
- Revenue budget issues around the introduction of food waste collection from April 2026.

So, yes, there is a deal of uncertainty when peering into the crystal ball but thanks to the prudence and competence of our knowledgeable and experienced Section 151 officer and his equally talented and hard-working team, the Council is well placed to weather the storms that appear to be gathering.

Despite the very challenging year ahead we will continue with our ambitious plans for the transformation of the High Street. Work has already started on the derelict former Co-op store and the Guildhall Shopping Centre which has been struggling for years. In addition, we have received confirmation from the Government that funding for the Station Gateway scheme will be forthcoming. There is around £1.5m of extra support being rolled out for local businesses following our successful "High Street Boost" scheme. Work is getting underway on enhancing the entrance and approach to Stafford Railway Station, which is often the first

impression visitors get when they arrive at our County Town - and we have plans for revamping Rowley Park.

Finally, and on behalf of all members, I should like to thank the Finance Team for the huge amount of time and effort they have put into the creation of this budget, working to such tight deadlines to produce it. We are only seeing the tip of this but there has been so much work involved in collecting, checking, analysing and presenting the considerable amounts of data and they have done a superb job.

So, a big thank you to the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) Chris Forrester, the Chief Accountant Financial Management Emma Fullagar and all the Finance Team who created this budget.

Mr Mayor, I commend this budget to the Council and ask that all the recommendations be agreed.”

The proposal was seconded by Councillor R Kenney.

In accordance with the Budget and Policy Procedure Rules (Part 4, Section 5 of the Council’s constitution) an alternative budget (attached to these minutes as a **SCHEDULE**) was proposed by Councillors M J Winnington and seconded by J M Pert on behalf of the Conservative Group.

Members of the Council then discussed the amendment as provided for under paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules.

In accordance with paragraph 17.4(a) of the Council Procedure Rules a recorded vote was taken; voting on the amendment was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
K M Aspin	J A Barron	
F Beatty	E L Carter	
A G Cooper	R P Cooke	
B M Cross	I D Fordham	
A P Edgeller	A D Hobbs	
P C Edgeller	J Hood	
R A James	F D J James	
E G R Jones	R Kenney	
P W Jones	P A Leason	

For	Against	Abstain
L Nixon	A M Loughran	
J M Pert	B McKeown	
A J Sandiford	A R McNaughton	
M J Winnington	D M McNaughton	
	A Nixon	
	G P K Pardesi	
	A N Pearce	
	J S Powell	
	A F Reid	
	D P Rouxel	
	S N Spencer	
	J Thorley	

The Mayor subsequently declared that the amendment was defeated.

Following continuation of the debate, Members voted on the proposals as set out in the report, which on being put to the vote were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that:-

- (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 the stray dog budget of £30k per annum be approved.

C41 Fees and Charges Review 2025/26

Considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive - Resources.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report before reading the following prepared statement:-

"I wish to recommend to the Council that the fees and charges for 2025 and specifically the new charges in paragraph 5.10 and the increases above 3.4% in Appendix 1 be approved.

The report sets out the proposed Fees and Charges for 2025 and paragraph 2.2 sets out the items to be included in accordance with the revised financial regulations agreed by Council on 16 September 2019. In addition, the report includes those fees and charges where no increase is proposed from 1 April 2025, for noting.

The proposed fees and charges will have a direct impact on the 2025-26 budget and beyond and decisions should consider the context of the Council's overall financial position together with likely issues which could put pressure on finances. Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 detail the headwinds and risks facing the Council.

We should also consider the budget gap when setting fees and charges. The higher the yield from fees and charges the smaller the budget gap, other things being equal, which reduces the need to find savings elsewhere. But this needs to be balanced by the recognition that the elasticity of demand around the % price rise could lead to a greater % fall in quantity demanded and a consequent drop in income. Other issues with relatively high charges are set out in paragraph 5.4.

There has also been a change in process for this cycle in that the fees and charges changes now come into effect from 1 April rather than 1 January which brings them into line with the budget setting cycle.

For 2025-26, inflation, as defined in financial regulations, is measured by the RPI which in October 2024 stood at 3.4%. However, in general, where officers have delegated authority charges will rise by about 3% allowing for rounding.

Some fees are set by reference to external bodies or set by legislation / regulations. These are included in the full list of published fees and charges but do not appear in this report.

We also consider market conditions when setting fees and charges. Thus, some charges where the Council has the power to vary them will not rise.

Charges for new services are set out in paragraph 5.10 and proposals for deletion are in paragraph 5.11.

Proposed increases above the threshold of 3.4% are shown in Appendix 1.

A full copy of the Fees and Charges will be on the Members' portal before the Council meeting and will be published on the website once approved by Council.

I ask members to agree the recommendations.”

The proposal to approve the recommendation was seconded by Councillor R Kenney.

On being put to the vote the matter was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2025 be approved, specifically the new charges as set out in paragraph 5.10 of the report and those increases above 3.4%, as set out in the associated appendix 1.

C42 Review of Members' Allowances

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report before reading the following prepared statement:-

“This Report advises members of the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members Allowances.

The recommendation is that the Council make a scheme of allowances for the period from 1 April 2025 having regard to the Panel's recommendations set out in the Appendix and the proposed revised scheme in Annex 1.

This is necessary as the current Scheme of Allowances expires at the end of March 2025.

The Panel's proposed scheme maintains Special Responsibility Allowances at their current levels and raises the basic allowance by 3.5%. It also recommends that all allowances continue to be indexed in line with any officer pay awards.

The Report of the Panel is included in the report and encompasses, amongst other things, the information received by the Panel, including interviews with and completed questionnaires from a range of councillors. It also gives reasons for the decisions of the Panel.

I ask Council to agree the recommendations of the Panel.”

The proposal to approve the recommendation was seconded by Councillor R Kenney.

During the ensuing discussion, the following amendment was proposed by Councillor J M Pert and seconded by Councillor M J Winnington:-

“That the 3.5% increase is not adopted and Members Allowances be increased by 2.5% in line with that of Officers.”

In accordance with paragraph 17.4(a) of the Council Procedure Rules a recorded vote was taken; voting on the amendment was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
K M Aspin	J A Barron	S N Spencer
F Beatty	E L Carter	
A G Cooper	R P Cooke	
A P Edgeller	I D Fordham	
P C Edgeller	A D Hobbs	
R A James	J Hood	
E G R Jones	F D J James	
P W Jones	R Kenney	
L Nixon	P A Leason	
J M Pert	A M Loughran	
A J Sandiford	B McKeown	
M J Winnington	A R McNaughton	
	D M McNaughton	
	A Nixon	
	G P K Pardesi	
	A N Pearce	

For

Against

Abstain

J S Powell

A F Reid

D P Rouxel

J Thorley

The Mayor subsequently declared that the amendment was defeated.

Following continuation of the debate, Members voted on the proposals as set out in the report, which on being put to the vote were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that a scheme of allowances be made for the period 1 April 2025 having had regard to the Panel's recommendation as set out in the appendix to the report and the proposed revised scheme as detailed in the associated annex.

Councillors R P Cooke and J M Pert paid tribute to the Members of the Independent Panel and thanked them for their efforts in this area of work.

C43 Item Referred from Scrutiny Committee

Council was requested to consider the following recommendation from the Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 21 January 2025 in respect of the following matter:

Constitution Update: Procurement Act 2023 - Minute No RSC16/25

"That the Procurement Regulations in the Constitution be updated as set out in the appendix to the report".

Councillor R P Cooke proposed and Councillor M J Winnington seconded that the recommendation of the Resources Scrutiny Committee be approved.

On being put to the vote the matter was declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:- that the Procurement Regulations in the Constitution be updated as set out in the appendix to the report".

MAYOR

Stafford Borough Council

Alternative Budget Proposals 2025 / 2026

As proposed by the Conservative Group of Councillors on Stafford Borough Council, as they represent better value for money for the tax payers, residents and businesses of Stafford Borough

A detailed explanation of the line items will be provided to all Councillors at the Budget Council meeting on Tuesday 11th February 2025.

1. Overall Net Effect of cumulative proposals

Item	Saving	Reduced Income	Net
Members Allowances	£ 11,520		
Local Plan	£478,000		
Car Park Charge Freeze		£ 69,000	
Freezing Brown Bin Charges		£ 56,000	
Free Festive Car Parking		£ 60,000	
Total	£489,250	£185,000	£304,250

Freeing up Reserves for Winter Fuel Support Fund **£ 40,000**

If the overall budget proposals are not accepted in full, the individual budget changes for Council's approval are as follows :-

2. Proposal to remove £19k proposed member increase in allowances and instead uplift the existing members allowances by 2.5%

2.5% increase would be - £11,520 saving

This would create a saving of £11,520 and assumes a pay award of 2.5% for 25/26

3. Reduce the proposed increase in funding for the statutorily required new local plan from £508k to £30k resulting in a saving of £478k. The £30k to be profiled:

	25/26	26/27	27/28
	£k	£k	£k
Alternative budget proposal	20	5	5

This generates a saving of £478k

4. Maintaining the car parking charges at the 24/25 level with no increase. This would have a knock on impact in future years as this amount lost would be repeated (£69k) in each of the future years of the budget being set, increasing the demand on working balances. The amount of increased income generated in future years should an increase in fees be approved would also be reduced as there would be a lower base level to apply the potential future increase to.

£69k increase in budget requirement to be funded from working balances.

5. Removal of the garden waste increase of 3% proposed from January 2026. This would have a knock on impact in future years as this amount lost would be repeated in the proportions below in each of the future years of the budget being set increasing the demand on working balances. The amount of increased income generated in future years should an increase in fees be approved would also be reduced as there would be a lower base level to apply the potential future increase to.

This would result in a reduction in income of 3 months in 25/26 of £14k

With the following year impact being £42k.

This would be funded from working balances.

6. Free parking for All Saturdays and Sundays for the whole of December on all car parks run by Stafford Borough Council. This is a one year scheme.

This would cause a reduction in fees to the council of £60k. This would be funded from working balances.

7. Approve a new scheme to make payments to those most in need following the removal of the winter fuel allowance:

The creation of a new £40k fund to help support those in need following the winter fuel allowance withdrawal to be funded from working balances. The details of the scheme and parameters would be worked up should this be approved and a report presented to council for approval.

Proposed Councillor Mark Winnington – Resources Scrutiny Chair

Seconded Councillor Jeremy Pert – Leader of the Opposition

Friday 31st January 2025