

Dear Members

### **Cabinet**

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on **Thursday 16 October 2025** at **6.30pm** in the **Craddock Room, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.

Please note that this meeting will be recorded.

Members are reminded that contact officers are shown at the top of each report and members are welcome to raise questions etc in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.



Head of Law and Governance

## CABINET - 16 OCTOBER 2025

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

### AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of 29 September 2025 as circulated and published on 3 October 2025
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Councillors' Question Time (if any)
- 4 Presentation of Petition
  - (a) Eccleshall - Protect our Town from Over-development
- 5 Proposals of the Cabinet Members (as follows):-

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(a) **RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

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(b) **LEISURE PORTFOLIO**

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| (i) Proposed Development of Rowley Park Sports Stadium Play Facilities | 37 - 46 |
| (ii) Play Area Improvement Programme Update                            | 47 - 55 |

(c) **ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

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**Report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council), information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings and information which reveals that the Council proposes:**

- (a) To give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person;
- (b) To make an order or direction under any enactment.

## **Membership**

### **Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey**

A T A Godfrey	- Leader
R Kenney	- Deputy Leader (Town Centres Regeneration Portfolio)
R P Cooke	- Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	- Environment Portfolio
J Hood	- Community Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	- Leisure Portfolio
A N Pearce	- Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio
A F Reid	- Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

**Agenda Item 5a(i)****Final Accounts 2024/25**

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 October 2025
<b>Report of:</b>	S151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Resources Portfolio

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**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present to the Cabinet the final outturn position for 2024/25.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the final outturn position for the year ending 31 March 2025 be noted.
- 2.2 That the financing of the capital programme as outlined in the report be approved.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2.3 The Budget report set out an indicative capital programme and financing, this report now sets out the actual capital spend and therefore financing to be approved.

**3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Budget for 2024/25 was revised as part of the Budget report to Council on the 11 February 2025 which set out a forecast transfer to working balances of £0.055 million pounds.
- 3.2 The Portfolio outturn for 2024/25 shows an adverse variance of £0.114 million consisting of several variances, which are detailed in the report.
- 3.3 Investment income in year has increased by £0.632 million as compared to the Revised Budget. This change has occurred due to the following factors:
- Interest rates remained higher for longer than anticipated giving an additional gross investment income above budget of £0.370 million

- The budget also assumed an amount in relation to interest on balances held by the authority in relation to repayable grants, due to the fall in inflation and spend the final balance was a reduction of £0.257 million.
- 3.4 Technical items show a variance of £0.525 million reflecting contributions made to reserves.
- 3.5 The final contribution to working balances was £0.486 million a £0.431 million increase against the budgeted value. This was principally due to additional net investment income and one off additional grants from government.
- 3.6 Income from the Business Rates Retention Scheme was £0.07 million higher than anticipated.

## 4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The final outturn for 2024/25 covers all of the Council's priorities.

## 5 Report Detail

- 5.1 This report provides an analysis of the final accounts position for 2024/25. It covers the following accounts: -
- General Fund Revenue account - which bears the net cost of providing day-to-day services.
  - Business Rates Retention
  - Capital expenditure and how it is financed.
  - Collection Fund.
- 5.2 Whilst the accounts are still subject to Audit, no changes to the below figures are anticipated that would impact upon Council Taxpayers due to the technical nature of the audit process.

### General Fund Revenue Outturn

- 5.3 The table overleaf summarises the outturn position of the General Fund Revenue Account for the year compared with the budget position.
- 5.4 The Council's Net Expenditure (Portfolio Budgets) in relation to the Revenue Budget for 2024/25 financial year was set by the Council in January 2024 with a budget requirement of **£17.504 million**. In determining the 2024/25 Budget in February 2024 Council approved the Forecast Outturn for 2024/25 of **£18.302 million**, an increase of £0.798 million as compared to the Original Budget.

### 5.5 The main changes in the Revised Budget were :-

- Portfolio budget changes £0.329 million (variances against this revised portfolio budget are set out in paragraph 5.9)
- Investment income reflecting rates and balances both for investment and interest on balances held (£1.350 million)
- Technical items mainly relate to reserve contributions £2.922 million
- Government grants (£1.102 million)

<b><u>Stafford Preliminary Outturn 2024/2025</u></b>				
		<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance to Revised</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>			
1	Community	1,111	985	126
2	Environment	4,227	3,873	354
3	Leisure	2,084	1,941	143
4	Planning & Regen	2,006	2,268	(262)
5	Resources	8,608	9,083	(475)
6	Total Portfolios	18,036	18,150	(114)
7	Investment Income	(3,300)	(3,932)	632
8	Technical Items	5,247	5,772	(525)
9	Net Expenditure	19,983	19,990	(7)
10	Use of Government Grants	(1,682)	(2,135)	453
11	<b>Net Revenue Budget</b>	<b>18,301</b>	<b>17,855</b>	<b>446</b>
	<b>Financed by:</b>			
	Business Rates			
12	Core funding	(3,061)	(3,061)	-
13	Growth	(2,987)	(2,899)	(88)
14	Pooling	(1,472)	(1,553)	81
15	Revenue support grant	(120)	(120)	-
16	Fund guarantee grant	(2,120)	(2,120)	-
17	Services grant	(20)	(20)	-
18	Rural services delivery grant	(34)	(34)	-
19	Collection fund deficit	15	15	-
20	Council Tax	(8,557)	(8,549)	(8)
21	Total Financing	<b>(18,356)</b>	<b>(18,341)</b>	<b>(15)</b>
22	<b>Trf (to)/from working balances</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>(486)</b>	<b>431</b>
23	<b>Net Revenue Budget</b>	<b>18,301</b>	<b>17,855</b>	<b>446</b>

- 5.6 The table above shows that net expenditure including Investment Income, Technical financing adjustments and use of government grants was **£17.855 million, £0.446 million** (2.44%) less than the budget.
- 5.7 The actual expenditure on portfolio budgets was £0.114 million (0.63%) higher than anticipated with Investment Income being £0.632 million higher than expected due to the increased interest rates and reduced interest due on balances held. There was also £0.453 million of additional government grants, the majority of which is a one off receipt.
- 5.8 Business rates incomes shows minor additional receipts of £0.07 million with the overall position, actual net expenditure and financing, resulting in a transfer to working balances of £0.486 million. This was as compared to the budgeted figure of £0.055 million.

### **Net Portfolio expenditure**

- 5.9 Net portfolio expenditure was £0.114 million higher than the budget. The principal cost variations, on each portfolio are as follows ((-) is an unfavourable variance (+) is a favourable variance):

### **Community**

- Private Sector Housing - Disabled facilities grants administration costs £47,000 (+), offset by lower capitalisation and contribution £47,000 (-), staffing variations £19,000 (+) offset by reserve not actioned for staffing £19,000 (-), lower supplies £10,000 (+) and additional income £10,000 (+)
- Homelessness and Housing advice - Staffing variations £82,000 (+), bed and breakfast £87,000 (-), reduced operational costs £8,000 (+), additional housing benefit recovered £104,000 (+) and reduced reserve funding £16,000 (-)
- Glover street - lower maintenance costs £6,000 (+), reduced electricity costs £2,000 (+) and additional income £4,000 (+)
- CCTV - utility costs £2,000 (-), repair costs £5,000 (-) and minor variations
- Partnerships - reduced supplies £7,000 (+)

### **Environment**

- Management and Support - staffing variations £8,000 (+) and reduced supplies etc £6,000 (+)
- Partnership Environmental Management - staffing variations £12,000 (+)
- Waste - additional income £43,000 (+), recycling credits £20,000 (+), food waste grant £286,000 (+), food waste grant reserve contribution £286,000 (-), garden waste income £14,000 (+), additional supplies and services £11,000 (-) and contract payments £11,000 (-)

- Cleansing - reduced maintenance costs £7,000 (+) and reduced utility and supplies and services £5,000 (+)
- Bereavement - staffing variations £9,000 (+), reduced maintenance costs £10,000 (+), reduced utility costs £23,000 (+) and reduced income £88,000 (-)
- Drainage - additional drainage levy fee £2,000 (-)
- Misc Highways - reduced utility and maintenance charge £2,000 (+)
- Streetscene - staffing variations £138,000 (+), reduced transport costs £8,000 (+), additional supplies £174,000 (-) and additional income £45,000 (+)
- Regulatory Services - staffing variations £5,000 (-), works in default £23,000 (-), reduced supplies £11,000 (+) and additional income £12,000 (+)
- Strategic health delivery - staffing variations £9,000 (+)
- Pest Control - staffing variation £22,000 (+), increased operational costs £3,000 (-) and reduced income £18,000 (-)
- Parking - staffing variations £15,000 (+), increased maintenance costs £34,000 (-), utility costs £13,000 (+) and additional income £161,000 (+)
- Markets - staffing variations £12,000 (+), reduced premises costs £68,000 (+), supplies £4,000 (+), and reduced income £4,000 (-)
- Climate change - staffing variations £3,000 (+), additional supplies cost £32,000 (-), reserve funding £18,000 (+) and recharge of costs £11,000 (+)

## **Leisure**

- Parks and Open Spaces - Staffing variations £13,000 (+), reduced maintenance costs £61,000 (+), utility costs £8,000 (+), transport and supplies £5,000 (+), rental income £13,000 (+), and additional income £10,000 (+)
- Leisure Strategy - staffing variations £8,000 (+), reduced maintenance costs £3,000 (+), and reduced supplies £2,000 (+)
- Leisure management contract - reduced contract cost £5,000 (+)
- Other - reduced public buildings across leisure contract operated sites £13,000 (+)

## **Planning and Regeneration**

- Management and Support - staffing variations £32,000 (+), external tree officer support £9,000 (-), additional supplies £5,000 (-) and reduced income £4,000 (-)
- Development Management - staffing variations £5,000 (-), increased operational costs £38,000 (-), contribution to reserves digital planning grant £50,000 (-), digital planning grant £50,000 (+), reduced planning fee income £24,000 (-) and reduced use of reserves £13,000 (-)



- Forward planning - staffing variations £32,000 (+), additional system and supplies cost £17,000 (-), and repayment of training costs £11,000 (+)
- Land charges - staffing variations £21,000 (-), additional system costs (partly met from reserves) £12,000 (-), additional SCC search fees reflecting activity £6,000 (-), and reduced income £3,000 (-)
- Land and properties - Guildhall net additional costs £257,000 (-), Co-op additional costs £14,000 (-) and reduced maintenance £13,000 (+)
- Economic growth and projects - Staffing variations £68,000 (+) and reduced supplies and maintenance £65,000 (+)

## Resources

- Public Buildings - Additional income £17,000 (+), staffing variations £4,000 (-), reduced maintenance costs £32,000 (+), reduced utility and supplies and services £17,000 (+) and additional legal and technical advice £68,000 (-)
- Executive Management - reduced supplies and services £2,000 (+)
- Law and Administration - staffing variations £66,000 (+), additional supplies and services £4,000 (-) and reduced income £14,000 (-)
- Finance - staffing variations £21,000 (-) and additional income £3,000 (+)
- Human resources - staffing variations £44,000 (+), net contribution to and from shared service reserve £41,000 (-), general underspends £4,000 (+)
- Technology - staffing variations £54,000 (+), net contribution from shared service reserve £64,000 (+), additional supplies etc £237,000 (-), and additional income £107,000 (+)
- Revenues and Benefits - increased bad debts provision £65,000 (-), share of additional staff costs £139,000 (-), use of grants reserve £139,000 (+), and additional income £143,000 (+)
- Additional cost of Board and Lodgings borne by authority re rent allowances and reduction in subsidy receivable overall £314,000 (-)
- Corporate and Democratic core - reduced bad debts provision £26,000 (+), net reduction in audit fees £112,000 (+)
- Asset management - additional valuation costs £16,000 (-)
- Electoral registration - additional postage and printing costs £14,000 (-) and additional income £5,000 (+)
- Elections - by election and final position on income from general and police and crime commissioner election £7,000 (-)
- Members - reduced supplies etc £7,000 (+)
- Facilities management - staffing variations £16,000 (+)
- Corporate Business and Partnerships - reduced supplies and services £22,000 (+) and reduced income £16,000 (-)
- Non distributed costs - reduced pension act increases £4,000 (+)

- Communications - staffing variations £3,000 (-), and reduced supplies £12,000 (+)
- Customer services - staffing variations £17,000 (-) and reduced supplies and services £4,000 (+)
- Items to be allocated - corporate provision for staff turnover £ 65,000 (-), underspend estimate across the authority £150,000 (-) and minor variations.
- Audit, Risk - additional supplies etc £6,000 (-)
- Insurance premiums - net MMI levy settlement and legal fees £58,000 (-) and reduced premiums £4,000 (+)
- Property maintenance - contribution of maintenance underspend to reserve across the portfolios £118,000 (-)

5.10 A summary of performance of the main streams of income against budget is set out in the following table:

Main Streams of Income			
	Revised	Actual	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Waste & Recycling	( 2,761)	( 2,837)	76
Bereavement Services	( 1,968)	( 1,880)	( 88)
Borough Markets	( 38)	( 35)	( 3)
Regulatory Services	( 225)	( 241)	16
Development Management	( 792)	( 763)	( 29)
Land Charges - Local Searches	( 104)	( 101)	( 3)
Off Street Parking Services	( 2,371)	( 2,536)	165
Public Buildings	( 497)	( 512)	15
Revenues and Benefits	( 374)	( 499)	125
Total Main Sources	<b>( 9,130)</b>	<b>( 9,404)</b>	<b>274</b>

- 5.11 Overall income levels were £0.274 million higher than the revised budget. The major variations relate to Revenue and Benefits (court fees), Off Street Parking, Bereavement services and Waste and Recycling.
- 5.12 More detailed explanations for all expenditure and income variances greater than £10,000 and 10% are attached for each portfolio at **APPENDIX 1**.

### Working Balances

- 5.13 The final outturn shows a contribution to working balances to the General Fund of £0.486 million with a resultant £3.393 million balance as at the 31 March 2025. As the Council policy is to retain a working balance of £1.0 million the £2.393 million above this balance is available to support delivery and council priorities.

### **Business Rates Retention**

- 5.14 The Business Rates Retention Scheme forms part of the current Funding regime for Local Government and incentivises Councils to promote economic growth in their area as they are entitled to retain a share of business rates growth.
- 5.15 The scheme came into operation with effect from April 2013. Income is shared between central government, the Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Service and the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Business Rates Pool.
- 5.16 The business rates growth figure was £0.088 million lower than anticipated due to overall non domestic rates position.
- 5.17 The business rates pool balance was also £0.081 million higher than anticipated due to increase in the amount receivable as part of the pooling agreement for overall performance.

### **Capital Outturn**

- 5.18 The Council approves the Capital Programme for the financial year as part of the budget process and the amount that can be spent is limited by the amount of capital resources available to the Council. The 2024/25 capital programme was approved in January 2024 and updated as part of the revised budget set as part of the 25/26 budget cycle.
- 5.19 Many of the schemes within the Capital Programme take some time to develop and implement so the detailed programme can experience many changes. Considerable variation will therefore arise over the 18 month period from the time the Capital Programme for the financial year is initially considered, right through to the end of March of the relevant year.
- 5.20 The Council spent £8.097 million on capital projects in 2024/25 which was £8.441 million less than the budget of £16.538 million. The main reason for the difference in 2024/25 is scheme slippage where the scheme will proceed later than planned and the expenditure will occur in a future year. This mainly related to Future High street spend £5.9 million, Stone leisure phase 2 £0.600 million, Haywood and Hixon park £0.326 million, Car Park systems £0.275 million and Disabled facility grants £0.194 million.

Capital Outturn Position			
	Budget	Actual	Variance from Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Community	2,590	2,237	353
Environment	985	535	450
Leisure	2,328	1,016	1,312
Planning and Regeneration	10,329	4,061	6,268
Resources	306	248	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,538</b>	<b>8,097</b>	<b>8,441</b>

5.21 The major items of capital spend in the year were:

- **£2,395,803** on UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- **£2,208,844** on the provision of grants for disabled adaptations in homes;
- **£1,324,918** on Future High Streets
- **£440,459** on Streetscene Fleet Procurement
- **£400,000** on Stone Hockey and Rugby Club

The detailed Capital Programme outturn for 2024/25 is attached at **APPENDIX 2** along with explanations for major variations.

5.22 The capital programme of £8.097 million was financed in the following way:

	£'000
Grants and contributions	7,094
Capital Receipts	158
Direct Revenue Financing	845
	<b>8,097</b>

### Collection Fund

5.23 Stafford Borough is the billing authority and as such has a statutory requirement to establish and maintain a separate fund covering the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and national non-domestic rates (NNDR). Net Business Rates attributable to the Council are accounted for as part of the General Fund under the new Business Rates regime.

## **Council Tax**

- 5.24 The net position on the Collection Fund for the year was a surplus of £1.059 million. The overall position after taking account the balance brought forward in relation to previous years' surpluses, leaves a net deficit on the fund of £0.335 million at 31 March 2025 (of which £0.033 million relates to this Council).

## **National Non-Domestic Rates**

- 5.25 A surplus of £3.081 million exists in relation to Business Rates as at 31 March 2025. The surplus is however notional and represents a timing difference between estimated Business Rates returns and actual returns. This Council's actual retained Business Income is in line with the Income and Expenditure account after taking into account the timing deficit required as part of the Collection Fund Statutory requirements.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

The financial implications have been referred to throughout the report.

### **6.2 Legal**

The legal implications have been referred to throughout the report

### **6.3 Human Resources**

There are no human resource implications arising from this report

### **6.4 Risk Management**

Nil

### **6.5 Equalities and Diversity**

Nil

### **6.6 Health**

Nil

### **6.7 Climate Change**

Nil

## **7 Appendices**

Appendix 1: Detailed Revenue Outturn 2024/25

Appendix 2 - Capital Outturn 2024/25

## **8 Previous Consideration**

None

## **9 Background Papers**

Available in Financial Services

**Contact Officer:** Emma Fullagar

**Telephone Number:** 01543 464720

**Ward Interest:** All

**Report Track:** Cabinet 16 October 2025 (Only)

**Key Decision:** Yes

## COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Private Sector Housing (Stdrs)</b>					
Expenditure	590,850	516,015	74,835	12.7%	Staffing variations £19k. Lower disabled facility grants administration costs £47k and minor variations
Income	(467,690)	(412,769)	(54,921)	11.7%	Reduced capitalisation and contribution of disabled facility grants (£47k), reserve funding not used for staffing (£19k) and minor variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>123,160</b>	<b>103,246</b>	<b>19,914</b>		
<b>Housing Act Sewerage Works</b>					
Expenditure	2,170	-	2,170	100.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,170</b>		
<b>PSH (Loans &amp; Mortgages)</b>					
Expenditure	5,730	3,353	2,377	41.5%	
Income	(9,230)	(8,486)	(745)	8.1%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>(3,500)</b>	<b>(5,132)</b>	<b>1,632</b>		
<b>Partnerships</b>					
Expenditure	114,680	111,144	3,537	3.1%	
Income	(89,540)	(92,672)	3,132	(3.5%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>25,140</b>	<b>18,472</b>	<b>6,668</b>		

## COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Homelessness &amp; Housing Advice</b>					
Expenditure	1,915,870	1,990,472	(74,602)	(3.9%)	Homelessness prevention reduced spend (£77k), staffing variations £82k, bed and breakfast costs (£87k) and minor variations
Income	(1,241,760)	(1,408,735)	166,975	(13.4%)	Homelessness prevention grant £77k, additional housing benefit recovered £104k and reduced reserve funding (£16k)
<b>Net</b>	<b>674,110</b>	<b>581,737</b>	<b>92,373</b>		
<b>Glover Street</b>					
Expenditure	20,820	13,428	7,392	35.5%	
Income	(25,010)	(29,752)	4,742	(19.0%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>(4,190)</b>	<b>(16,324)</b>	<b>12,134</b>		
<b>Grants and Contributions</b>					
Expenditure	128,960	130,250	(1,290)	(1.0%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>128,960</b>	<b>130,250</b>	<b>(1,290)</b>		
<b>CCTV</b>					
Expenditure	165,650	172,903	(7,253)	(4.4%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>165,650</b>	<b>172,903</b>	<b>(7,253)</b>		
<b>Health Inequalities Funding</b>					
Expenditure	173,130	173,133	(3)	0.0%	
Income	(173,130)	(173,133)	3	0.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>1,111,500</b>	<b>985,151</b>	<b>126,349</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	



## ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Management &amp; Support</b>					
Expenditure	227,750	213,589	14,161	6.2%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>227,750</b>	<b>213,589</b>	<b>14,161</b>		
<b>Partnership Environmental Mgmt</b>					
Expenditure	94,240	85,525	8,715	9.2%	
Income	(43,360)	(45,102)	1,742	(4.0%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>50,880</b>	<b>40,424</b>	<b>10,456</b>		
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>					
Expenditure	5,051,610	5,358,294	(306,684)	(6.1%)	Food waste grant contributed to reserves (£286k), purchase of blue bags (£31k), contract variations (£11k) and reduced supplies £20k
Income	(2,760,890)	(3,122,795)	361,905	(13.1%)	Food waste grant £286k, recycling credits £20k, chargeable garden waste £14k, special collections £27k and minor variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,290,720</b>	<b>2,235,498</b>	<b>55,222</b>		
<b>Cleansing Services</b>					
Expenditure	58,770	47,116	11,654	19.8%	Reduced maintenance costs £7k and general underspends
<b>Net</b>	<b>58,770</b>	<b>47,116</b>	<b>11,654</b>		
<b>Bereavement Services</b>					
Expenditure	888,120	844,858	43,262	4.9%	
Income	(1,981,050)	(1,893,547)	(87,503)	4.4%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>(1,092,930)</b>	<b>(1,048,690)</b>	<b>(44,240)</b>		

## ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Drainage Services</b>					
Expenditure	127,610	130,218	(2,608)	(2.0%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>127,610</b>	<b>130,218</b>	<b>(2,608)</b>		
<b>Misc Highways Functions</b>					
Expenditure	43,380	40,922	2,458	5.7%	
Income	(10,190)	(10,190)	-	0.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>33,190</b>	<b>30,732</b>	<b>2,458</b>		
<b>Street Scene</b>					
Expenditure	3,070,250	3,099,194	(28,944)	(0.9%)	
Income	(844,280)	(889,264)	44,984	(5.3%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,225,970</b>	<b>2,209,929</b>	<b>16,041</b>		
<b>Regulatory Services</b>					
Expenditure	916,400	934,148	(17,748)	(1.9%)	
Income	(227,400)	(238,913)	11,513	(5.1%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>689,000</b>	<b>695,235</b>	<b>(6,235)</b>		
<b>Strategic Health Delivery</b>					
Expenditure	44,480	34,606	9,874	22.2%	Staffing variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>44,480</b>	<b>34,606</b>	<b>9,874</b>		
<b>Dog Warden Service</b>					
Expenditure	12,790	11,742	1,048	8.2%	
Income	(9,000)	(9,100)	100	(1.1%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>3,790</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>1,148</b>		

## ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Pest Control</b>					
Expenditure	242,560	224,061	18,499	7.6%	Staffing £22k and minor variations
Income	(156,480)	(138,835)	(17,645)	11.3%	Reflects activity levels
<b>Net</b>	<b>86,080</b>	<b>85,226</b>	<b>854</b>		
<b>Off street Parking</b>					
Expenditure	1,589,660	1,595,411	(5,751)	(0.4%)	
Income	(2,506,890)	(2,667,801)	160,911	(6.4%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>(917,230)</b>	<b>(1,072,390)</b>	<b>155,160</b>		
<b>Borough Markets</b>					
Expenditure	374,440	290,784	83,656	22.3%	Staffing variations £12k and reduced premises costs
Income	(72,760)	(68,903)	(3,857)	5.3%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>301,680</b>	<b>221,881</b>	<b>79,799</b>		
<b>Climate Change</b>					
Expenditure	46,750	75,630	(28,880)	(61.8%)	Staffing £3k, climate change action plan and schools work
Income	-	(28,880)	28,880	n/a	Reserve funding and contribution for climate change costs
<b>Net</b>	<b>46,750</b>	<b>46,750</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>4,176,510</b>	<b>3,872,768</b>	<b>303,742</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	

## LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Leisure Section</b>					
Expenditure	133,770	133,259	511	0.4%	
Income	(13,390)	(13,394)	4	0.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>120,380</b>	<b>119,865</b>	<b>515</b>		
<b>Parks &amp; Open Spaces</b>					
Expenditure	808,380	721,004	87,376	10.8%	Staffing variations £13k, reduced maintenance £61k and utility costs £8k
Income	(102,840)	(126,302)	23,462	(22.8%)	Rental income £13k and minor variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>705,540</b>	<b>594,702</b>	<b>110,838</b>		
<b>Allotments</b>					
Expenditure	19,050	19,442	(392)	(2.1%)	
Income	(830)	(3,259)	2,429	(292.7%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>18,220</b>	<b>16,183</b>	<b>2,037</b>		
<b>Stafford Gatehouse Theatre</b>					
Expenditure	-	419	(419)	n/a	
<b>Net</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>(419)</b>		
<b>Ancient High House</b>					
Expenditure	(65,420)	(72,751)	7,331	(11.2%)	Reduced maintenance costs £10k and minor variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>(65,420)</b>	<b>(72,751)</b>	<b>7,331</b>		
<b>Broadeye Windmill</b>					
Expenditure	3,100	2,136	964	31.1%	
Income	-	(1)	1	n/a	
<b>Net</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>965</b>		

## LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Izaak Walton Cottage</b>					
Expenditure	8,310	14,708	(6,398)	(77.0%)	Additional maintenance costs
<b>Net</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>14,708</b>	<b>(6,398)</b>		
<b>Stafford Castle</b>					
Expenditure	12,690	3,248	9,442	74.4%	Reduced maintenance costs
<b>Net</b>	<b>12,690</b>	<b>3,248</b>	<b>9,442</b>		
<b>Leisure Management Contract</b>					
Expenditure	979,690	974,690	5,000	0.5%	
Income	(159,370)	(159,370)	-	0.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>820,320</b>	<b>815,320</b>	<b>5,000</b>		
<b>Leisure Strategy</b>					
Expenditure	460,510	448,000	12,510	2.7%	
Income	-	(1,190)	1,190	n/a	
<b>Net</b>	<b>460,510</b>	<b>446,810</b>	<b>13,700</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>2,083,650</b>	<b>1,940,640</b>	<b>143,010</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	

## PLANNING AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Management and Support</b>					
Expenditure	309,010	290,082	18,928	6.1%	
Income	(20,540)	(16,984)	(3,556)	17.3%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>288,470</b>	<b>273,098</b>	<b>15,372</b>		
<b>Building Control</b>					
Expenditure	252,550	252,648	(98)	0.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>252,550</b>	<b>252,648</b>	<b>(98)</b>		
<b>Development Management</b>					
Expenditure	1,959,650	2,050,898	(91,248)	(4.7%)	
Income	(1,394,390)	(1,408,052)	13,662	(1.0%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>565,260</b>	<b>642,846</b>	<b>(77,586)</b>		
<b>Forward Planning</b>					
Expenditure	344,410	334,105	10,305	3.0%	
Income	(2,580)	(15,520)	12,940	(501.6%)	Repayment of training fees £11k and minor variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>341,830</b>	<b>318,585</b>	<b>23,245</b>		
<b>Land Charges - Local Searches</b>					
Expenditure	137,850	181,923	(44,073)	(32.0%)	Staffing variations (£21k), additional system costs (partly met from reserves) (£12k) and additional Staffordshire County Council search fees reflecting activity (£6k)
Income	(103,840)	(106,896)	3,056	(2.9%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>34,010</b>	<b>75,027</b>	<b>(41,017)</b>		

## PLANNING AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Land &amp; Properties</b>					
Expenditure	578,030	855,649	(277,619)	(48.0%)	Guildhall site additional costs (£274k) and minor variations
Income	(564,530)	(579,204)	14,674	(2.6%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>276,445</b>	<b>(262,945)</b>		
<b>Economic Growth &amp; Projects</b>					
Expenditure	1,730,280	1,211,438	518,842	30.0%	Staffing variations £68k, reduced external project spend £440k, capacity grant station gateway contributed to reserves (£54k), reduced supplies £57k and minor variations
Income	(1,190,120)	(804,284)	(385,836)	32.4%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>540,160</b>	<b>407,154</b>	<b>133,006</b>		Reserve funding for external projects not used (£440k) and capacity grant station gateway £54k
<b>Borough Tourism</b>					
Expenditure	20,640	22,295	(1,655)	(8.0%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>20,640</b>	<b>22,295</b>	<b>(1,655)</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>2,056,420</b>	<b>2,268,098</b>	<b>(211,678)</b>	<b>(10.3%)</b>	

## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Public Buildings</b>					
Expenditure	1,462,520	1,503,202	(40,682)	(2.8%)	
Income	(497,470)	(530,361)	32,891	(6.6%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>965,050</b>	<b>972,841</b>	<b>(7,791)</b>		
<b>Executive Management</b>					
Expenditure	1,013,120	1,010,343	2,777	0.3%	
Income	(158,960)	(158,960)	-	0.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>854,160</b>	<b>851,383</b>	<b>2,777</b>		
<b>Law and Administration</b>					
Expenditure	1,454,570	1,392,082	62,488	4.3%	
Income	(476,170)	(461,021)	(15,149)	3.2%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>978,400</b>	<b>931,061</b>	<b>47,339</b>		
<b>Finance</b>					
Expenditure	844,350	864,399	(20,049)	(2.4%)	
Income	-	(2,563)	2,563	n/a	
<b>Net</b>	<b>844,350</b>	<b>861,837</b>	<b>(17,487)</b>		
<b>Human Resources Services</b>					
Expenditure	742,690	773,159	(30,469)	(4.1%)	Contribution to shared service reserve (£75k), staffing variations £44k and minor variations
Income	(274,580)	(312,144)	37,564	(13.7%)	Use of shared service reserves
<b>Net</b>	<b>468,110</b>	<b>461,015</b>	<b>7,095</b>		



## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Technology</b>					
Expenditure	2,217,460	2,351,662	(134,202)	(6.1%)	Staffing £54k, contribution to shared service reserve (£19k), switches reduced spend £87k and additional supplies etc spend (£237k)
Income	(1,254,120)	(1,376,137)	122,017	(9.7%)	Infrastructure switches (£87k), recharge to Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) Goss and Netcall system £122k, use of shared service reserve £82k and minor variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>963,340</b>	<b>975,524</b>	<b>(12,184)</b>		
<b>Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>					
Expenditure	1,772,150	1,974,167	(202,017)	(11.4%)	Fifty percent share of additional staff costs (£139k) and bad debts provision (£65k)
Income	(847,230)	(1,131,235)	284,005	(33.5%)	Use of reserves for staff costs £139k, additional court costs and penalty charges £125k and additional grants £18k
<b>Net</b>	<b>924,920</b>	<b>842,932</b>	<b>81,988</b>		
<b>Housing Benefit Payments</b>					
Expenditure	18,471,020	18,397,660	73,360	0.4%	
Income	(18,361,300)	(17,974,086)	(387,214)	2.1%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>109,720</b>	<b>423,574</b>	<b>(313,854)</b>		
<b>Parish Councils</b>					
Expenditure	51,000	51,129	(129)	(0.3%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>51,129</b>	<b>(129)</b>		

## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Corporate and Democratic Core</b>					
Expenditure	328,650	214,043	114,607	34.9%	Reduced audit fee reflecting audits undertaken £91k, reduced bad debts provision sundry debtors £26k
Income	-	(21,060)	21,060	n/a	Government grant for audit fees
<b>Net</b>	<b>328,650</b>	<b>192,983</b>	<b>135,667</b>		
<b>Non-Distributed Costs</b>					
Expenditure	273,430	269,722	3,708	1.4%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>273,430</b>	<b>269,722</b>	<b>3,708</b>		
<b>Asset Mgmt Energy Conservation</b>					
Expenditure	44,120	60,797	(16,677)	(37.8%)	Additional valuation costs
<b>Net</b>	<b>44,120</b>	<b>60,797</b>	<b>(16,677)</b>		
<b>Electoral Registration</b>					
Expenditure	42,740	54,511	(11,771)	(27.5%)	Additional postage and printing costs (£14k) and minor variations
Income	-	(4,595)	4,595	n/a	Income from sale of register
<b>Net</b>	<b>42,740</b>	<b>49,917</b>	<b>(7,177)</b>		
<b>Elections</b>					
Expenditure	42,950	46,668	(3,718)	(8.7%)	
Income	(1,200)	5,878	(7,078)	589.9%	Reflects final position on income receivable for General Election and Police and Crime Commissioner election
<b>Net</b>	<b>41,750</b>	<b>52,546</b>	<b>(10,796)</b>		
<b>Members Services</b>					
Expenditure	331,040	324,279	6,761	2.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>331,040</b>	<b>324,279</b>	<b>6,761</b>		

## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Out of Hours Service</b>					
Expenditure	9,150	8,651	499	5.5%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>9,150</b>	<b>8,651</b>	<b>499</b>		
<b>Facilities Management</b>					
Expenditure	252,150	237,488	14,662	5.8%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>252,150</b>	<b>237,488</b>	<b>14,662</b>		
<b>Corporate Business &amp; Partners</b>					
Expenditure	269,440	247,090	22,350	8.3%	
Income	(33,880)	(18,348)	(15,533)	45.8%	Reduced use of reserve reflecting spend
<b>Net</b>	<b>235,560</b>	<b>228,743</b>	<b>6,817</b>		
<b>Communications</b>					
Expenditure	174,620	165,387	9,233	5.3%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>174,620</b>	<b>165,387</b>	<b>9,233</b>		
<b>Customer Services</b>					
Expenditure	391,760	405,010	(13,250)	(3.4%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>391,760</b>	<b>405,010</b>	<b>(13,250)</b>		
<b>Items to be Allocated</b>					
Expenditure	(189,000)	25,617	(214,617)	113.6%	Corporate provision for staff turnover (£65k) and underspend estimate across the whole authority (£150k)
<b>Net</b>	<b>(189,000)</b>	<b>25,617</b>	<b>(214,617)</b>		
<b>Audit Risk Resilience Procure</b>					
Expenditure	257,120	263,139	(6,019)	(2.3%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>257,120</b>	<b>263,139</b>	<b>(6,019)</b>		

## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Annual Budget	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Annual Budget		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Insurance Premiums</b>					
Expenditure	255,590	460,420	(204,830)	(80.1%)	MMI levy settlement and legal fees (£209k)
Income	-	(150,940)	150,940	n/a	Contribution from MMI towards levy settlement payment
<b>Net</b>	<b>255,590</b>	<b>309,480</b>	<b>(53,890)</b>		
<b>Property Maintenance</b>					
Expenditure	485,510	484,533	977	0.2%	Balance of underspend on maintenance contributed to reserves
Income	(485,510)	(366,533)	(118,977)	24.5%	Reduced maintenance cost
<b>Net</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>(118,000)</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>8,607,730</b>	<b>9,083,052</b>	<b>(475,322)</b>	<b>(5.5%)</b>	

## COMMUNITY CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Disabled Facilities Grant</b>					
Expenditure	2,402,480	2,208,844	193,636	8.1%	Reflects activity, balance to be slipped to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,402,480</b>	<b>2,208,844</b>	<b>193,636</b>		
<b>Glover Street Improvements</b>					
Expenditure	4,780	-	4,780	100.0%	Project complete, balance to be released
<b>Net</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,780</b>		
<b>Empty Homes</b>					
Expenditure	80,000	8,417	71,583	89.5%	Spend rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>71,583</b>		
<b>Private Sector Housing Assistance</b>					
Expenditure	102,520	19,592	82,928	80.9%	Expenditure reflects demand
<b>Net</b>	<b>102,520</b>	<b>19,592</b>	<b>82,928</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>2,589,780</b>	<b>2,236,853</b>	<b>352,927</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	

## ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Streetscene Equipment</b>					
Expenditure	66,000	-	66,000	100.0%	Spend rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,000</b>		
<b>Green Containers Replacement Programme</b>					
Expenditure	93,280	56,100	37,180	39.9%	Reflects purchases, balance to slip to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>93,280</b>	<b>56,100</b>	<b>37,180</b>		
<b>Blue Bins</b>					
Expenditure	26,130	28,885	(2,755)	(10.5%)	Reflects purchases, funding brought forward from 2024/25
<b>Net</b>	<b>26,130</b>	<b>28,885</b>	<b>(2,755)</b>		
<b>Waste Containers Replacement</b>					
Expenditure	80,760	9,153	71,607	88.7%	Reflects purchases, balance to slip to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>80,760</b>	<b>9,153</b>	<b>71,607</b>		
<b>Streetscene Fleet Procurement</b>					
Expenditure	429,610	440,459	(10,849)	(2.5%)	Reflects purchases, funding brought forward from 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>429,610</b>	<b>440,459</b>	<b>(10,849)</b>		
<b>Eccleshall Cemetery Biodiversity</b>					
Expenditure	14,000	-	14,000	100.0%	Spend rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,000</b>		
<b>Car Park Systems</b>					
Expenditure	275,000	-	275,000	100.0%	Spend rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>275,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>275,000</b>		

## ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
Portfolio Total	984,780	534,597	450,183	45.7%	

## LEISURE CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>STONE LEISURE PHASE 2</b>					
Expenditure	757,770	157,670	600,100	79.2%	Rephased to 2025/26, £430k awaiting planning permission, contingency balance £117k and minor variations
<b>Net</b>	<b>757,770</b>	<b>157,670</b>	<b>600,100</b>		
<b>Yarnfield</b>					
Expenditure	16,800	-	16,800	100.0%	Spend rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,800</b>		
<b>Hixon Green Millennium Trust HGMT</b>					
Expenditure	2,270	2,264	6	0.3%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>Penkside</b>					
Expenditure	11,380	12,038	(658)	(5.8%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>11,380</b>	<b>12,038</b>	<b>(658)</b>		
<b>Stone Hockey and Rugby Club</b>					
Expenditure	400,000	400,000	-	0.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>SLC Solar Panels</b>					
Expenditure	214,610	213,591	1,019	0.5%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>214,610</b>	<b>213,591</b>	<b>1,019</b>		
<b>Yelverton Park</b>					
Expenditure	150,250	137,714	12,536	8.3%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>150,250</b>	<b>137,714</b>	<b>12,536</b>		



## LEISURE CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Haywood and Hixon</b>					
Expenditure	419,070	93,297	325,773	77.7%	St Marys play area complete, balance being delivered by Colwich Parish Council, slipped to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>419,070</b>	<b>93,297</b>	<b>325,773</b>		
<b>Rowley Park Stadium Play Facilities</b>					
Expenditure	265,880	-	265,880	100.0%	Rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>265,880</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>265,880</b>		
<b>Beech Road Play Area</b>					
Expenditure	90,270	-	90,270	100.0%	Rephased to 2025/26, order placed by Parish Council February 2025
<b>Net</b>	<b>90,270</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>90,270</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>2,328,300</b>	<b>1,016,575</b>	<b>1,311,725</b>	<b>56.3%</b>	

## PLANNING AND REGENERATION CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>GROWTH POINT</b>					
Expenditure	50,000	-	50,000	100.0%	Rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000</b>		
<b>STAFFORD TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS</b>					
Expenditure	19,000	-	19,000	100.0%	Rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,000</b>		
<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b>					
Expenditure	2,376,000	2,395,803	(19,803)	(0.8%)	
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,376,000</b>	<b>2,395,803</b>	<b>(19,803)</b>		
<b>Rural England Prosperity Fund REPF</b>					
Expenditure	419,170	287,575	131,595	31.4%	Reduced spend reflecting take up from community groups. Balance of funding returned to Government
<b>Net</b>	<b>419,170</b>	<b>287,575</b>	<b>131,595</b>		
<b>Parking Machine Replacements</b>					
Expenditure	60,000	52,313	7,688	12.8%	Project complete balance to be released
<b>Net</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>52,313</b>	<b>7,688</b>		
<b>FHSF Co-op</b>					
Expenditure	2,028,990	225,030	1,803,960	88.9%	Scheme ongoing, balance of funding rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,028,990</b>	<b>225,030</b>	<b>1,803,960</b>		
<b>FHSF Station approach</b>					
Expenditure	557,550	410,547	147,004	26.4%	Scheme ongoing, balance of funding rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>557,550</b>	<b>410,547</b>	<b>147,004</b>		

## PLANNING AND REGENERATION CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>FHSF Guildhall</b>					
Expenditure	4,818,480	689,342	4,129,138	85.7%	Scheme ongoing, balance of funding rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>4,818,480</b>	<b>689,342</b>	<b>4,129,138</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>10,329,190</b>	<b>4,060,609</b>	<b>6,268,581</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	

## RESOURCES CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

## Final Accounts 2024-25

	Budget to Date	Total Spend to Date	Variance from Budget to Date		Comments (variances > 10% and £5,000)
	£	£	£	%	
<b>Corporate IT Equipment</b>					
Expenditure	50,070	15,439	34,631	69.2%	Spend rephased to 2025/26
<b>Net</b>	<b>50,070</b>	<b>15,439</b>	<b>34,631</b>		
<b>Accommodation Transformation and Rationalisation</b>					
Expenditure	8,200	-	8,200	100.0%	Project released
<b>Net</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,200</b>		
<b>Civic Car</b>					
Expenditure	40,000	37,500	2,500	6.3%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>		
<b>Revenues and Benefits system</b>					
Expenditure	208,000	195,463	12,538	6.0%	
<b>Net</b>	<b>208,000</b>	<b>195,463</b>	<b>12,538</b>		
<b>Portfolio Total</b>	<b>306,270</b>	<b>248,401</b>	<b>57,869</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	

**Agenda Item 5b(i)**

## **Proposed Development of Rowley Park Sports Stadium Play Facilities**

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 October 2025
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Operations/Head of Wellbeing
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure Portfolio

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### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider the allocation of further Section 106 funding towards the provision and enhancement of leisure facilities at Rowley Park Sports Stadium, Stafford, and to gain permission to spend capital monies, following public consultation, on the masterplan design and the procurement of the required project works.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the allocation of existing off-site contributions under the terms of S106 agreements for the amount of £824,872, as laid out in paragraph 3.2 be approved for the enhancement of the above open space in Rowley Park.
- 2.2 That Cabinet recommends to Council that the above sum is included within the capital programme and gives permission to spend for the project, as detailed in paragraph 5.3.
- 2.3 Cabinet notes the progress so far; that stage one public consultation has been completed, the master planning exercise has begun, and further public consultation is underway. In order to progress with the works through design, procurement, and delivery, officers are to proceed with the project as detailed within.
- 2.4 Cabinet notes further funding opportunities will be investigated, as detailed in paragraph 3.7.

### Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.5 The play facilities at Rowley Park were provided in 1998 and have offered much needed facilities for the families of Rowley and other local wards. However, after 26-years the site requires investment to bring it in line with the Councils current Destination Park standard.
- 2.6 The other facilities and infrastructure within the park are showing signs of aging and require updating. There is an ongoing issue with insufficient parking available at peak times.
- 2.7 The park has the ability to offer a more varied provision for sports and recreational activities and include opportunities for cycling and informal sports through flexible spaces with equipment to encourage movement.
- 2.8 The Borough wide Assessment of Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Facilities 2009 and the subsequent update in 2013 highlighted the need for better quality play provision for children of all ages. In addition the [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-and-green-and-blue-infrastructure-topic-paper](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-and-green-and-blue-infrastructure-topic-paper) illustrates a need to improve the quality of existing play areas in the borough.

### 3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The sum of £265,882 has already been allocated by Cabinet in January 2025.
- 3.2 A further sum of £824,872 for allocation relating to Section 106 funding is outlined in Table 1.

No.	Planning Application	Ward	Amount
1	14/19967/FUL 15/21904/FUL	Forebridge	49,723
2	14/20425/FUL	Doxey and Castletown	121,535
3	13/18698/OUT	Milwich	628,362
4	18/28342/FUL*	Forebridge	8,772
<b>SUB TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE</b>			808,393
5	20/33458/FUL	Forebridge	16,480
<b>SUB TOTAL DUE</b>			<b>16,480</b>

TOTAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING being requested	<b>824,872</b>
Budget allocated to date	<b>265,881</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,090,753</b>

**Table 1 - S106 Funding Breakdown**

\* Planning Application 18/28342/FUL for The Chetwynd Centre has received a number of applications adding further dwelling units to the site. Each amendment to the application has resulted in an additional deed of variation being signed. A receipt of £5,801 for Deed of Variation (1) has already been received and approved by Cabinet 9 January 2025 as part of the £265,882 budget allocated to date. Authority to spend a further receipt of £8,773 for Deed of Variation (3) is now being requested.

- 3.3 The Councils overarching vision for Rowley Park is to create a flagship inclusive, main destination type park that will attract both local and Borough wide residents. It is hoped the park will eventually be able to rival other main parks such as Victoria park in Stafford and Westbridge park in Stone with its own unique offering.
- 3.4 The master plan will come in several phases and may take a number of years to realise in full, but it allows for a planned approach to the long-term investment and development of the park.
- 3.5 Due to the above status and importance of the park, S106 contributions from a wide catchment area are to be used. The play area will provide inclusive play opportunities and seek to gain PiPA (Plan Inclusive Play Areas) accreditation. The master plan will include a 'changing-place' facility and all aspects of the redevelopment will be designed with accessibility and inclusivity at the heart. Rowley Park is at present the only managed facility owned by the Borough Council that has the potential capacity to achieve this vision.
- 3.6 The S106 agreement relating to planning application 15/21904/FUL and 14/20425/FUL (item 1 and 2 in Table 1) totalling £171,258, specifically targeted the off-site open space financial contribution and incidentally precluded its use within this scheme. However, officers are negotiating a Deed of Variation (DoV) with the developer to change the wording of the agreement. Initial discussions with the developers have been well received and once completed the contributions will form part of the funding pot for developing Rowley Park Sports Stadium. However, there is a small risk of the DoV not being agreed by the developers.

- 3.7 The S106 contribution received from planning application 13/18698/OUT (item 3 in Table 1) for £628,362 was in the Milford ward, but with the ward boundary change on 7 May 2015 it is now in the Milwich Ward. The development is located adjacent to the Crematorium on Tixall Lane, Stafford and has been identified for this project as there is no suitable Council owned land within the Milwich ward boundary where this money could be spent in accordance with the conditions laid down in the S106 agreement. The nature of the destination park facilities and the terms of the above S106 agreement justifies a catchment area of up to a 20-minute drive time. Rowley Park is within this catchment and is the only managed facility the Borough Council owns appropriate for a redevelopment of this scale that has not already received investment.
- 3.8 The Section 106 agreement relating to planning application 20/33458/FUL (item 5 in Table 1) provides for the payment of an Off-Site Open Space contribution of £16,480 to be used 'for the provision and/or improvement and/or maintenance of offsite open space within the catchment area of the Development'. Whilst this money has not yet been received the trigger point for payment is prior to commencement. It is anticipated this trigger point will be met within the timeline of this project and it would therefore be beneficial to approve the allocation of this contribution within the total contract amount for procurement. There is a risk to including 20/33458/FUL because there is no guarantee the permitted application will be built out.
- 3.9 There may be further S106 contributions relating to sports contributions available to fund works on playing pitches, sports courts and associated ancillary facilities within Rowley Park. Once the Masterplan has been agreed a further report will be submitted to allocate suitable additional funding for these elements, if required.
- 3.10 The Council has allocated a further £100k received from UKSPF funding to be used at Rowley Park by the end of March 2026. Officers are exploring a smaller standalone project that will fit within the master plan, that is deliverable within this timeframe.
- 3.11 In addition to the above, further funding opportunities are also being explored with both external partners and other related bodies. Tree and landscaping opportunities with the Forest of Mercia; cycling provision and inclusion with British Cycling; and pitch improvement and ancillary building upgrades with the Football Foundation, Football Association, and Sport England.
- 3.12 Once the master plan has been completed the overall budget estimate for the entire plan will be known and will be reported to Cabinet with any shortfalls in budget against the masterplan to be agreed at that time.



## 4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This project will help to deliver the priorities from the Council's Corporate Plan for 2025-28 which sets out our vision to be an **effective Council that promotes a growing economy, strong, healthy communities and a sustainable environment** and particularly:

### 4.2 Communities and Wellbeing

Prioritising communities and wellbeing, we want to ensure a safe and secure place to live, with opportunities for healthy lifestyles and a reduction in health inequalities. This will be achieved by working towards reducing homelessness, reviewing leisure and culture provision, and agreeing a community wellbeing strategy.

### 4.3 Climate Change, Nature Recovery and the Environment

The Council is committed to enhancing the environment by reducing its carbon footprint. Key steps include the implementation of our new Climate Change Strategy, promoting biodiversity, supporting nature recovery work, and improvements in parks and open spaces.

### 4.4 Effective Council

Being an effective Council is crucial for meeting the needs of the local community, providing value for money, and ensuring good governance.

## 5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The play facilities at Rowley Park were provided in 1998 and have offered much needed facilities for the families of Rowley and other local wards. However, after 26-years the site requires investment to bring it in line with the Council's current main/destination park standard.

- 5.2 Due to several housing and other developments in the catchment area, several contributions relating to Section 106 agreements have become available.

- 5.3 A main/destination park would usually provide for a diverse range of ages and users, and subject to funding availability may include facilities such as:

- (a) Toddler specific zones
- (b) Junior zones
- (c) Senior play opportunities
- (d) Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- (e) Natural play

- (f) Walking routes
- (g) Seating/picnic areas.

- 5.4 The above does not all have to be completed at the same time, if capital budgets do not allow; this is the main benefit of employing a phased master plan approach. At the start of the project (stage one) the main elements are usually installed to the current capital budget value, while some other distinct elements of the works can be held back, until further resource is available. This allows the project to begin while additional funding for some elements is established, with much of the works being delivered earlier than may have been expected. It also means that project managers can be more aspirational in their planning and offer a broader reach of activities for users, for example, including proposals in some cases for the installation of outdoor gym equipment, wheeled sports provision, etc.
- 5.5 The existing footprint of the play area is considered insufficient to provide the additional elements required for a full main/destination park. The current budget is also insufficient to fund all these elements. It is therefore proposed a long-term masterplan approach is taken and a full scheme including all desired elements are designed and consulted upon. The masterplan can then be implemented on a phased basis, as additional money becomes available, as per paragraph 5.4.
- 5.6 The site is currently managed by Freedom Leisure, under the Leisure and Cultural Services contract with the ongoing management and maintenance responsibilities of the upgraded facilities, also falling within that contract.
- 5.7 The Council is working with CCDC Officers with landscape design qualifications and experience to formulate a masterplan design and undertake a comprehensive two stage consultation exercise, as detailed below:
- Stage 1** - identify stakeholders and current users of the site and engage with the wider public to ensure any issues and constraints of the existing provision are considered within the design. Undertaken from 20 June to 27 July 2025.
- Stage 2** - utilising the information gathered from stage 1 create a concept masterplan for the site for further consultation due to be carried out from September 2025.
- 5.8 In order to progress the works under the delegated authority an internal project board has been established alongside a working group of internal officers.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

The S106 Funding Breakdown Table at paragraph 3.2 provides details of the 6 agreements totalling £824,872 which are proposed to be used in this project.

As discussed in paragraph 3.6 item two agreements totalling £171,258 are not currently available to be used on this project and require a deed of variation to be agreed with the developer. As set out in paragraph 3.8 the £16,480 for S106 number 20/33458/FUL has not yet been received by the Council so there is a risk in allocation to this project if funding is not received.

The S106 incomes received are unallocated and are therefore available to use.

The Council own the site which is currently managed by Freedom Leisure. The Council will be delivering the project including procurement and Freedom Leisure will be responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of the site.

### **6.2 Legal**

The main legal implication is the need to ensure compliance with the requirements of the funding allocations and terms of the S106. If the S106 funding is not spent within the stated deadlines it will need to be returned to the paying party.

All the S106 agreements have been reviewed, and the allocation of the contributions are in accordance with the stated spend purposes within the agreements apart from those identified in 3.6.

As shown in 3.8 there is a further sum that has not yet been received by the Council.

Officers will ensure that the procurement exercise complies with relevant regulations and achieves the necessary balance between value for money and quality.

### **6.3 Human Resources**

None

## **6.4 Risk Management**

The process and constraints of external funding bodies may cause delays in the project timetable.

It is envisaged the new design will require planning permission and will require the use of existing playing fields within the park. Sport England may object to the loss of playing fields which will result in an elongated planning process. Officers will engage with Sport England at an early stage and attempt to mitigate against this position.

The S106 agreements include a claw back date where the developer is entitled to reclaim the contribution, plus any interest incurred, if the monies are not spent within the timeline, however, these are mitigated against.

There is a risk that the DoV, as laid out in 3.6 is not realised, however, officers are quietly confident it will be. There is also a risk that the S106 monies identified in 3.8 may not be received, if the development is not fully built out. Should either of the above scenarios occur, officers will look to reengineer phase 1 of the project downwards or will approach Cabinet with a formal request to look at drawing down funding from reserves to match the shortfall.

Further risks will be assessed as a part of the overall project management process.

## **6.5 Equalities and Diversity**

The Borough Council has considered the effect of its actions on all sections of our communities and believes there to be no impact on any of the Equality Strands in the production of this report.

The Council is striving to provide an inclusive and accessible park to enable people with special needs a place to visit and partake in inclusive opportunities for play, sport, and general recreational activities.

In following the recommendations of this report there will be no impact on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation within the community.

## **6.6 Health**

The Council's outdoor spaces are essential in ensuring that residents of Stafford Borough have access to healthy and active lifestyle choices. This can be through the playing of sports, walking or riding through the site on the way to school, college, or work, or for social purposes. Each of these activities has a proven link to improving both physical and mental health and wellbeing.

## **6.7 Climate Change**

This project may incorporate, tree planting, landscaping works, and consideration of active travel networks, along with encouraging green travel. These will lead to improvements to the natural environment, awareness of climate change factors and contributes toward the Councils climate change agenda.

## **7 Appendices**

Appendix 1: Rowley Park Location Plan

## **8 Previous Consideration**

Proposed Development of Rowley Park Sports Stadium Play Facilities -  
Cabinet - 9 January 2025

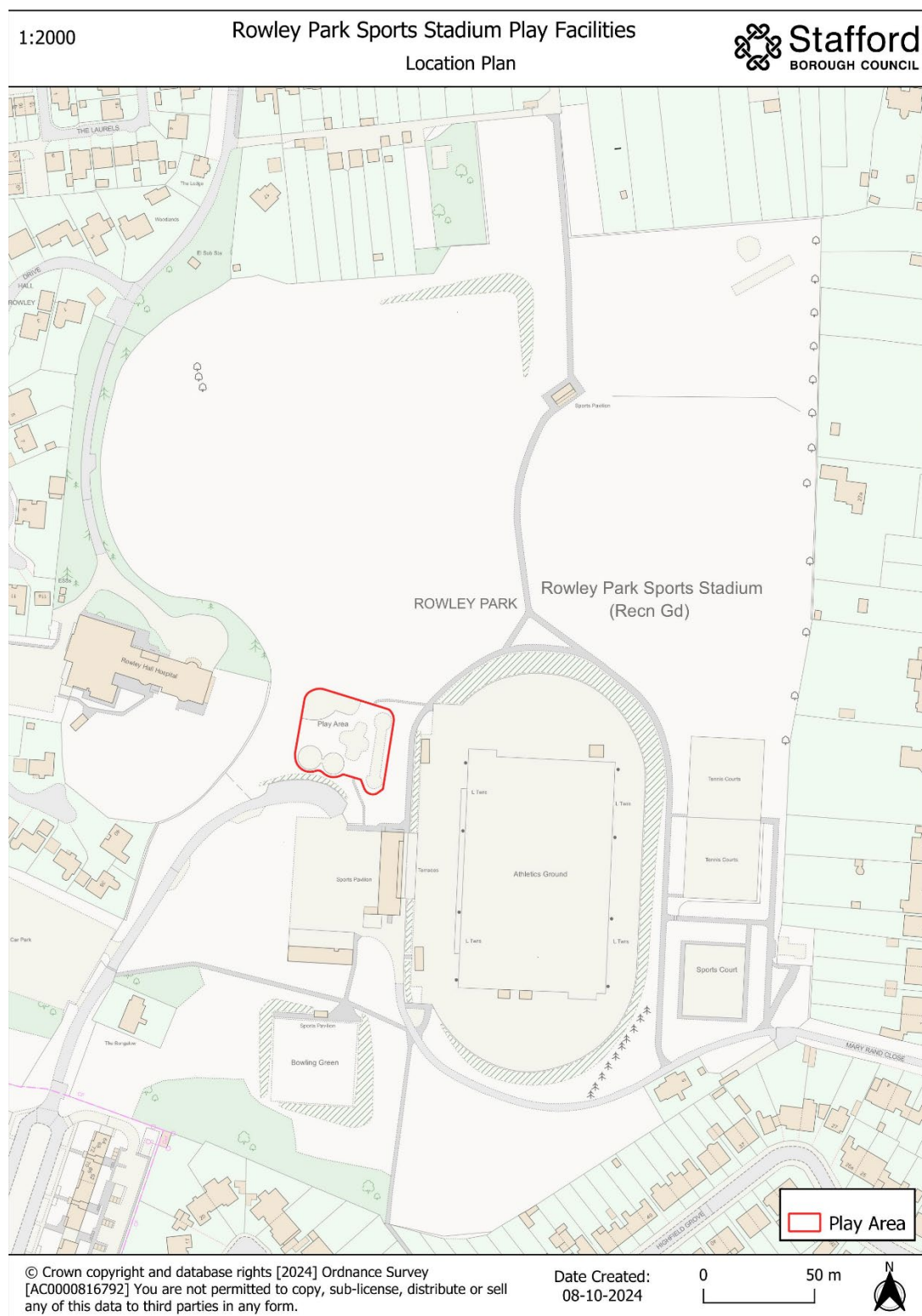
## **9 Background Papers**

The Borough wide Assessment of Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation  
Facilities 2009 and the subsequent update in 2013 -  
[www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-and-green-and-blue-infrastructure-topic-  
paper](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-and-green-and-blue-infrastructure-topic-paper)

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sally McDonald
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01785 619330
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	All
<b>Report Track:</b>	Cabinet 16 October 2025 (Only)
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No

## Appendix 1

# Rowley Park Stadium Location Plan



**Agenda Item 5b(ii)**

## **Play Area Improvement Programme Update**

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 October 2025
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Operations
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure Portfolio

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### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To further prioritise the Council's play area improvements over the next three years, to inform members of the estimated costs and options associated with the necessary improvements, and to secure funding for five of the eleven play areas previously identified as a priority.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet agrees the prioritisation of the top five play areas for improvement from the eleven previously identified to inform the improvement programme sequence.

Cabinet agrees to undertake the works to the play areas over a three-year period.

Cabinet recommends to Council that funding for the play area improvements as detailed below is included in the Council's capital programme and permission to spend is granted.

Cabinet agrees to transfer £224,000 from working balances to capital resources to fund the works.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2.2 Councils' have a major role in the provision of good quality outdoor spaces for recreation, socialising, and community. There are high expectations around creating, and maintaining to a good standard, accessible play areas, as well as public open spaces, that encourage active play and participation, but are also sustainable, safe, and meet the needs of local communities.

### **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 A first phase review of play parks has taken place, resulting in a priority list of the play areas in most need of investment. Not all the play areas identified fall within current ringfenced Section 106 allocations, therefore their improvements cannot be funded in this manner and will have to be funded from council funding, if to be carried out.
- 3.2 Eleven play areas were identified across the borough as the Council's priority in the original Cabinet report, February 2025. The eleven play areas have been further prioritised creating a top five, in order to inform the improvement programme sequence. It is recommended that these 5 play areas / parks are the first to be improved.

### **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate business plan objectives:
- To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing resilient communities that promote health and wellbeing.
  - To be a well-run, financially sustainable and ambitious organisation, responsive to the needs of our customers and communities and focussed on delivering our objectives

### **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 The figures used in the below assessments were taken from the 2020 Census and gives an overall perception of the number of young people within each ward. To give a little more context, at that time the total population of Stafford Borough was 136,800.
- 5.2 Officers visited each of the original eleven play areas and their equipment and surroundings were reviewed, and potential site improvements were assessed. This information was combined with the demographic and accessibility data, and potential options were identified for each play park.
- 5.3 Replacement of the play area equipment and surfacing was estimated on a like-for-like basis. The capital costs were also estimated and reviewed for the improvement of each of the play areas to improve the play and recreational offering and accessibility for local communities.
- 5.4 These improvements will increase the quality, safety, and usability of the five facilities for residents.



- 5.5 Of the five play areas, work has already begun on creating a master plan and reviewing funding for one, Rowley Park. Unlike the others, Rowley Park does have S106 funding that can be allocated to it, although that funding will not be sufficient to complete all phases of the master plan. Rowley Park has been and will be subject to further separate reporting to Cabinet.
- 5.6 The remaining play areas identified in the top 5, in no particular order are:
1. Beton Way, Holmcroft ward
  2. Boon Grove, Manor ward
  3. Barnes Road, Highfields and Western Downs ward
  4. Fernwood, Common ward.
- 5.7 Officer resource for these projects is limited due to capacity levels; thus the number of play areas recommended for improvement within the timescale. It is planned these improvements will take place over the next 1-3 years subject to establishment and financial resource availability and wider issues such as external partners procurement schedules.
- 5.8 Each of the play area improvements will require additional support from across the Council, such as from Finance, Legal, and PR & Communications; and externally from the County Council's Procurement Team; each of which have their own work priorities and schedules.
- 5.9 **Beton Way**

Beton Way is a good-sized play park in Holmcroft ward with additional green space attached. Under 5 population was 330 and Under 16 was 1,070. There are 7 other play parks in the area. It has a good location within a housing estate and is clear of main roads. It forms a well-used play recreational network including four other play parks that are within 15-minute walking distance, including Charnley Road and Wayfield Drive, some of which are less well used.



### Options considered

- 1 Like-for-like replacement estimated at £40,000.
- 2 Upgraded improvement costs - improvement potential is similar to that of Yelverton Park's recent works, estimated at £100,000.

Beton Way is a well-used, large-scale park that features a good range of play equipment catering to various age groups. While increasing play features in any play area will at some point increase ongoing maintenance resource requirements, it is considered they can be offset against other areas in the longer term. The facility not only provides a good level of play value but has the potential to promote positive social cohesion for local children.

It is recommended that this play area be prioritised for capital investment as per Option 2 at £100,000, to enhance its offering to the local community it serves.

#### 5.10 Boon Grove

Boon Grove is a simple sports wall and basketball net based in Manor ward. Under 5s population was 370 and under 16s was 1,270. There is additional green space surrounding it. There are 3 other play areas within the ward. There are 4 play areas within a 15-minute walk (Brook Glen Road, Carisbrooke Drive, Barnes Road and Cambridge Street).



**Options:**

1. Upgrade costs to improve accessibility and pathway across the site, estimated at £25,000
2. Like-for-like replacement, estimated at £11,000
3. Remove play equipment and utilise the area as green space to reduce maintenance costs.

Evidence would suggest the site is well used, therefore removing the play facility was not considered a realistic option.

Investment in this site would enable it to be utilised to its full potential by facilitating the replacement of aging play equipment and improving accessibility for all users. The current sports wall and basketball hoop specifically caters to an older age group, improving these facilities will support a broader demographic. It encourages increased engagement and promotes physical activity across different age ranges.

It is recommended that it is subject to investment of £25,000, as per Option 1.

**5.11 Barnes Road**

Barnes Road is a small play park in Highfields and Western Downs. The ward had 410 under 5s and 1,280 under 16s. The site appears to be in real need of improvement. It is apparent that the park is well used, which explains in part its current condition. There is a large additional green space adjacent to the play area. There are 6 other play parks in the ward, including Rowley Park. The others within 15-minute walking distance are Cambridge Street, Carisbrooke Drive, Brook Glen Road and Boon Grove.



**Options:**

1. Upgrade costs including accessibility pathway, additional equipment and fence painting - £49,000
2. Like-for-like replacement costs - £31,000

As Rowley Park is situated less than a 10-minute walk from this play area there is potential to rationalise the equipment. However, the play area is clearly well used. Its play value is aimed at a younger demographic, and it seems to offer benefit to the local community.

It is recommended the this play area is subject to capital improvement of £49,000 as per Option 1 thereby increasing accessibility options.

**5.12 Fernwood**

Fernwood is a small park based in Common ward. It sits between properties on a housing estate. The under 5 population for the ward was 240 and under 16 was 730. It is suitable for the younger age range and appears well used. There are 2 other play areas in the ward, with Holmcroft Park being less than a 15-minute walk away.



## Options

1. Upgrade costs approximately £50,000.
2. Like-for-like replacement of equipment is £20,000 however surface is in poor state and would require replacement.
3. Rationalisation of the play equipment and potential change of use.

Due to its apparent use and the potential for increased use by younger families, if improved, it is recommended that it is subject to capital investment of £50,000, as per Option 1.

### 5.13 Rowley Park Play Area

Rowley Park play area is within Rowley Park, a large destination park in Highfields and Western Downs. The ward had 410 under 5s and 1,280 under 16s. The overall site is in need of improvement and has already been identified previously for investment. It is in the initial stages of public consultation around a master plan to refurbish major parts of the park, including the play area, with a significant contribution from S106 funding. The park's management has been previously outsourced to the Council's leisure services partner, Freedom Leisure. The master planning process and development of the play area at the park are covered in a separate Cabinet report.

No.	Play Park	Ward	Option	Cost
1	Boon Grove	Manor	1	£25,000
2	Fernwood	Common	1	£50,000
3	Beton Way	Holmcroft	2	£100,000
4	Barnes Road	Highfields and Western Downs	1	£49,000
5	Rowley Park	Rowley	N/a	Subject to separate report
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£224,000</b>

- 5.14 The total cost of the programme set out above with the preferred options are given in the table below. This shows a capital cost of £224,000.

## **6 Implication**

### **6.1 Financial**

As set out in the report there are no S106 funds available to fund the works for the play areas number 1 to 4 set out in the table at 5.15.

The Councils unallocated capital resources are approximately £135,000. Therefore, there is insufficient funding available to meet the investment required, however the outturn for 2024/25 showed an additional transfer to working balances of approximately £431,000. Part of this funding could be transferred to capital resources to fund the improvement works set out above should members approve the movement. This will not have an adverse impact on the councils financial position.

### **6.2 Legal**

Officers will ensure that the procurement exercise complies with relevant regulations and achieves the necessary balance between value for money and quality.

### **6.3 Human Resources**

None

### **6.4 Risk Management**

The main risk within the report relates to project completion in a timely manner. The creation of contract documentation and procurement of the works will have to be prioritised and programmed alongside other works from elsewhere. This is the main reason individual improvement programme completion dates have not been specified at this time. Officers will look to use framework procurement arrangements where possible to expedite the process.

### **6.5 Equalities and Diversity**

The Council has considered the outcome of this report relating to equality and diversity across all sections of its community and believes it will have a positive impact on a number of the equality strands.

The report in particular looks to create benefit for the younger community, with the Council striving to provide inclusive and accessible play spaces. This will also enable people with special needs a safe and welcoming place to visit and partake in inclusive opportunities for play, sport, and general recreational activity.

## **6.6 Health**

The Council's outdoor spaces are essential in ensuring that residents of Stafford Borough have access to healthy and active lifestyle choices. This can be through the playing of sports, walking or riding through the site on the way to school, college, or work, or for social purposes. Each of these activities has a proven link to improving both physical and mental health and wellbeing.

## **6.7 Climate Change**

These projects support openspaces and their use, and may incorporate, tree planting, landscaping works, and consideration of active travel networks, along with encouraging green travel. These will lead to improvements to the natural environment, awareness of climate change factors and contributes toward the Councils climate change agenda.

## **7 Appendices**

None

## **8 Previous Consideration**

None

## **9 Background Papers**

None

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<b>Ward Interest:</b>	Manor/Common/Holmcroft/Highfields and Western Downs/Rowley
<b>Report Track:</b>	Cabinet 16 October 2025 (Only)
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes