

Councillor Andy Cooper (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

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

Officers in attendance:-

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
R Wolfe	-	Local Taxation and Benefits Manager
W Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer

C47 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2024 were agreed as a true and correct record.

C48 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P A Leason, L Nixon, M Phillips and J S Powell.

C49 Announcements

The Mayor detailed the following forthcoming events for Members to note:

- Mayor's Charity Appeal 2023/34 - ABBA Tribute evening - Top of the World, Stafford - 1 March 2024. The Mayor thanked those who were supporting this event on Friday
- Mayor's Charity Appeal 2023/34 - College Lunch - Friday 22 March 2024 - Thank you to those who were supporting the Charity Appeal by attending the lunch which was now sold out.

C50 To receive Nominations for the Offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25

RESOLVED:- that the Council receive nominations of:-

- (a) Councillor F D J James for the Office of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25;
- (b) Councillor P W Jones for the Office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

C51 Council Tax Resolution 2024/25

Considered the report of the Section 151 Officer - Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance, proposing the level of Council Tax for 2024/25 inclusive of the County Council, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority and individual Parish Council requirements.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report and noted the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 before concluding his comments by moving that said recommendations be approved.

The proposal was seconded by the Leader of the Council.

In accordance with Paragraph 17.4(c) of the Council Procedure Rules, a recorded vote was taken; voting on the proposal was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
J A Barron	K M Aspin	A G Cooper
E L Carter	F E Beatty	
R P Cooke	B M Cross	
I D Fordham	M G Dodson	
A T A Godfrey	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	
A M Loughran	J M Pert	
B McKeown	M J Winnington	
A R McNaughton		
D M McNaughton		
A Nixon		
G P K Pardesi		
A N Pearce		
J P Read		
A F Reid		
J T Rose		
D P Rouxel		
A J Sandiford		
S N Spencer		
J Thorley		

The Mayor declared that the proposal was duly carried.

RESOLVED:- that the following be approved:-

- 1 It be noted that under the power delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer, the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2024/25
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 49,302.73 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended(the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as shown below

Parish	Taxbase
Adbaston	227.17
Barlaston	1,052.58
Berkswich	788.53
Bradley	230.69
Brocton	558.54
Chebsey	253.59

Parish	Taxbase
Church Eaton	291.87
Colwich	1,922.40
Creswell	789.03
Doxey	918.91
Eccleshall	2,183.12
Ellenhall	63.57
Forton	144.59
Fradswell	84.70
Fulford	2,312.53
Gayton	80.58
Gnosall	2,027.11
Haughton	456.39
High Offley	396.62
Hilderstone	275.35
Hixon	750.45
Hopton and Coton	855.14
Hyde Lea	186.64
Ingestre	85.37
Marston	92.83
Milwich	200.31
Norbury	201.14
Ranton	184.44
Salt and Enson	187.02
Sandon and Burston	169.29
Seighford	771.02
Standon	336.03
Stone Town	6,453.19
Stone Rural	748.85

Parish	Taxbase
Stowe by Chartley	197.81
Swynnerton	1,370.59
Tixall	133.31
Weston	480.08
Whitgreave	89.95
Yarnfield and Cold Meece	822.68
Sub Total	29,374.01
Unparished	
Stafford Town	19,471.92
MOD Contribution in Lieu	456.80
Council Tax Base	49,302.73

- 2 That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) is calculated at £8,556,981.82.
- 3 That the following amounts are calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) £52,154,133.83 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £42,158,439.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £9,995,694.83 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £202.74 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £1,438,713.01 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

- (f) £173.56 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (g) For the following parts of the Council's Area

Parish	Band D £.p
Adbaston	188.06
Barlaston	277.04
Berkswich	225.90
Bradley	237.34
Brocton	200.53
Chebsey	201.20
Church Eaton	197.49
Colwich	285.32
Creswell	173.56
Doxey	196.30
Eccleshall	210.08
Ellenhall	179.00
Forton	182.30
Fradswell	193.37
Fulford	219.27
Gayton	222.93
Gnosall	224.21
Haughton	226.15
High Offley	186.21
Hilderstone	218.44
Hixon	225.35
Hopton and Coton	205.14
Hyde Lea	212.05
Ingestre	210.26
Marston	173.56
Milwich	210.57

Parish	Band D £.p
Norbury	193.04
Ranton	200.76
Salt and Enson	215.57
Sandon and Burston	233.27
Seighford	198.15
Standon	205.66
Stone Town	234.56
Stone Rural	195.91
Stowe by Chartley	269.08
Swynnerton	197.65
Tixall	197.15
Weston	244.79
Whitgreave	190.89
Yarnfield and Cold Meece	207.02

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) For the following parts of the Council's Area

Parish	Band A Disabled £.p	Band A £.p	Band B £.p	Band C £.p	Band D £.p	Band E £.p	Band F £.p	Band G £.p	Band H £.p
Adbaston	104.48	125.37	146.27	167.16	188.06	229.85	271.64	313.43	376.12
Barlaston	153.91	184.69	215.48	246.26	277.04	338.60	400.17	461.73	554.08
Berkswich	125.50	150.60	175.70	200.80	225.90	276.10	326.30	376.50	451.80
Bradley	131.86	158.23	184.60	210.97	237.34	290.08	342.82	395.57	474.68
Brocton	111.41	133.69	155.97	178.25	200.53	245.09	289.65	334.22	401.06
Chebsey	111.78	134.13	156.49	178.84	201.20	245.91	290.62	335.33	402.40

Parish	Band A Disabled	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Church Eaton	109.72	131.66	153.60	175.55	197.49	241.38	285.26	329.15	394.98
Colwich	158.51	190.21	221.92	253.62	285.32	348.72	412.13	475.53	570.64
Creswell	96.42	115.71	134.99	154.28	173.56	212.13	250.70	289.27	347.12
Doxey	109.06	130.87	152.68	174.49	196.30	239.92	283.54	327.17	392.60
Eccleshall	116.71	140.05	163.40	186.74	210.08	256.76	303.45	350.13	420.16
Ellenhall	99.44	119.33	139.22	159.11	179.00	218.78	258.56	298.33	358.00
Forton	101.28	121.53	141.79	162.04	182.30	222.81	263.32	303.83	364.60
Fradswell	107.43	128.91	150.40	171.88	193.37	236.34	279.31	322.28	386.74
Fulford	121.82	146.18	170.54	194.91	219.27	268.00	316.72	365.45	438.54
Gayton	123.85	148.62	173.39	198.16	222.93	272.47	322.01	371.55	445.86
Gnosall	124.56	149.47	174.39	199.30	224.21	274.03	323.86	373.68	448.42
Haughton	125.64	150.77	175.89	201.02	226.15	276.41	326.66	376.92	452.30
High Offley	103.45	124.14	144.83	165.52	186.21	227.59	268.97	310.35	372.42
Hilderstone	121.36	145.63	169.90	194.17	218.44	266.98	315.52	364.07	436.88
Hixon	125.19	150.23	175.27	200.31	225.35	275.43	325.51	375.58	450.70
Hopton and Coton	113.97	136.76	159.55	182.35	205.14	250.73	296.31	341.90	410.28
Hyde Lea	117.81	141.37	164.93	188.49	212.05	259.17	306.29	353.42	424.10
Ingestre	116.81	140.17	163.54	186.90	210.26	256.98	303.71	350.43	420.52
Marston	96.42	115.71	134.99	154.28	173.56	212.13	250.70	289.27	347.12
Milwich	116.98	140.38	163.78	187.17	210.57	257.36	304.16	350.95	421.14
Norbury	107.24	128.69	150.14	171.59	193.04	235.94	278.84	321.73	386.08
Ranton	111.53	133.84	156.15	178.45	200.76	245.37	289.99	334.60	401.52
Salt and Enson	119.76	143.71	167.67	191.62	215.57	263.47	311.38	359.28	431.14

Parish	Band A Disabled	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Sandon and Burston	129.59	155.51	181.43	207.35	233.27	285.11	336.95	388.78	466.54
Seighford	110.08	132.10	154.12	176.13	198.15	242.18	286.22	330.25	396.30
Standon	114.26	137.11	159.96	182.81	205.66	251.36	297.06	342.77	411.32
Stone Town	130.31	156.37	182.44	208.50	234.56	286.68	338.81	390.93	469.12
Stone Rural	108.84	130.61	152.37	174.14	195.91	239.45	282.98	326.52	391.82
Stowe-by-Chartley	149.49	179.39	209.28	239.18	269.08	328.88	388.67	448.47	538.16
Swynnerton	109.81	131.77	153.73	175.69	197.65	241.57	285.49	329.42	395.30
Tixall	109.53	131.43	153.34	175.24	197.15	240.96	284.77	328.58	394.30
Weston	135.99	163.19	190.39	217.59	244.79	299.19	353.59	407.98	489.58
Whitgreave	106.05	127.26	148.47	169.68	190.89	233.31	275.73	318.15	381.78
Yarnfield and Cold Meece	115.01	138.01	161.02	184.02	207.02	253.02	299.03	345.03	414.04
All other parts of the Council's area	96.42	115.71	134.99	154.28	173.56	212.13	250.70	289.27	347.12

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (3)(f) and (3)(g) above by the number by which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 4 To note that the County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

Valuation Bands

	A £.p	B £.p	C £.p	D £.p	E £.p	F £.p	G £.p	H £.p
Staffordshire County Council	1029.76	1,201.39	1,373.01	1,544.64	1,887.89	2,231.15	2,574.40	3,089.28
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	182.38	212.78	243.17	273.57	334.36	395.16	455.95	547.14
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffs Fire Authority	57.85	67.49	77.13	86.77	106.05	125.33	144.62	173.54

- 5 That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Parish	Band A Disabled £.p	Band A £.p	Band B £.p	Band C £.p	Band D £.p	Band E £.p	Band F £.p	Band G £.p	Band H £.p
Adbaston	1,162.80	1,395.36	1,627.93	1,860.47	2,093.04	2,558.15	3,023.28	3,488.40	4,186.08
Barlaston	1,212.23	1,454.68	1,697.14	1,939.57	2,182.02	2,666.90	3,151.81	3,636.70	4,364.04
Berkswich	1,183.82	1,420.59	1,657.36	1,894.11	2,130.88	2,604.40	3,077.94	3,551.47	4,261.76
Bradley	1,190.18	1,428.22	1,666.26	1,904.28	2,142.32	2,618.38	3,094.46	3,570.54	4,284.64
Brocton	1,169.73	1,403.68	1,637.63	1,871.56	2,105.51	2,573.39	3,041.29	3,509.19	4,211.02
Chebsey	1,170.10	1,404.12	1,638.15	1,872.15	2,106.18	2,574.21	3,042.26	3,510.30	4,212.36
Church Eaton	1,168.04	1,401.65	1,635.26	1,868.86	2,102.47	2,569.68	3,036.90	3,504.12	4,204.94
Colwich	1,216.83	1,460.20	1,703.58	1,946.93	2,190.30	2,677.02	3,163.77	3,650.50	4,380.60
Creswell	1,154.74	1,385.70	1,616.65	1,847.59	2,078.54	2,540.43	3,002.34	3,464.24	4,157.08
Doxey	1,167.38	1,400.86	1,634.34	1,867.80	2,101.28	2,568.22	3,035.18	3,502.14	4,202.56
Eccleshall	1,175.03	1,410.04	1,645.06	1,880.05	2,115.06	2,585.06	3,055.09	3,525.10	4,230.12
Ellenhall	1,157.76	1,389.32	1,620.88	1,852.42	2,083.98	2,547.08	3,010.20	3,473.30	4,167.96
Forton	1,159.60	1,391.52	1,623.45	1,855.35	2,087.28	2,551.11	3,014.96	3,478.80	4,174.56
Fradswell	1,165.75	1,398.90	1,632.06	1,865.19	2,098.35	2,564.64	3,030.95	3,497.25	4,196.70

Parish	Band A Disabled	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Fulford	1,180.14	1,416.17	1,652.20	1,888.22	2,124.25	2,596.30	3,068.36	3,540.42	4,248.50
Gayton	1,182.17	1,418.61	1,655.05	1,891.47	2,127.91	2,600.77	3,073.65	3,546.52	4,255.82
Gnosall	1,182.88	1,419.46	1,656.05	1,892.61	2,129.19	2,602.33	3,075.50	3,548.65	4,258.38
Haughton	1,183.96	1,420.76	1,657.55	1,894.33	2,131.13	2,604.71	3,078.30	3,551.89	4,262.26
High Offley	1,161.77	1,394.13	1,626.49	1,858.83	2,091.19	2,555.89	3,020.61	3,485.32	4,182.38
Hilderstone	1,179.68	1,415.62	1,651.56	1,887.48	2,123.42	2,595.28	3,067.16	3,539.04	4,246.84
Hixon	1,183.51	1,420.22	1,656.93	1,893.62	2,130.33	2,603.73	3,077.15	3,550.55	4,260.66
Hopton and Coton	1,172.29	1,406.75	1,641.21	1,875.66	2,110.12	2,579.03	3,047.95	3,516.87	4,220.24
Hyde Lea	1,176.13	1,411.36	1,646.59	1,881.80	2,117.03	2,587.47	3,057.93	3,528.39	4,234.06
Ingestre	1,175.13	1,410.16	1,645.20	1,880.21	2,115.24	2,585.28	3,055.35	3,525.40	4,230.48
Marston	1,154.74	1,385.70	1,616.65	1,847.59	2,078.54	2,540.43	3,002.34	3,464.24	4,157.08
Milwich	1,175.30	1,410.37	1,645.44	1,880.48	2,115.55	2,585.66	3,055.80	3,525.92	4,231.10
Norbury	1,165.56	1,398.68	1,631.80	1,864.90	2,098.02	2,564.24	3,030.48	3,496.70	4,196.04
Ranton	1,169.85	1,403.83	1,637.81	1,871.76	2,105.74	2,573.67	3,041.63	3,509.57	4,211.48
Salt and Enson	1,178.08	1,413.70	1,649.33	1,884.93	2,120.55	2,591.77	3,063.02	3,534.25	4,241.10
Sandon and Burston	1,187.91	1,425.50	1,663.09	1,900.66	2,138.25	2,613.41	3,088.59	3,563.75	4,276.50
Seighford	1,168.40	1,402.09	1,635.78	1,869.44	2,103.13	2,570.48	3,037.86	3,505.22	4,206.26
Standon	1,172.58	1,407.10	1,641.62	1,876.12	2,110.64	2,579.66	3,048.70	3,517.74	4,221.28
Stone Town	1,188.63	1,426.36	1,664.10	1,901.81	2,139.54	2,614.98	3,090.45	3,565.90	4,279.08
Stone Rural	1,167.16	1,400.60	1,634.03	1,867.45	2,100.89	2,567.75	3,034.62	3,501.49	4,201.78
Stowe-by-Chartley	1,207.81	1,449.38	1,690.94	1,932.49	2,174.06	2,657.18	3,140.31	3,623.44	4,348.12
Swynnerton	1,168.13	1,401.76	1,635.39	1,869.00	2,102.63	2,569.87	3,037.13	3,504.39	4,205.26
Tixall	1,167.85	1,401.42	1,635.00	1,868.55	2,102.13	2,569.26	3,036.41	3,503.55	4,204.26
Weston	1,194.31	1,433.18	1,672.05	1,910.90	2,149.77	2,627.49	3,105.23	3,582.95	4,299.54

Parish	Band A Disabled	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Whitgreave	1,164.37	1,397.25	1,630.13	1,862.99	2,095.87	2,561.61	3,027.37	3,493.12	4,191.74
Yarnfield and Cold Meece	1,173.33	1,408.00	1,642.68	1,877.33	2,112.00	2,581.32	3,050.67	3,520.00	4,224.00
All other parts	1,154.74	1,385.70	1,616.65	1,847.59	2,078.54	2,540.43	3,002.34	3,464.24	4,157.08

- 6 That it is determined in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of that Act.

C52 Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25

Considered the report of the S151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval to: -

- Prudential and Treasury Indicators - setting of indicators to ensure that the capital investment plans of the Council are affordable, prudent and sustainable;
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy;
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25 - to set treasury limits for 2024/25 to 2025/26 and to provide a background to the latest economic forecasts of interest rates; and
- Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 - to set out the strategy of investment of surplus funds.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The proposal was seconded by the Leader of the Council.

The matter was then put to the vote and subsequently declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the following be approved:-

- (a) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators;
- (b) the MRP Policy Statement;
- (c) the Treasury Management Policy;
- (d) the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25.

C53 Council Tax Charges in respect of Unoccupied Dwellings

Considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources).

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A N Pearce.

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

“Having empty homes is a poor use of property that could be made available for wider use, especially when there is a need to build more homes. And this Council has undertaken a consistently strong but fair position in bringing properties back into use over the past decade or more.

Given this, there can be many reasons why a property is empty and it is not always a deliberate choice - for example probate following someone’s death can take between six months and two years and bringing back long term empty homes into use can take upwards of twelve months. Sometimes the delay in bringing a property back into use can be outside the owner’s control - for example being reliant on a planning permission that can take twelve months end to end to secure.

Therefore this Council commits to bringing in the following exemptions, which are fairer to all parties as part of the Empty and Second Homes Policy prior to any mandating by government:-

Exceptions to the Premium Charges:-

- (1) Exceptions to both Empty Homes and Second Homes Premiums
 - Properties undergoing probate (12 month deferral)
 - Properties being actively marketed for sale or let (6 month deferral)

(2) Exceptions to Empty Homes Premiums

- Properties undergoing major repairs, once commenced (6 month deferral)

(3) Exceptions to Second Homes Premiums

- Annexes forming a part of, or being treated as part of, the main dwelling
- Job related dwellings
- Occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings
- Seasonal homes where year-round or permanent occupation is prohibited or has been specified for use as holiday accommodation or prevents occupation as a person's sole or main residence."

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

At the conclusion of the debate, the amendment was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive matter was then put to the vote and subsequently declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the following be approved:-

- (a) the report be noted.
- (b) Council resolves to end the current 12-month exemption given to properties which are unoccupied, substantially unfurnished, uninhabitable and in need of or undergoing major repair or structural alteration with effect from 1 April 2024.
- (c) Council resolves to introduce a 100% Premium be added to the Council Tax liability in respect of properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for 12 months with effect from 1 April 2024.
- (d) Council resolves to introduce a 100% Premium to the Council Tax liability in respect of properties which are not occupied as any person's sole or main residence and are substantially furnished (often referred to as second homes) with effect from 1 April 2025.

C54 Auditor's Annual Report on Stafford Borough Council 2012/22 and 2022/23

Councillor A T A Godfrey suggested that items 12 and 13 of the agenda be discussed together.

The Auditor's Annual Report on Stafford Borough Council was received by the Council.

C55 The Council's Response to the Auditor's Annual Report 2021/22 and 2022/23

The Council's response to the External Auditor's Annual Report (AAR) for 2021/22 and 2022/23, previously considered at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Audit and Accounts Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2024, was received by the Council.

The Leader of the Council summarised the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) and S151 Officer and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The matter was put to the vote and subsequently declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that
- (a) Members note the findings, recommendations and management comments set out in the AAR for 2021/22 and 2022/23
 - (b) Members accept the Statutory Recommendation set out in the AAR for 2021/22 and 2022/23
 - (c) Members approve the improvement plan attached as an appendix to address the issues identified in the AAR
 - (d) Members note the additional resources required to address the issues identified in the AAR as set out in 5.9, which are provided for in the budget for 2024/25.

C56 Localism Act 2011 - SBC Pay Policy 2024/25

Considered the report of the Head of Transformation and Assurance.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report and concluded his comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The proposal was seconded by the Leader of the Council.

The matter was then put to the vote and subsequently declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that (a) the Pay Policy Statement as set out in the appendix to the report be approved;
- (b) publication of the Pay Policy Statement on the Council's website as required by the Act be approved.

C57 Council Response to Notice of Motion - Protecting our Rivers and Oceans

Considered the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning.

Councillor A N Pearce circulated an amendment to response 12 of the report as follows:-

“Delete paragraph 3 and insert the following:-

For major planning applications, officers will, from now on, make a specific request to Severn Trent asking for details of the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses (i.e. cumulative impact) and will include what information, if any, is received from Severn Trent in response to this request.”

Councillor J M Pert noted that there were other Water Authorities operating in the borough.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A F Reid.

The matter was then put to the vote and subsequently declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the report be noted and approval be given to progress associated actions and next steps in the proposed responses to the Notice of Motion (subject to the agreed amendment).

MAYOR