

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader and Town Centres Regeneration Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A F Reid	-	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Also present - Councillor L Nixon

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
G Stott	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Place
A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
J Presland	-	Head of Operations
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
W Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

#### **CAB72 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2025 as published on 7 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **CAB73 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A N Pearce.

#### **CAB74 Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030**

Considered a report seeking:-

- approval of the Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030 and;
- recognition of and support for the Climate Action Plan and support for the new governance regime.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, on behalf of Councillor A N Pearce introduced the report noting the updated versions of the associated appendices circulated since publication of the

agenda. A further updated version of appendix 1 of the report would be published on the Council's website following this meeting of Cabinet.

Councillor Reid highlighted the detail as set out in paragraph 2 before reading the following statement as prepared by Councillor Pearce:-

- The Government's Climate Change Committee states that only a third of the emissions reductions required to achieve the UK's national 2050 Net Zero target are currently covered by credible plans, the new strategy looks to put in place a simple way forward supported by a trackable Action Plan which comprehensively measures the work being delivered to reduce the production of carbon emissions in the Borough;
- The Council has a target to reach Net Zero Operations by 2040, Climate Action is a fundamental consideration when delivering Council services, but we needed to develop a pragmatic and realistic approach to doing this;
- The 2025-2030 Strategy looks to develop this approach, alongside Action Plans, that demonstrate exactly what activities are taking place to contribute to the reduction of our operational carbon emissions;
- The new Strategy, Action Plan and Climate Action Board will allow us to track, review and ensure that we are moving towards our Net Zero targets in a meaningful way;
- In doing this we hope to lead by example and support and encourage other organisations in the locality to do the same;
- This will be achieved by focusing on a number of key areas within our own service delivery which will be the most impactful. This will deliver changes to the way that we work, facilitating the shift towards carbon neutrality, encouraging others in the Borough to do the same;
- In addition, the strategy sets a clear intent to commit to work with businesses and communities in the Borough to engage, educate and facilitate them to deliver their own steps towards carbon neutrality
- The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated annually, performance against this will be tracked by the Climate Action Board, Chaired by the Cabinet member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery which will meet on a quarterly basis.

Councillor Reid concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030, including the new Climate Action Board and associated Climate Action Plan 2025 be approved and adopted;
- (b) authority be delegated to the Head of Regulatory Services (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery) to make any changes, amendments, or updates to the Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030 and/or Climate Action Plan as necessary;
- (c) it be noted that regular performance and delivery updates would be provided to Cabinet on a minimum of either quarterly or 6 monthly reporting cycle (as determined by the Head of Regulatory Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery).

#### **CAB75 Permission to Spend - Community Safety Funding 2025-26**

Considered a report seeking approval to spend the allocated Community Safety Funding for the purposes of improving community safety and reducing crime and disorder in the borough.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 6 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) spending of £72,382 Community Safety Funding allocated to the Council by the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime be approved;

- (b) authority to enter into any necessary agreements to enable the Council to spend the funding be delegated to the Head of Wellbeing, in consultation with the Community Wellbeing Partnership.

**CAB76 Stafford Community Food Distribution Hub Community Interest Company**

Considered a report seeking approval of additional financial support to the Stafford Community Food Distribution Hub Community Interest Company (the Hub).

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor R Kenney noted that support of this proposal was essential during these testing times for many.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:-** that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio be approved as follows:

That £15,000 be allocated to the Hub to enable them to continue to receive food deliveries for a further 12 months.

CHAIR