

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
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A N Pearce	-	Climate Change Portfolio
A F Reid	-	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Also present - Councillors P W Jones and J M Pert

Officers in attendance:

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

CAB30 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2025 as published on 3 October 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB31 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Kenney.

CAB32 Presentation of Petition

The Leader of the Council welcomed all to the meeting, the presence of which demonstrating the feeling in the local community. Councillor Godfrey reaffirmed that no one in the Council wished to see over development in any areas of the Borough.

Councillor J M Pert submitted the petition entitled 'Eccleshall - Protect our Town from Over-Development' as submitted to Council on 9 September 2025 stating that its intent was clear. It was recognised that the residents of Eccleshall were not against development, but that it had to be proportionate and not contribute to the existing infrastructure issues.

Continuing, Councillor Pert highlighted the strength of feeling relating to the matter and was pleased to see so many local people present at the meeting before thanking the Leader of the Council for the opportunity to present the petition on behalf of the community.

Councillor A F Reid echoed the previous comments before providing the following response:-

'I'm really happy to receive this petition on behalf of the administration. It will come as no surprise to anyone that I am 100% in support of the campaign against over development in any community, and I welcome the community support for position in this petition.

I'd like to call out three specific aspects of this petition that especially match the current administration's activities:-

Firstly proportionate development - this administration is fully committed to using all our decision-making powers to ensure no one community receives more than is fair. This is a key reason for me restarting the process of updating our Local Plan - the one we inherited simply could not continue and we are committed to getting it right.

This matches the second area of agreement from the petition - it is heartening to see that our community also wants a second chance to set appropriate policies and guidelines. I look forward to a robust and useful dialogue in the Local Plan consultations next year.

Thirdly I am glad to see the call for national government's attention. I have been assisting the MP for Stafford to raise this at the highest levels - we want the ability to choose between competing applications in the situation where over development would occur - we want to avoid first-come first-served, as often a later application is preferable'

RESOLVED:- that the petition be received and be referred to the appropriate Head of Service for attention.

CAB33 Final Accounts 2024/25

Considered a report presenting the final outturn position for 2024/25.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3, 5 and the associated appendices before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor Cooke paid tribute to the Officers of the Finance Team for their efforts in preparing the report.

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

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

- (a) the final outturn position for the year ending 31 March 2025 be noted;
- (b) the financing of the capital programme as outlined in the report be approved.

CAB34 Proposed Development of Rowley Park Sports Stadium Play Facilities

Received a report considering the allocation of further Section 106 funding towards the provision and enhancement of leisure facilities at Rowley Park Sports Stadium, Stafford, and seeking permission to spend capital monies, following public consultation, on the masterplan design and the procurement of the required project works.

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

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

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

- (a) 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 of the report for the enhancement of the above open space in Rowley Park be approved;
- (b) it be recommended to Council that the above sum be included within the capital programme and permission be granted to spend for the project, as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report;
- (c) progress so far be noted; that stage one public consultation had been completed, the master planning exercise had begun, and further public consultation was underway. In order to progress with the works through design, procurement, and delivery, officers were to proceed with the project as detailed within;
- (d) it be noted that further funding opportunities would be investigated, as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

CAB35 Play Area Improvement Programme Update

Considered a report seeking 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

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1, 3, and 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A F Reid welcomed the suggested areas for improvement with the Cabinet Member confirming that discussions would take place with Officers as to how to include the associated communities' views in said works.

Councillor J Hood noted the importance of making parks into safe spaces for children to play and was pleased to support the proposals.

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

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

- (a) the prioritisation of the top five play areas for improvement from the eleven previously identified to inform the improvement programme sequence be agreed;
- (b) the works to the play areas over a three-year period be undertaken;
- (c) it be recommended to Council that funding for the play area improvements as detailed below be included in the Council's capital programme and permission to spend be granted;
- (d) transfer of £224,000 from working balances to capital resources to fund the works be agreed.

CAB36 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:- that pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst the next following item of business be discussed, on the grounds that it includes the disclosure of exempt information of the type specified in paragraph 3, 5 and 6 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Recording of the meeting was paused at this time.

CAB37 Parking Enforcement and Management Contract 2025-26 Award - Confidential

Considered a confidential report informing Members of the outcome of the procurement of the parking enforcement and management contract 2025-26 - 2030-31 and recommending to Council an increase in its parking services budget to enable the above contract award.

The Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio, introduced the confidential report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 - 3 before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in paragraph 3 be approved.

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

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

An increase of the parking services budget as detailed in confidential paragraph 3 of the report (plus indexation post 2025-26 financial year) to enable the award of the Parking Enforcement and Management Contract 2025-26 (following the outcome of the procurement process) be recommended to Council.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 2 DECEMBER 2025

CHAIR