

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

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

Also present - Councillor L Nixon

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
J Presland	-	Head of Operations
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

CAB14 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2025 as published on 11 July 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I D Fordham.

CAB16 Joint Tree Management Proposals: Tree Management System and Tree Re-Inspections

Considered a report:-

- informing Cabinet of the proposed arrangements for the provision of tree services across CCDC and SBC;
- outlining the plans for aligning the services across the two authorities;
- setting out the business case for the purchase of an integrated tree management system and the need to procure tree risk inspections across both authorities.

The Cabinet Member, Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio, on behalf of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 7. Councillor Pearce was pleased to confirm that this report meant that the public were able to access said data for the first time and welcomed the comments as set out in paragraph 7.7, before concluding his 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, Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:

- (a) the procurement of a shared integrated software system for all areas of tree management; including Council owned trees, Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), and trees which are the subject of a Conservation Area designation be agreed;
- (b) the drawing down from reserves to fund the procurement of a shared integrated electronic tree management software system, including a customer facing web portal be noted;
- (c) the carrying out of routine tree inspections at both Councils by an external contractor in parallel to the procurement and installation of the above system be agreed;
- (d) it be noted that provision would be made in the budget for 2026/27 onwards for the routine inspection of the Council owned trees using external sub-contractor/s.

CAB17 Stafford Brooks Update

Considered a report providing a brief description and update on the Stafford Brooks project and recommending the signing of the “Agreement for the provision of habitat enhancements on multiple sites within Stafford”, as prepared by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

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

Councillor A F Reid welcomed this positive report which demonstrated the effective way the Council was working with partner organisations.

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:

The Agreement for the provision of habitat enhancements on multiple sites within Stafford be signed by the Council.

CAB18 Events Policy 2025-2030

Considered a report updating Cabinet on the current position around events and seeking approval of the Events Policy 2025-2030.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, was very pleased to introduce the report by noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 and the associated appendix. Councillor Pardesi concluded 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, Leisure Portfolio be approved as follows:

- (a) the Events Policy 2025-2030 and associated processes and procedures, as outlined in appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (b) implementation of the Events Policy 2025-2030 from 1 September 2025 be approved and authority be delegated to the Head of Operations/Head of Wellbeing/Deputy Chief Executive (Place), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, to review, make any changes, amendments, or updates to the policy, as necessary during the period, including as part of a first anniversary review;
- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Operations/Head of Wellbeing/Deputy Chief Executive (Place), in consultation with the portfolio holder for Leisure, to make decisions around events, including funding (where available) and delivery;
- (d) it be noted that events and events promotion were a non-statutory function and that there was currently no additional dedicated revenue funding in place for events;
- (e) it be noted that all relevant fees and charges as outlined under the Events Policy 2025-2030, were reviewed and updated as part of the annual Council budget setting process.

CAB19 UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26

Considered a report updating Members on the successful completion of the UK Shared Prosperity (UKSPF) programme for 2022-2025 and to update on the programme as agreed via Urgent Executive Decision on 28 April 2025

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraph 1 to 6 and the associated appendices before highlighting those programmes associated with building skills in technology, innovation and engineering, together with business support.

Councillor Reid encouraged residents to engage with the associated advertising of the programme, noting that it was time-limited.

The Cabinet Member concluded his comments by thanking the team of Officers for their efforts in this area of work and recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor R Kenney reiterated the Council's commitment to support small businesses through the Borough.

Councillor A N Pearce welcomed the climate change action funding as set out in the report.

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

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:

- (a) the success of the UKSPF 2022-25 programme and the impact the investments and interventions have had across the Borough be noted;
- (b) both the content of the Urgent Executive Decision in respect of the UKSPF 2025-6 programme and delegations required to commence delivery and the awarding to the Council of £1,528,851 of UKSPF and the associated £146,355 Rural England Prosperity Funding (REPF) for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 be noted;
- (c) it be recommend to Council that the current Capital Programme be amended to accommodate the sum of £282,270 in respect of UKSPF and £146,355 in respect of REPF to ensure delivery of capital projects identified in the UKSPF programme 2025-6;
- (d) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the

Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning to take any associated decisions as required to ensure that the UKSPF programme is delivered on time and on budget, including, but not limited to:

- (i) producing and submitting s151 Officer certified financial and output returns and monitoring and evaluation information as required to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG);
- (ii) developing and commencing the commissioning of external projects to be funded by UKSPF and commence commissioning of Council led projects to be funded by UKSPF;
- (iii) to work with the Head of Law and Governance to develop and produce any legal agreements required for external projects funded by UKSPF;
- (iv) to continue the existing governance arrangements in respect of the UKSPF Board

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2025.

CHAIR