

Councillor Jenny Barron (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

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

Officers in attendance:-

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)
I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance
W J Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

C44 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2026 were agreed as a true and correct record.

C45 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M G Dodson, A D Hobbs, E G R Jones, A M Loughran, J A Nixon, and S N Spencer.

C46 Announcements

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

- Charity Afternoon Tea to be held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at the Riverside Restaurant, Stafford Collage, invitations to be sent in due course;
- Mayor's Civic Dinner to be held on Wednesday 29 April 2026 at Stafford Rugby Club, invitations to be sent in due course.

C47 To receive Nominations for the Offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27

RESOLVED:- that the Council receive nominations of:-

- (a) Councillor M J Winnington for the Office of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27;
- (b) Councillor F D J James for the Office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

C48 Council Tax Resolution 2026/27

Considered the report of the Section 151 Officer - Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance, proposing the level of Council Tax for 2026/27 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 noting the detail as contained within paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and the associated appendix. Continuing, the various precepts issued to the Council from the other related bodies were highlighted, with Councillor Cooke confirming that approximately 10% of the Council Tax collected was retained by the Council.

The Cabinet Member concluded his comments by proposing that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report 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
E L Carter		K M Aspin
R P Cooke		F Beatty
I D Fordham		A G Cooper

For	Against	Abstain
A T A Godfrey		B M Cross
J Hood		A P Edgeller
F D J James		P C Edgeller
R Kenney		R A James
P A Leason		P W Jones
B McKeown		L Nixon
A R McNaughton		J M Pert
D M McNaughton		M Phillips
G P K Pardesi		M J Winnington
A N Pearce		
J P Read		
A F Reid		
J T Rose		
D P Rouxel		
A J Sandiford		
J Thorley		

The Mayor declared that the proposal was duly carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposed Council Tax as set out in the Council Tax Resolution (as detailed in appendix 1 of the report) be approved.

C49 Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy 2026/27

Considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) and Section 151 Officer seeking approval of:-

- the Prudential and Treasury Indicators;
- the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2026/27;
- the Treasury Management Policy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2026/27.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report highlighting the details as contained within paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and the associated appendices. It was confirmed that the Council was debt free with no borrowing anticipated, and had a fully financed capital programme.

Councillor Cooke concluded his comments by thanking Officers of the Finance department for their efforts in this area of work, before proposing that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report 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 Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2026/27;
- (c) the Treasury Management Policy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2026/27.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) undertook to provide Members with detail regarding Section 106 monies as detailed in the table on page 17 of the agenda.

C50 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026-27

Considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) and Section 151 Officer seeking approval of the proposed changes to the Council's Local Council Tax Reduction scheme with effect from 1 April 2026.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report highlighting the detail as contained within paragraphs 2, 3, 5 together with the consultation results in the associated appendix.

Councillor Cooke concluded his comments by proposing that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report 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 report be noted;

- (b) the following changes be adopted:-
- (i) increases in Income Band Thresholds, in line with changes to Universal Credit to increase the standard allowance by more than inflation and to remove the 2-child limit;
 - (ii) protection for disabled Universal Credit claimants, who receive other incomes in addition to Universal Credit;
 - (iii) closing a potential loophole in respect of, usually self-employed, claimants who earn less than the minimum wage;
 - (iv) disregarding certain payment types relating to LGBT compensation scheme for armed forces, in line with national benefits;
 - (v) extending the period of time for which a claimant can receive LCTR whilst temporarily away from home, in 'war-torn' areas.

C51 Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2026-27

Considered the report of the Head of Business Support and Assurance.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report highlighting the details as contained within paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and the associated appendix before proposing that the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of the report 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 Pay Policy Statement as set out in appendix 1 of the report be approved.

MAYOR