

MINUTES OF CABINET

1 DECEMBER 2025

PRESENT:

Councillors Moran (Chair), C Edwards, Livesey, Mistry, O'Rourke and Robinson.

Councillors S Edwards, Lewis, McKenzie, Poole, Roodhouse, and Ward were also in attendance.

60. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26 November 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

63. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

Growth, Investment, Digital and Communications Portfolio

64. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRESS UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning an update on workstreams within the town centre regeneration programme.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the Town Centre Regeneration progress report be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

Partnerships and Wellbeing Portfolio

65. TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning proposed expenditure for the delivery of town centre public realm enhancements as part of the continued delivery of town regeneration.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

- (1) a supplementary General Fund Revenue budget of £0.066m for 2026/27 be approved to fund new public realm street enhancements, to be financed from the Town Centre Reserve; and
- (2) a supplementary General Fund Capital budget of £0.233m for 2025/26 be approved to fund new public realm street enhancements, to be financed from the Town Centre Reserve.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio

66. GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER (QUARTER 2)

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the 2025/26 General Fund financial position for both revenue and capital as at 30 September (Quarter 2) and other adjustments for approval as required by Financial Standing Orders.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council's General Fund financial position for 2025/26 be considered;
- (2) the measures identified in section 7 to combat the pressure be endorsed; and
- (3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -
 - (a) General Fund revenue virements totalling £1.257m be approved;
 - (b) the 2025/26 Disabled Facility Grant Capital allocation be increased by £0.122m in relation to the additional grant funding received; and
 - (c) the creation of a reserve for Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (EPR) be approved.

67. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER (QUARTER 2)

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the 2025/26 General Fund financial position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as at 30 September (Quarter 2) and other adjustments for approval as required by Financial Standing Orders.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council's HRA forecast financial position as at 30 September 2025/26 be noted; and
- (2) the progress in remedying additional repairs identified through the stock condition survey and tenancy health checks be noted.

68. PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025/26 AT 30 SEPTEMBER (QUARTER 2)

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning performance data for the Council as at 30 September (Quarter 2).

RESOLVED THAT – the Council's performance report at 30 September (Quarter 2) be noted.

69. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL TAX LONG-TERM EMPTY PROPERTY AND SECOND HOME PREMIUMS

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning approval for the adoption and implementation of a revised Council Tax Premium Policy for Long-Term Empty Properties (LTEPs) and a reduction in the qualification period for the Second Home Premium.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the adoption of the tiered Council Tax Premium Policy for Long-Term Empty Properties with an effective implementation date of 1 April 2026 and the reduction of the qualification period for the Second Home Premium to 1 year, with an effective implementation date of 1 April 2027, be approved.

70. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION – APPROVAL OF A NEW SCHEME FOR APRIL 2026

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 11) concerning the proposed implementation of a revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme with effect from 1st April 2026.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance stated that Cabinet was aware of changes relating to the two child benefit cap, as set out in the 2025 budget. This announcement was not known at the time the Council Tax Reduction scheme was being consulted on. The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance therefore proposed an additional recommendation giving the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance delegated authority to amend the report accordingly in advance of being presented to Council for approval.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the new income-banded Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme for working-age applicants, effective from 1 April 2026 be approved; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance to amend the report in advance of being presented to Council for approval.

71. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026/27

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning the Council's calendar of meetings for 2026/27.

RESOLVED THAT – the calendar of meetings for 2026/27, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Communities, Homes, Regulation and Safety Portfolio

72. PROPOSALS FOR SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR 2026/27 AND 2027/28

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 13) concerning proposals for the Council's continued funding of the local community and voluntary sector for 2026/27 and 2027/28.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

- (1) community association/community partnership funding will continue to be awarded to the organisations operating in the most deprived wards (as confirmed by the latest Thriving Places and Warwickshire County Council's Business Intelligence data) subject to budget setting for 2026/27 and 2027/28;
- (2) the duration of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with community associations/partnerships to change from one year to two years;
- (3) the £65,978 grant funding of the community associations, community partnerships and Rugby Foodbank for as detailed in table 1.0 be considered as part of budget setting for 2026/27 and 2027/28;
- (4) additional funding of £18,974 in 2026/27, equal to the allocation for community associations, be provided to strengthen provision in Hillmorton and Admirals Estate;
- (5) further additional funding in 2027/28 be considered for two other areas meeting the deprivation criteria, including Eastlands, with allocations equal to those provided for Hillmorton and Admirals Estate;
- (6) each eligible community association/partnership will continue to be allocated £1,000 to administer, in consultation with local Ward Members, as microgrants (£300 or less) to small grassroots organisations developing initiatives within their ward;
- (7) a £10,000 Community Supermarket research and development reserve (approved in December 2024), be carried forward to continue work around tackling food insecurity in Rugby;
- (8) a ringfenced reserve of £10,000 be set aside in 2026/27 and 2027/28 as an enabling budget to help RBC with surveys and research to inform and support the sector; and
- (9) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Communities and Homes and the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance to determine final grant terms.

73. REVIEW OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPO)

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Regulation and Safety (Part 1 – agenda item 14) concerning a six-week public consultation on the proposed

re-adoption of the Borough's preceding Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) following review for continued suitability.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the draft public space protection orders (PSPOs) attached as Appendices 1-3 for public consultation be approved; and
- (2) the draft public space protection orders (PSPOs) in Appendices 1-3 in this report to be circulated for 6 weeks for public consultation, after which the outcome of consultation will be reported back for consideration of formal adoption.

74. FIRE SAFETY UPGRADE WORKS

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 15) concerning the proposed approval of a recurring capital budget of £0.075m for ongoing fire safety compliance of the Town Hall.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) a recurring General Fund supplementary capital budget of £0.075m per annum be approved and added to the capital programme from 2025/26 onwards to fund a rolling programme of mandatory fire safety work; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer (Communities & Homes) to implement the approved works.

Operation and Traded Services Portfolio

75. FOOD WASTE STAFFING AND RESOURCES

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Operations and Traded Services (Part 1 – agenda item 16) concerning proposed funding of staffing and resources for the implementation of food waste collections.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) a General Fund revenue budget of £0.916m for 2026/27, as detailed within section 3 and inclusive of the DEFRA grant funding, for the new food waste collection service, be approved; and
- (2) additional staff be added to the Council's establishment. The new service will require 9x Drivers, 9x Loaders, a Supervisor and a Workshop Fitter.

CHAIR