



24 December 2025

## EXTRAORDINARY CABINET – 8 JANUARY 2026

An extraordinary meeting of Cabinet will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 8 January 2026 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Rugby.

*Members of the public may also view the meeting via the livestream available on the Council's website.*

Dan Green  
Chief Executive

### A G E N D A PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Apologies.

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest.

To receive declarations of –

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

***Note: Councillors are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest, the Councillor must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.***

***Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Councillor does not need to declare this interest unless the Councillor chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Councillor does not wish to speak on the matter, the Councillor may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.***

3. Question Time

Notice of questions from the public should be delivered in writing or by e-mail to the Chief Executive at least three clear working days prior to the meeting (no later than Friday 2 January 2026)

4. Report - Resourcing for the 2026 Elections and LGR.

***Any additional papers for this meeting can be accessed via the website.***

The Reports of Officers are attached.

**Membership of Cabinet:**

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

**CALL-IN PROCEDURES**

*Publication of the decisions made at this meeting will normally be within three working days of the decision. Each decision will come into force at the expiry of five working days after its publication. This does not apply to decisions made to take immediate effect. Call-in procedures are set out in detail in Standing Order 15 of Part 3c of the Constitution.*

***If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Claire Waleczek, Democratic and Support Services Manager (01788 533524 or e-mail [claire.waleczek@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:claire.waleczek@rugby.gov.uk)). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.***

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Report Title:** Resourcing for the 2026 Elections and LGR

**Name of Committee:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 8 January 2026

**Report Director:** Chief Executive

**Portfolio:** Finance and Performance, Legal and Governance

**Ward Relevance:** All

**Prior Consultation:** None

**Contact Officer:** Dan Green, Chief Executive

**Public or Private:** Public

**Report Subject to Call-In:** Yes

**Report En-Bloc:** No

**Forward Plan:** Yes

**Corporate Priorities:** This report relates to the following priority(ies):  
 A Healthier Rugby – To support people to live healthier, longer, and more independent lives.  
 A Thriving Rugby – To deliver a thriving economy which brings Borough-wide investment and regenerates Rugby Town Centre.  
 A Greener Rugby – To protect the environment and ensure the Borough adapts to climate change.  
 A Fairer Rugby – To reduce inequalities and improve housing across the Borough.  
[Corporate Strategy 2025-2035](#)  
 This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but concerns internal resourcing.

**Summary:** Cabinet to determine whether to inform Government about its available resources to perform 2026 Elections and LGR.

**Financial Implications:** See the report

**Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:** See the report

**Environmental Implications:** None

<b>Legal Implications:</b>	See the report
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	None
<b>Options:</b>	See the report
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p>It is recommended that the Cabinet determines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) If it wishes to request that the Government postpone the local elections scheduled to take place on 7 May 2026 and if they consider that postponement would release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation;</li> <li>b) And if it does, to delegate to the Chief Executive to make a submission to the Minister, stating that the Council requests the local election scheduled to take place on 7 May 2026 are postponed and that they consider that the postponement would release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons for Recommendation:</b>	The Cabinet should make a decision and respond to the Government before the deadline of midnight on 15 January 2026 to provide clarity on the matter.

**Cabinet - 8 January 2026**

**Report on Resourcing for the 2026 Elections and LGR**

**Public Report of the Chief Executive**

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Cabinet determines:

- a) If it wishes to request that the Government postpone the local elections scheduled to take place on 7 May 2026 and if they consider that postponement would release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation
- b) And if it does, to delegate to the Chief Executive to make a submission to the Minister, stating that the Council requests the local election scheduled to take place on 7 May 2026 are postponed and that they consider that the postponement would release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation.

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. The Council is scheduled to have elections for one third of the seats on the Council on 7 May 2026.
- 1.2. It is understood that several local authorities have made requests to the Government to suspend these elections due to the potential impact or disruption upon the progress of authorities work towards the major local government reorganisation work stream.
- 1.3. This report to Cabinet invites Cabinet to determine if it wishes to inform the Government that postponing the May 2026 elections would release resources which would better enable Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- 1.4. Regardless of whether the Council has elections in May 2026, the Council will be organising 5 Parish Council elections which will happen on 7 May 2026.

1.5. This is a decision for Cabinet because the Council constitution determines that the Cabinet has general responsibility for the effective management and resources of the Council. This is set out in Part 2A, #5.3.4 – Appendix 1.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1. It is recommended that Cabinet determines:

- a) If it wishes to request that the Government postpones the local elections scheduled to take place on 7 May 2026 and if they consider that postponement would release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation;
- b) And if it does, to delegate to the Chief Executive to make a submission to the Minister, stating that the Council requests the local election scheduled to take place on 7 May 2026 are postponed and that they consider that the postponement would release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1. The Cabinet should make a decision and respond to the Government before the deadline of midnight on 15 January 2026 to provide clarity on the matter.

## **4. Details**

4.1. Local elections are due to take place in the Borough on 7 May 2026 for one third of the seats in the council.

4.2. 2026 is likely to see considerable activity in Warwickshire regarding local government reorganisation (LGR). There will be a government statutory public consultation on proposals for new unitary arrangements in February 2026.

4.3. On 18 December 2025 the Local Government Minister, Alison McGowan MP made a statement inviting affected councils to set out their views on the postponement of May 2026 elections in their area, and if they consider that postponement would release essential capacity to deliver local government reorganisation – Appendix 2. A letter was sent to all affected Council leaders – Appendix 3.

- 4.4. The Government said that they are concerned about the capacities of the affected local authorities to run the May 2026 elections alongside LGR, as well as the cost to taxpayers of holding elections for councils that are due to be abolished at the end of March 2028.
- 4.5. The Minister's proposal is that the elections set for May 2026 would be delayed until May 2027.
- 4.6. On 19 December 2025 the Electoral Commission issued guidance in Appendix 4 stating that it did not think "capacity constraints are a legitimate reason for delaying long-planned elections". Vijay Rangarajan, the Commission's chief executive, said there was also "a clear conflict of interest in asking existing councils to decide how long it will be before they are answerable to voters" and that delays to elections risk "affecting the legitimacy of local decision-making".
- 4.7. The bar for postponing any elections is understandably high. Local councils are democratically accountable to their residents, and regular elections ensure that they remain accountable and responsive. This authority has chosen to undertake elections by Borough thirds, with elections taking place for council wards in three years out of four.
- 4.8. On 5 February 2025 the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon, wrote to all councils in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities inviting proposals for reorganisation. The Government made it clear that the sort of reorganisation it seeks is the creation of new big unitary authorities in order to "achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks."
- 4.9. The Government described it as the largest structural reform of local government in half a century. The reorganisation will involve officers working with other officers from across boundaries in Warwickshire, to aggregate or disaggregate complex services for local residents to ensure that from 1 April 2028 the new unitary, or two unitaries, are 'safe and legal'.
- 4.10. Members may wish to extend the case that the process of local government reorganisation will be extremely resource intensive with an overriding requirement to ensure that services to residents must be maintained alongside the major task preparing for the biggest change to local government structures in over fifty years.
- 4.11. A budget saving would also result from a decision to postpone the elections.

4.12. Any postponement of the May 2026 elections would extend the term of office of affected councillor who term ends in May 2026, up to May 2027.

4.13. The Chief Executive is the Returning Officer responsible for elections at the Council. The Chief Executive has consulted with the Election Team. The Chief Executive advises that preparations for the forthcoming elections are progressing in line with statutory requirements and Electoral Commission guidance. Key elements such as venue bookings, printing arrangements, and systems are in place, and recruitment and training of election staff plans are ready.

4.14. Further the Chief Executive states that the Election Planning is managed through an Elections Project Group which meets regularly, and an Elections Risk Register has been updated and is monitored through this mechanism. Subject to continued monitoring and mitigation, he is satisfied that the Council can deliver a lawful and transparent election, should the May 2026 elections go ahead. The Election Team are ready to deliver the 2026 elections on existing resources.

## **5. Options**

The Cabinet could:

- Agree the recommendations;
- Not agree the recommendations and provide officers with guidance on the next actions to be taken, if any.

## **6. Implications**

6.1. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

## **7. Financial**

7.1. In the event that the 2026 Elections are postponed, there would be a one-off revenue saving of circa £160,000.

7.2. If the 2026 Elections are postponed, then the Council must still enable 5 parish council elections on 7 May 2026.

## 8. Legal

8.1. Section 87 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Secretary of State the power to make an Order to change the year in which the ordinary election to a local authority takes place.

8.2. The Government will consider requests from the affected local authorities to postpone their elections. Once a decision is made, a Statutory Instrument (secondary legislation) is made to legally enact the change.

Appendix 1 - [Part 2A Terms of Reference \(TORs\) DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE](#)

Appendix 2 - [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Appendix 3 - [Local government reorganisation: letter to council leaders with elections in May 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Appendix 4 - [Electoral Commission responds to potential election postponements | Electoral Commission](#)

**Name of Meeting:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 8 January 2026

**Subject Matter:** Resourcing for the 2026 Elections and LGR

**Originating Department:** Chief Executive Office

**DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY**       YES       NO

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

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Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A