

# MINUTES OF CABINET

9 FEBRUARY 2026

## PRESENT:

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

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

## 97. MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 6 January 2026 and the extraordinary meeting held on 8 January 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.

## 98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was received from Councillor Poole.

## 99. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Item 7 of Part 1 - Council Tax Base 2026/27, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/27 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026-2030 – Councillor C Edwards (pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of her employer being named in the report).

Item 7 of Part 1 - Council Tax Base 2026/27, Draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/27 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026-2030 – Councillor O'Rourke (pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of Friends of St Cross).

Councillors C Edwards and O'Rourke left the meeting during the items in which they had declared interests and took no part in the voting and discussion thereon.

## 100. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

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

## 101. GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025 (QUARTER THREE)

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the Council's revenue and capital position as at 31 December 2025.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the Council's General Fund financial position for 2025/26 be noted; and
- (2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT General fund revenue virements totalling £0.343m be approved.

**102. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025 (QUARTER THREE)**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the Council's Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital financial position as at 31 December 2025.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the Council's forecast financial position for 2025/26 be noted; and
- (2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT Housing Revenue Account capital virement of £0.250m be approved.

**103. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2026/27, DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2026/27 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-2030**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the Council's draft General Fund revenue position for 2026/27 alongside the Medium Term Financial Plan, and the proposed Council Tax Base for 2026/27.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) it be noted that a separate report on Council tax will be presented to Council on 13 February as information is still required from Parishes, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner and also the County Council; and
- (2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -
  - (a) the new Medium-Term Financial Strategy as outlined in Section 1 of the Budget Booklet 2026/27 (Appendix A to this report) be approved;
  - (b) the new Medium-Term Financial Plan as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Budget Booklet be approved;
  - (c) the new service investment proposals for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 3 of the Budget Booklet be approved;
  - (d) the new posts as outlined in the new service investment proposals as set out in appendix 3 of the budget booklet be approved;
  - (e) the Fees and Charges as set out in the detailed schedule at Appendix 4 of the Budget Booklet be approved;
  - (f) the reserves reallocation as per Appendix 5 of the budget booklet be approved;

- (g) the Section 25 Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on Reserves, Robustness of estimates and affordability and prudence of Capital investments as set out in Appendix E is considered when making decisions on setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27; and
- (h) subject to further information becoming available and following consultation with the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, and the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance, updates on the budget be reported to Council in line with the required deadlines for the meeting on 18 February.

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

#### **104. DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2026/27 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-2030**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning a proposed HRA rent increase, the Council's draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital position for 2026/27 alongside the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan for 2026-2030.

**RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -**

- (1) the draft Revenue Budgets for 2026/27 and the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan in Appendix A and C of the Budget Booklet (Appendix A to this report) be approved inclusive of 4.8% increase in rent and service charges based on estimated costs;
- (2) the new approved Capital Budget for 2026/27 as outlined in Appendix B of the Budget Booklet be noted;
- (3) the creation of five new posts and the removal of four existing posts, and the associated changes to the Communities and Homes establishment from 2026/27 be approved; and
- (4) subject to further information becoming available and following consultation with the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, and the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance, updates on the budget be reported to Council in line with the required deadlines for the meeting on 18 February.

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

#### **105. APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS – CONSERVATIVE GROUP REPRESENTATIVES**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning the appointment of Conservative Group representatives to all working groups for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year.

**RESOLVED THAT -** members of the Conservative Group be appointed to working groups for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

**106. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED THAT** - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

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

**107. UPGRADE OF THE LEGAL SERVICES IKEN CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning the proposed upgrade of the Council’s IKEN legal case management system.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the upgrade of the Legal Services Case Management System to the IKEN Cloud version be approved; and
- (2) a one-off cost of £25,000, to be met from Legal Services income, to purchase the IKEN Cloud upgrade be approved.

**108. PURCHASE OF COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 2 – agenda item 2) concerning the proposed purchase of committee management software for the Council.

**RESOLVED THAT –** the purchase of the committee management software, to be funded from Transformation reserves, as detailed in the report, be approved.

**CHAIR**