

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
3	Minutes	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.</p>
6.a	Recommendations - Economy & Environment OSC 14 November 2024	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the recommendations on the strategic developments relating to water management and River Water Quality follow-up agenda item made by the Economy and Environment OSC at its meeting on 14 November 2024, be noted. b) That a response from Cabinet to the scrutiny recommendations be prepared using the template in appendix 1, and be brought back to the next Cabinet meeting for approval if possible within the short timescale, before sharing with the Economy and Environment OSC at their next meeting.

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7	Whitchurch Civic Centre - Options Appraisal	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>3.1 Based on the outline feasibility investigations and assessments, Cabinet agreed that the RAAC affected areas of the Civic building and Library continue to remain permanently closed due to its critical condition and delegated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. To the Executive Director of Resources to amend the capital strategy to reflect the revised implications set out within the report, to incorporate £4 million into the capital strategy to provide for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Should central government funding or other external funding be secured this would form the Council's match funding (if required) for Option 2 – construction of a new replacement facility based on the findings of a needs assessment. b. Should external funding not be secured then the proposed £4 million would be considered for Option 1 - replacement of the structural RAAC roof, consequential works, and priority capital condition improvements II. To the Head of Property and Development to oversee appropriate funding bids and the production of a detailed strategic needs assessment and analysis to establish the need of the people of Whitchurch for facilities at WCC so the future configuration of WCC is best suited to the needs of the town and its surrounding area. <p>Subject to recommendations in 3.1 I and II and the successful confirmation of appropriate funds to bring a further report back to full Council with a final recommendation</p>

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8	Proposed Response to Government Consultation - Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet considered and approved, with amendments, if necessary, the proposed consultation response as set out in Appendix 2.</p>
9	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2024/25	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Cabinet Members continue to work closely with the Chief Executive and senior officers to urgently take the necessary actions to improve further the Quarter 3 forecast of a projected spend over budget of £35.561m B. Cabinet Members discussed the impact of the projected expenditure forecast on the General Fund Balance and note the risk of further service pressures (savings required) in next year if financial performance in the current year is not improved. C. Cabinet Members noted the projected deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant and the approach to reviewing this.

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10	Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2024/25	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and considered performance dashboard information alongside this exception report. • Noted progress to date in achieving the outcomes of The Shropshire Plan (TSP) and comment as appropriate. • Confirmed that the KPIs currently agreed remain the same for Q4 of 2024/2025 and thereafter be aligned to the refresh of TSP in 2025/26.
11	Treasury Management Update Quarter 3 2024/25	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet reviewed the position as set out in the report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted that new borrowing of £25m has been taken out during quarter 3, in line with the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25. This is part of the replacement of internal borrowing (using internal balances) with external borrowing (as internal balances have been reduced). b) Noting the summary of the wider economic environment and the Council's borrowings and investments set out in Appendix A c) Noting the performance within prudential indicators for quarter 3, 2024/25 (Appendix B)

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12	Estimated Collection Fund Outturn For 2024/2025	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the overall Collection Fund estimated surplus of £4.279m for the year ending 31st March 2025, comprised of an estimated surplus of £1.676m for Council Tax and an estimated surplus of £2.603m for Non-Domestic Rates (NDR). 2. Noted the distribution of the Collection Fund estimated surplus for Council Tax and NDR to the major/relevant precepting authorities and the Secretary of State. 3. Noted Shropshire Council's share of the overall estimated surplus of £2.927m, comprised of an estimated surplus of £1.378m for Council Tax and an estimated surplus of £1.549m for NDR. 4. Noted the inclusion of Shropshire Council's share of the overall estimated deficit for Council Tax and NDR in the 2025/26 budget.

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13	Financial Strategy 2025/26 - 2029/30	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet noted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The alignment of this report with other reports on this agenda, including the Fees and Charges proposals, the proposed Capital Strategy, and the proposed Treasury Strategy; also the alignment to the position reported for the current financial year, set out in the Q3 Financial report and the Q3 Treasury Management report. ii. The analysis of the financial position of the council set out in this report and confirmed the alignment of the new proposals to the outline of the necessary actions for 2025/26 already set out in the December update to the MTFS. iii. The proposed spending reductions for 2025/26. iv. The proposed capital investment programme including the commentary on priority schemes and updates to possible future scenarios for the North West Relief Road v. The levels of reserves in recent years, the forecast levels of reserves at the end of the current year, and the plans set out to ensure the adequacy of the reserves in future years. vi. The approach of combined spending reductions and replenishment of general reserves. 2. That Cabinet continues to work with the Collaborative Budget group to recommend to Council Approval of the budget proposals, including revenue and capital budgets, and the associated strategies, subject to further amendments required by Cabinet, or identified as necessary by the Chief Finance Officer (“CFO”). 3. That Cabinet delegate to the Chief Executive acceptance of the PSDS Phase 4 grant and conclusion of necessary agreements for this. This can then be included in the Capital Programme for Council. (Set out in section 8.)

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14	Treasury Strategy 2025/26	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet recommends that Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approve, with any comments, the Treasury Strategy for 2025/26 b. Approve, with any comments, the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003. c. Approve, with any comments, the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 2 in accordance with the DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments. d. Approve, with any comments, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 3. e. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy. f. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required. g. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to increase the PRS Loan Facility from £10m to up to £30m, pending Housing Supervisory Board consultation and cabinet approval.

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15	Fees and Charges 2025/26	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet members agreed and recommended to full Council the recommendations below. Subject to agreement by Cabinet, full Council are asked to approve these recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the breakdown of the total income for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and that the proposed 2025/26 charges for discretionary services represent £55.117m of the £103.858m of income derived from Fees and Charges 2. To approve the charges for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented from 1 April 2025. 3. To note that as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to Cabinet and Council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November. 4. To note that the proposal in adult social care services for Assistive Technology and Maintenance Charges is under consultation. 5. To revise housing rents as follows (subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Social Housing rents for 2025/26 are increased by 2.7% from 7th April 2025 II. Affordable rents for 2025/26 are increased by 2.7% from 7th April 2025. III. Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April in accordance with the terms specified in the lease agreements IV. All accommodation charges for 2025/26 are increased by 2.7% from 7th April 2025. V. Service charges continue to be set based on actual cost.

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16	Determination of Admission Arrangements 2026/27	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet determined the proposed admission arrangements 2026 - 2027 for Shropshire's community and voluntary controlled schools as set out in Appendix A to this report and further approved the publication of those arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 and to the notification of this to parties specified in the Code.</p>
17	Shropshire Council consultation response to the Planning Reform Working Paper: Planning Committees..	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet considered and approved submission of the response to the Government's consultation on the proposals contained within the Planning Reform Working Paper: Modernising Planning Committees, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report. 2. That authority be given to the Assistant Director – Growth and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, to agree any additional changes to the Council's response to the consultation ahead of its submission to the Government.
18	Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2025-26	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet accepted the recommendation of Shropshire Schools Forum (as outlined in Appendix A and B) on the funding formula for Shropshire schools for the financial year 2025-26 for maintained schools, and the academic year 2025-26 for academies.</p>

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19	Shropshire Local Plan and NPPF Position Statement	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the implications of the updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular regarding the increased local housing need in Shropshire as a result of the associated updated national standard methodology; the implications for managing development in the Green Belt; and the transitional arrangements for plan making. 2. Noted that as a result of the new local housing need figure calculated as required by the updated NPPF, Shropshire cannot currently demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites. 3. Agreed that following receipt of the Local Plan Inspector's letter (ID47), and having considered the options outlined in Section 7 of this report, that the letter detailed in Appendix 1 is sent to the Inspectors as a response, and that subject to the agreement of the Inspectors the assessment processes referenced in this response are progressed in accordance with the stated Project Plan. 4. Agreed the new Local Development Scheme (LDS) included as Appendix 2. 5. Agrees that the evidence base supporting the draft Local Plan (2016-2038) is a material consideration in decision making on relevant planning applications, to support the implementation of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This will include planning applications for new development on sites proposed to be allocated in the submitted version of the Local Plan (2016- 2038)