

CABINET

Decisions of the meeting of Cabinet held on Thursday 12 February 2026 at 10.00am
in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

**PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026
(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2026)**

Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
5	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 - 2029/30	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> – that Cabinet noted:</p> <p>a) the Councils priorities to deliver our vision to protect, care and invest to create a better Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community• Everyone feels the benefit from a thriving economy• All neighbourhoods are a great place to live• Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in addressing the climate emergency• A community focussed innovative Council providing efficient, effective and quality services. <p>b) Council Tax be increased for 2026/27 by £1.20 per week for the average Band B home, supporting investment in social care services, which would continue to see Telford & Wrekin Council have the lowest Council Tax in the Midlands for the services it provides, and one of the lowest in the country.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">c) the continued strong track record of sound financial management of the Council including delivery of a balanced budget for over 17 years.d) that 70 pence in every £1 the Council spends be allocated to Social Services.e) that a number of the investments made in the report, such as Nuplace and the Growth fund, generate a financial benefit, as well as fulfilling their primary purpose, which was invested in front line services. This was equivalent to provision of over 585,000 home care hours or over 6million £2 bus fare rides.f) the savings of £195.3m delivered since 2009/10 as a result of reduced government funding from 2011 whilst the cost and demand for many Council services have been increasing and in particular for Adult Social Care.g) the changes to the Local Government Finance Settlement, which were welcomed by the Council, with the implementation of the Fair Funding Review 2.0 for 2026/27 including a multi-year settlement and an updated formula incorporating updated data for deprivation and population which would better reflect needs.h) the changes to the Business Rates System effective from 1st April 2026 which would introduce 3 new multipliers as well as a reset of the system and a revaluation.i) National and international economic pressures which had resulted in a challenging financial outlook with interest rates and inflation remaining higher than Bank of England forecasts.
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RESOLVED – that Cabinet approved:

- a) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026/27 to 2029/30 and the budget framework for 2026/27 set out in the suite of reports.
- b) a Council Tax increase of 4.99% for 2026/27 including the Government's 2% Adult Social Care precept, equivalent to £0.72 per week general Council Tax increase for the average Band B property and £0.48 per week for the ASC precept, which would be fully invested in the provision of social care services for the most vulnerable members of our community.
- c) the net investment of £15.8m into Adult Social Care and £2.7m in Children's Safeguarding in 2026/27.
- d) the budget savings listed on Appendix 9 with a total of £19.1m ongoing savings including new savings of £9.3m in 2025/26 and £11.4m in 2026/27.
- e) the continuation of work with partner organisations, including Town & Parish Councils and Voluntary Sector and Community Groups to seek to identify ways to mitigate the impact of some of the cuts to services that we can no longer afford to deliver and to note the availability of the Invest to Save/Capacity Fund which is available to support partnership working.
- f) the base budget in Appendix 7.
- g) the policy framework for Reserves and Balances and their planned use outlined in Appendix 5.
- h) the Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 13.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the endorsement of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme a link to which is included within Appendix 15, ready for implementation from 1 April 2026. j) the continuation of the Council Tax Reduction Hardship Assistance Policy. k) the revenue implications of the medium-term capital programme for the period 2026/27 – 2029/30 set out in the Capital Strategy and Programme. l) delegated authority be granted to the Director Finance, People & IDT after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services to action any virements required following the final allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant and other Grants and following the completion of the NNDR1 and final estimates of Business Rates income. m) delegated authority be granted to the Director Adult Social Care after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Integration and Transformation, to enter into appropriate Section 256 and Section 75 Agreements under the NHS Act 2006 (as amended). n) the authorisation of Director Policy & Governance to execute all necessary contract documentation including affixing of the common seal of the Council as appropriate to enable the Council to enter into appropriate Section 256 and Section 75 Agreements under the NHS Act 2006 (as amended). o) the suite of MTFs reports as the Council’s Efficiency Strategy for 2026/27, including the documentation at Appendix 12, to enable new capital receipts to be used to fund the revenue costs of transformation and
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		<p>efficiency projects as assumed throughout these reports.</p> <p>p) delegated authority be granted to the Director Finance, People & IDT after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance & Customer Services to amend the use of the contingency in 2026/27 and to make any other associated adjustments to accommodate any difference in funding between that currently assumed and final grant allocations when received.</p> <p>q) delegation authority be granted to the Director Finance, People & IDT after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance & Customer Services to make changes to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy with immediate effect to reflect all grants received from Government with authority to incur associated spend.</p> <p>r) the Pay Policy for 2026/27.</p> <p>s) the additional recommendations contained in the other reports included in the suite of Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p>
6	2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> – that Cabinet notes:</p> <p>a) the 2025/26 revenue budget position, which showed that due to the proactive in-year financial management, the Council was projecting to be within budget at year end;</p> <p>b) the estimated total reserves at the end of 2025/26 were £57.3m including the £21.7m Budget Strategy Reserve and £4.1m in General Balances which both remain unused during 2025/26;</p> <p>c) the position in relation to capital spend</p> <p>d) the collection rates for NNDR, Council Tax and Sales Ledger</p>

7	Corporate Peer Challenge 2025	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> – that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) noted and endorsed the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge which highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council was a high performing organisation; • had strong and effective leadership together with a committed workforce; • was valued by partners as an organisation that gets things done; and • had a strong performance culture underpinned by a commitment to continuous improvement. <p>b) noted and endorsed the action plan to implement the recommendations at Appendix A to the Corporate Peer Challenge 2025</p> <p>c) approved the timescales for reporting progress to Cabinet and the follow up review to be undertaken by the Local Government Association;</p> <p>d) records its thanks to the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge team who visited Telford & Wrekin Council and undertook the review.</p>
8	Telford Land Deal Update	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> – that Cabinet noted the outcomes achieved during the last 10 years since the Land Deal commenced in 2015 including over £500m of private sector investment, nearly 2500 new jobs and over 125 acres of brownfield land developed.</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Housing Investment Programme - Update & Business Plan</p>	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> – that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) noted progress made in relation to the delivery of the Housing Investment Programme including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 669 dwellings across sixteen sites, with a further 121 under construction, bringing the portfolio to 790 and providing homes for over 1,750 local people. • Diversification of the portfolio to include smaller, larger, accessible and adaptable properties to ensure resident’s needs are met as they change over time. Housing Investment Programme Update & Business Plan • Delivery of low carbon homes on sustainable sites, incorporating solar panels, EV chargers, biodiversity improvements and blue and green infrastructure. • Regeneration of circa 48 acres of brownfield land, equivalent to 27 professional football pitches. • Providing a high-quality tenancy and property management service, with 86% of tenants confirming they would recommend Nuplace to friends and family. • Generating net cumulative income to the Council of £13.8m to help protect frontline services and securing capital growth of 31% against the £93m invested (2024/25). <p>b) considered and approved the draft Housing Investment Programme Business Plan 2026, including investment in a further circa 300 new and refurbished additional homes</p> <p>c) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive as Chair of the Housing Investment Board to implement the proposals contained within the report and the associated Business Plan 2026.</p>
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10	Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> – that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approved the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030;</p> <p>b) approved the Terms of Reference for the new Shropshire Hills National Landscape Advisory Committee.</p>
11	Local Nature Reserves Update	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> – that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approved the declaration of new areas of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and amendments to existing and previously approved LNRs as outlined in the plans and the separation of two proposed LNRs into four LNRs in their own right. This would take the total number of LNRs to 27, covering around 748ha and would result in approximately 4.03ha of LNR per 1000 of the population, over four times the minimum recommended standard;</p> <p>b) delegated authority be granted process to the Director of Prosperity and Investment and Director of Policy and Governance in consultation with the Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Sustainability to complete the declaration.</p>