

Business & Finance Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
25 June 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Terms of Reference	For the Committee to agree the Terms of Reference for 2025/26.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Constitutional Function.
Outcomes: Members agreed the terms of reference for the 2025/26 municipal year.					
Work Programme	For the Committee to agree the proposed work programme for 2025/26.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Draft work programme delegated to each scrutiny committee by SMB 19 June 2025.
Outcomes: Members agreed the updated work programme for the 2025/26 municipal year.					
Housing Investment Programme - Annual Update (Nuplace)	For the Committee to receive an annual update on the Council's Housing Investment Programme, including key achievements over the last year and current progress of delivery of the programme.	Prosperity & Investment	Everyone benefits from a thriving economy. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Standing Item.
Outcomes: Members received a presentation on the Housing Investment Programme which outlined the progress made during the 2024/25 financial year.					



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17 September 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Financial Monitoring	For the Committee to receive a report on the Council's Financial Monitoring position for 2025/26	Finance, IDT & People	<p>Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.</p> <p>Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.</p> <p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	Standing Item.
Outcomes: Members received an update report outlining the Council's current financial monitoring position for the 2025/26 financial year.					



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5 November 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Growth Fund	For the Committee to review the Council’s property investment portfolio, with a specific focus on industrial units, assess how it continues to support with business growth and economic development and highlight areas of improvement.	Prosperity & Investment	<p>Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.</p> <p>Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.</p> <p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
<p>Outcomes: Members received an update on the Growth Fund, which had invested £30.5m into new industrial premises across the Borough as part of the Council’s property investment portfolio. Members heard that Growth Fund had helped to deliver sustainable units, create and safeguard approximately 415 jobs and generate a strong financial return alongside additional business rates income. The Fund had continued to address gaps in the market, attract inward investment and support the Council’s priorities to protect, care and invest.</p>					



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15 & 20 January 2026 – Committee Meeting					
Medium Term Financial Strategy (Budget)	For the Committee to consult on the draft budget & policy framework proposals published by the Leader and any alternative proposals developed by opposition groups.	Finance, IDT & People	<p>Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.</p> <p>Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.</p> <p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	To fulfil the Committee’s role as a consultee on the Council’s draft budget and to consider any alternative proposals.
<p>Outcomes: Members received the annual budget report, including the Council’s strong financial track record, major national funding changes and proposed investments, particularly in Adult and Children’s Social Care. The presentation also set out key risks, the robustness of the Council’s reserves strategy and upcoming decision-making milestones in the budget approval process. The Committee provided a response on the proposals outlined by Cabinet for inclusion in the final report to be approved by Full Council at its meeting on 26 February 2026. As no alternative budget was presented, the scheduled meeting on 20 January was agreed to be cancelled.</p>					



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11 March 2026 – Committee Meeting					
Innovative Approaches to Alternative Accommodation	For the Committee to review alternative accommodation provisions within the Borough.	Prosperity & Investment People, Finance & IDT	All neighbourhoods are a great place to live. Everyone benefits from a thriving economy. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item/Task & Finish Group	Scene setting to receive outline proposal for working group.
Outcomes:					
Telford Land Deal*	For the Committee to receive an update on the Telford Land Deal, considering the financial impact on the Council and its value for money.	Prosperity & Investment	Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community. Everyone benefits from a thriving economy. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Standing Item.
Outcomes:					

*Item to be removed from work programme due to the conclusion of 10 year term and the number of substantive items on the work programme.



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Workshops					
Adult Social Care	For the Committee to review the additional spend and budget pressures within Adult Social Care, understand the drivers behind increased demand and complexity, and consider the Council's approach to managing these pressures within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.	Adult Social Care People, Finance & IDT	Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services. Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.	Workshop	New suggestion received for the work programme following November Committee Meeting. To be scheduled to coincide with budget consultation meetings in January.
Outcomes: Members received an update on the Adult Social Care (ASC) budget position, including increasing demand pressures driven by an ageing population, rising complexity of needs and market-wide cost challenges. They heard how ASC represents nearly half of the Council's total net budget and were briefed on the cost improvement plan and the financial model for 2026/27, including proposed investment and fee-related pressures. The Committee noted both the scale of the budget challenge and the mitigation strategy focused on prevention, market management, and maximising independence.					
Arthog	For the Committee to review the Arthog Outdoor Education Centre, focusing on financial sustainability and the educational and social value	Education & Skills Prosperity & Investment	Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community. A community-focussed, innovative council	Workshop	New suggestion received for the work programme following November Committee Meeting.



	delivered to ensure long-term viability and value for money to schools and community groups.		providing efficient, effective and quality services.		
<p>Outcomes: Members received an overview of the Arthog Outdoor Education Centre’s operation, financial context and the findings of the recent external review, which highlighted opportunities to increase income, update facilities, and improve occupancy. They heard that despite a strong reputation and high repeat bookings, the centre faces significant pressures from an evolving outdoor education market and ageing infrastructure. The Committee noted the proposed improvement options and efficiency measures already underway, including staffing changes, catering improvements and targeted marketing to expand the centre’s customer base.</p>					



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To be scheduled					
Leisure Services	For the Committee to undertake a review of the leisure service offer to better understand how to ensure the Council offer continues to remain responsive to resident needs and is operated efficiently and effectively.	Prosperity & Investment Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Workshop	New suggestion received for the work programme.
Outcomes:					
Pride in Our High Street	For the Committee to review the impact of the Pride in Our High Street programme and how the scheme has supported local businesses/traders.	Prosperity & Investment	Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community. Everyone benefits from a thriving economy. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Carried forward from 2024/25.
Outcomes:					

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To be scheduled					
Wellington Market Regeneration	For the Committee to review the Council's investment into the regeneration of Wellington Market focusing on the support provided to businesses/traders and the wider economic impact on the town.	Prosperity & Investment	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.</p> <p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
Outcomes:					

