



CABINET

19 March 2025

A meeting of the CABINET will be held on Thursday, 27th March, 2025, 6.00 pm in Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth

A G E N D A

NON CONFIDENTIAL

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)

3 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Members' interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

When Members are declaring a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.

4 Question Time:

To answer questions from members of the public pursuant to Executive Procedure Rule No. 13

5 Matters Referred to the Cabinet in Accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

- a **Report of the Chair of Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee (Pages 9 - 12)**
- b **Report of the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny (Pages 13 - 16)**

6 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider excluding the Press and Public from the meeting by passing the following resolution:-


“That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public”

At the time this agenda is published no representations have been received that this part of the meeting should be open to the public.

7 UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26 (To Follow)

(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Heritage and Local Economy)

Yours faithfully



Chief Executive

Access arrangements

If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk. We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.

Filming of Meetings

The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.

If a member of the public is particularly concerned about being filmed, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat.

FAQs

For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)

To Councillors: C Dean, D Foster, N Arkney, B Clarke, S Daniels and L Smith.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 6th MARCH 2025

PRESENT: Councillors C Dean, D Foster, N Arkney, B Clarke, S Daniels and L Smith

The following officers were present: Stephen Gabriel (Chief Executive), Rob Barnes (Executive Director Communities), Joanne Goodfellow (Interim Executive Director Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor S Daniels arrived at 18.05pm

123 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th February 2025 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor N Arkney and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)

124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

125 QUESTION TIME:

None

126 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES

None

127 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

The chair noted that the report was written as the report of the Chief Executive but should be the report of the Leader of the Council to present the initial

proposals for Tamworth Borough Council's response to the Government's plan for local government reorganisation and devolution. The report recommends that the Cabinet approve the initial proposals for submission to Government by 21 March, consider other potential options, and authorise the development of a final proposal to be submitted by the Government's deadline of 28 November 2025.

Resolved that Cabinet approved:

1. the initial proposals as outlined in this report and explore other potential options. Additionally, the Cabinet authorise the development of a final proposal to be submitted by the Government's deadline of 28 November 2025
2. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated the responsibility to prepare and submit the initial proposals to the Government by the 21 March 2025 deadline. This should be done in collaboration with other local authorities
3. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated the authority to commission expert advice and support as needed to optimise the Council's position. This may include commissioning or cost-sharing with other authorities as required
4. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated the authority to draw funds from the Transformation Reserve, with an allocation of up to £100k to be ringfenced. This is to enable the council to meeting legislative deadlines and ensure the council has sufficient resources to progress delivery.

(Moved by Councillor N Arkney and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

128 QUARTER 3 2024-25 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report of the Leader of the Chief Executive to provide the Committee with an overview of Council performance for the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year (October to December 2024).

It reports the council's position in relation to progress with strategic corporate plan projects and updates on the financial position, corporate risks, audits, information governance, compliments, comments, complaints and health & safety.

Resolved that Cabinet

1. endorsed the contents of the report.

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor N Arkney)

129 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning provide to an update on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for 2023/24-2053/54 that was reported to [Cabinet on 22 February 2024](#). It highlights the effects of subsequent changes in the data and underlying assumptions that underpin the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and provides an update on measures that officers are developing to take the authority forward.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. Approved the HRA Business Plan Baseline position for 2024-2054 detailed in the report and summarised in the attached presentation (Annex one)
2. Approved the HRA Delivery Plan setting out the corrective actions, noting service specific decisions on these will be referred back to Cabinet separately as indicated on the Forward plan (Annex Three)
3. Approved the potential impact of unfunded decarbonisation investment on the HRA, referring the Housing Asset Management Strategy to Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny to review ahead of a required Cabinet report on this in September 2025
4. Approved further modelling of Affordable housing supporting the Councils Corporate ambitions (set out point 3.26 & in the delivery plan at Annex three)
5. Endorsed the outcome of consultations with tenants (Annex two) resulting in the priority areas used for scenario planning; namely rent flexibility, service charges and value for money assessment around corporate recharges

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor S Daniels)

130 MUSEUM COLLECTIONS DISPOSALS

Report of Portfolio Holder for People Services, Engagement and Leisure to seek approval for the proposed dispersal / disposal of specified items from Tamworth Castle Collections in accordance with Tamworth Castle's Collections

Development Policy 2023 (Item 5. Rationalisation and Disposal and Item 16. Disposal procedures).

To seek delegated authority to support and streamline collections review processes which are required to ensure high standards of conservation care and access in accordance with museum accreditation standard

Resolved that Cabinet

1. Approved that items of unused furniture and collected fireplace surrounds be dispersed /disposed of in an ethical and appropriate manner according to national Museums Association guidelines and the updated Disposals Toolkit (2023). See Appendix 1 for summary of Tamworth Castle Museum Collections Assessments which identify objects suitable for disposal. Individual assessments are attached at Appendix 2.
2. Agreed that in accordance with ethical disposal procedures objects that are identified as suitable for disposal are reused or repurposed within community venues and offered via the Staffordshire History Network forum to museums. Objects which are not repurposed and are of suitable condition may be auctioned.
3. Approved that delegated authority is given to the Portfolio Holder for People Services, Engagement and Leisure, Executive Director Communities, Executive Director Finance, Assistant Director for Regeneration and Growth and the Castle Museum and Archives Manager to approve further necessary disposals identified through collections review processes.

(Moved by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor D Foster)

Leader

Cabinet

27th March 2025

Report of the Chair of Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny

Matters referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

Scrutiny Committee	Title of Matter referred	Date of Scrutiny meeting
Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee	Improving Water Quality Within Tamworth's Rivers	18 th February 2025

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To notify Cabinet of the recommendations from the Improving Water Quality Within Tamworth's Rivers item that was discussed at the meeting of Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee on the 18th February 2025.

Recommendations:

Following consideration of the item the Committee agree to the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:

1. The relevant portfolio holder along with the relevant senior officer at the Council attend the catchment partnership meetings.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor N Statham)

Background Information

The following motion was submitted to Full Council on the 28th February 2023:

According to a map produced by The Rivers Trust using the latest available public data, there has been hundreds of hours of raw sewage discharge in Tamworth during 2021.

These discharges are across multiple sites in the borough, and we are sure that residents will be shocked to find raw sewage is being dumped in local rivers in the 21st century. Residents should have access to clean rivers and open water and we very much support the steps the government is taking towards a 'polluter pays' principle when it comes to tackling river pollution.

A referral was made by Full Council to the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee to:

ask scrutiny to look into this matter and engage with local partners, environmental bodies and utility providers to develop a broader approach to improving water quality in rivers in Tamworth

The current Chair of the Committee proposed an item be added to the agenda on the 21st March 2024 which was agreed. As a result this meeting has been arranged to bring key partners together to discuss the issue.

Executive Summary

At the meeting on the 18th February 2025 partners from the Trent Rivers Trust, Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency and Staffordshire County Council attended a meeting of the Committee.

The Committee received presentations from Trent Rivers Trust and Severn Trent Water which included data on rivers, factors affecting water quality, ideas for nature based solutions as well as information on the types of sewer systems in place and work being done by Severn Trent Water to improve water quality within rivers.

Discussions were held around the who was responsible for different water courses and what consideration is given to new planning developments where it was explained that larger (main rivers) are the responsibility of the Environment Agency whilst smaller water courses which flow into larger course (ditches/streams) are looked after by the County Council as the lead local flood authority however but they do not maintain these, this is the landowners duty and responsibility (riparian ownership responsibilities). It was also confirmed that Severn Trent Water was not a statutory consultee for planning. Clarification was sought around work being done on flood defences and it was highlighted that the Environment Agency were currently working on a new flood defence scheme.

The importance of 'catchments' was discussed as water can come together from different areas which can be rural and urban, and that it was important to work with neighbouring authorities to agree on a policy to support local rivers. Trent Rivers Trust confirmed that they support local catchment meetings and encourage Tamworth Borough Council to attend a meeting and encourage partners to attend as well. The Committee moved a recommendation to ask Officers to attend.

Options Considered

None.

Key considerations

1. Scrutiny committees have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, and the Executive (Cabinet) has a statutory duty to respond. They may also make reports and recommendations to external decision making bodies.
2. The agenda for Executive meetings shall include a standing item entitled 'Matters Referred to the Cabinet In Accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules'. The reports of overview and scrutiny committees and sub-committees referred to the Executive shall be included at this point in the agenda (unless they have been considered in the context of the Executive's deliberations on a substantive item on the agenda) within one

calendar month of the overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee completing its report/recommendations.

3. Scrutiny recommendations are addressed to the Cabinet, as the main Executive decision making body of the council (or, where appropriate, an external agency).
4. Cabinet is being asked to note the scrutiny report / recommendations and that an Executive Response to the scrutiny recommendations be prepared for consideration by the Cabinet within two months from receiving the report or recommendations.
5. The minutes of the meeting of the scrutiny committee provide the record of the scrutiny committee's consideration of the issue and the scrutiny recommendations made during the meeting.
6. The scrutiny committee will be notified of the Executive Response made in respect to the scrutiny recommendations and may track the implementation of the Cabinet decisions and any actions agreed. This enables the scrutiny committee to track whether their recommendations have been agreed, what actually was agreed (if different) and review any outcomes arising

Report Author

Councillor M Couchman
Chair of Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny

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27th March 2025

Report of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**Matters referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

Scrutiny Committee	Title of Matter referred	Date of Scrutiny meeting
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny	Update on Housing Damp and Mould	11 th February 2025

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To notify Cabinet of the report and recommendations from the Update on Housing Damp and Mould item that was discussed at the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 11th February 2025

Recommendations**Following consideration of the item the Committee agree to the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:**

1. That the literature around damp and mould is reviewed to make it more accessible to people with a visual impairment

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor C Bain)

Back Ground Information

At the meeting on the 18th September 2024 the Committee requested an update on the Councils position on Damp and Mould further to the recommendations made to Cabinet in January 2024 as part of the cross party Housing Repairs Working Group through Corporate Scrutiny:

- To add additional resource to TBC repairs team; when a MLDINS code is inputted for a property a manual lookback at the history of repairs for that property be conducted to identify if this Damp and/or Mold has been a previous issue at the property, or for the tenant at a previous property.
- That the Damp & Mould inspection process become part of the repairs policy.
- To ensure that vulnerable residents are prioritised when there are damp and mould issues within the home.

On the 21st January 2024 the recommendations were approved with Cabinet asking that with regards to recommendation 3 there would need to be some work around specific wording as to what would constitute priority.

It was initially agreed that the update would come to Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny in November 2024 however this was deferred until February 2025, however a meeting was held between the Chair and the Assistant Director to provide an update.

Executive Summary

On the 11th February 2025 the Assistant Director Assets and the Portfolio Holder for Housing Homelessness and Planning attend the Committee meeting to present the report to update the Committee on the Councils approach to damp and mould.

The Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the report and an update on figures.

Discussions were had around whether there were any common trends identified in terms of property types/areas; what horizon planning was being done and whether work was being done to look at green models? Clarification was sought around the stock condition survey and the Committee provided their comments on the quote within the report that; *'consideration is to be given as whether the question of health should be asked of tenants reporting damp and mould'*?

The Committee were interested in what information was available to residents around damp and mould particularly for those who do not have access to the internet? It was confirmed that there was literature available. This prompted a discuss around whether the literature was suitable for those who are visually impaired. The Officer confirmed that they were not aware if the literature was. As a result of the discussion a recommendation was moved to ask Cabinet to review the literature around damp and mould to ensure it is accessible to the visually impaired.

Options Considered

None.

Key considerations

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3. Scrutiny recommendations are addressed to the Cabinet, as the main Executive decision making body of the council (or, where appropriate, an external agency).

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Report Author

Councillor Chris Bain

Chair of Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny

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