

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2026

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chair)

Councillors M B Wyatt, T Gillard, K Merrie MBE, N J Rushton, A C Saffell and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors A Barker, D Cooper, J Legrys and P Moulton

Officers: Mrs A Thomas, Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Ms B Leonard, Mr Z Fazil, Mr P Stone, Mrs C Hammond and Ms H Panter

101. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

102. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

103. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

104. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2026.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie, seconded by Councillor N Rushton and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of proceedings.

Reason for decision: The Cabinet (Executive) Procedure Rules required that the minutes of the previous meeting are considered and confirmed as a correct record.

105. MINUTES OF THE COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY - 7 OCTOBER 2025 AND 2 DECEMBER 2025

It was agreed with the Chair that items 5 and 6 were adjoined and presented as one item.

The Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder presented the reports.

A member commented that as there was a slight increase in the number of reserves for the Working Party, Coalville ward members hoped to put positive projects forward and additional events, particularly around Christmas time.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor M Wyatt and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The minutes of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party from the 7 October and 2 December 2025 be noted.

Chair's initials

- 2) The recommendation of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party detailed at section 3.2 within the report be approved.

Reason for decision: As a non-decision making body, the role of the working party is to consider budget and financial issues, and possible project options which affect the Coalville special expenses area, and to make recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendations on that basis.

106. 2026/27 ROBUSTNESS OF BUDGET ESTIMATES

The Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder presented the report.

Comments from Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the report were considered and acknowledged in turn.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie, seconded by Councillor N Rushton and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The S151 Officer's advice set out in section 7 of the report and carefully considered the content of the report as part of approving the General Fund budget report 2026/27, the Housing Revenue Account budget 2026/27 report and the Capital strategy and Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 be noted
- 2) The Corporate Scrutiny Committee comments and Officer responses as detailed in appendix A were considered.

Reason for decision: The requirement for local authorities to produce a robustness of budget estimates report, as stated in Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, directly supports the Council's Constitution by upholding principles of sound financial governance and accountability. The Constitution sets out the framework for financial management, including budget preparation, monitoring, and control. By ensuring that the Section 151 Officer formally reports on the adequacy of reserves and the robustness of budget estimates, this statutory obligation reinforces the constitutional duty for transparency, informed decision-making, and prudent stewardship of public funds. It enables Cabinet members to comply with their responsibilities under the Constitution to maintain the Council's financial sustainability and to act in the best interests of residents.

107. CAPITAL STRATEGY, TREASURY STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2026/27

The Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder presented the report.

Comments from Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the report were considered and acknowledged in turn. The Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder ensured that actions that arose from C2 and C6 would be completed.

The recommendations were amended to include an allocation of £250,000 per year for play park improvements across North West Leicestershire.

A member spoke in support of the allocation of funds to play park improvements across North West Leicestershire, citing that it was a really good idea.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie, seconded by Councillor N Rushton and

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RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The attached strategies (appendix 1-4) be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval at its meeting on 19 February 2026.
- 2) Authority be delegated to the Section 151 officer, in consultation with the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder to make amendments to the strategies prior to consideration at Council on 19 February 2026 in response to any requests from Portfolio Holders in respect of their portfolios.
- 3) The Corporate Scrutiny Committee comments and officer responses as detailed in appendix 5 were considered.
- 4) £250,000 per year be allocated for play park improvements across North West Leicestershire.

Reason for decision: To meet the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Government.

108. 2026/27 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX

The Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder presented the report.

Comments from Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the report were considered and acknowledged in turn.

In response to C1, the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder informed Cabinet that there would be a temporary 2 hours of free car parking at Money Hill, Ashby until completion of the car parking review. He also ensured that actions that arose from C3 and C6 would be completed. In response to comments from R4, the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder informed Cabinet that the business case for Ashby Canal would go into the development pool, upon completion.

The recommendations were amended to include the approval of 2 hours free car parking at Money Hill car park in Ashby, temporarily, until the end of the car parking review.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie, seconded by Councillor N Rushton and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The proposed General Fund budget as detailed in this report and attached appendices be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval at its meeting on 19 February 2026.
- 2) The contribution to a contingency budget as detailed in appendix 1 be approved and responsibility delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources (Section 151 officer) and the relevant portfolio holder to incur expenditure under that budget.
- 3) The fees and charges as set out in appendix 3 be approved.

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- 4) Authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Finance and Corporate portfolio holder to make amendments to the budget prior to its consideration at Council on 19 February 2026 in response to any requests from portfolio holders in respect of their portfolio.
- 5) The creation of a £2m legacy fund to support communities with capital and revenue projects be approved.
- 6) The Corporate Scrutiny Committee comments and recommendations as detailed in appendix 7 were considered.
- 7) Temporary provision of two hours of free car parking be put in place at Ashby Money Hill Car Park until the completion of a district wide car parking review.

Reason for decision: Under the Constitution Cabinet is responsible for drawing up budget proposals for consideration by Full Council. Cabinet is also responsible for setting fees, charges and concession policies.

109. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENTS 2026/27

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report.

Comments from Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the report were considered and acknowledged in turn.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor N Rushton and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Housing Revenue budget be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval at its meeting on 19 February 2026;
- 2) The fees and charges as set out in appendix 3 be approved;
- 3) Authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the portfolio holder to make amendments to the budget prior to consideration at Council on 19 February 2026 in response to any requests from portfolio holders in respect of their portfolios;
- 4) The Corporate Scrutiny Committee comments and officer responses as detailed in appendix 5 were considered.

Reason for decision: Under the Constitution Cabinet is responsible for drawing up budget proposals for consideration by Full Council. Cabinet is also responsible for setting fees, charges and concession policies.

110. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED THAT:

In pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be

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transacted involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Reason for decision: To enable the consideration of exempt information.

111. AWARD OF CONTRACT - AGENCY UMBRELLA SERVICE

The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor N Rushton, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations in the report be approved.

Reason for decision: The Contract Procedure Rules require that a contract of this value be awarded by Cabinet.

112. AWARD OF OUT OF HOURS REPAIRS HOUSING CONTRACT

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations in the report be approved.

Reason for decision: In accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, specifically Section G CPR 10.1–10.3 governing the use of frameworks and award thresholds, the total value of the contract requires a Cabinet decision

113. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS - SCOTLANDS PARK

The report was presented by the Community and Climate Change Portfolio Holder.

It was moved by Councillor M Wyatt, seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations in the report be approved.

Reason for decision: The required length of the lease to provide security of tenure for the club, allowing them to access funding is typically 10 years. A 15-year lease will provide the club with the required time to apply for funding before the length of lease drops below 10 years. A lease above seven years is considered an asset disposal. An asset disposal requires Cabinet approval.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.35 pm

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