



## **Cannock Chase Council**

### **Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 24 July 2024 at 6:00pm**

**In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock**

#### **Part 1**

Notice is hereby given of the above-mentioned meeting of the Council, which you are summoned to attend for the purpose of transacting the business set out below:

**1. Apologies**

**2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

To declare any interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Members should refer to the guidance included as part of this agenda.

**3. Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2024, minute numbers 1 – 16, page numbers 1 – 10.

**4. Questions Received from the Public Under Council Procedure Rule 4B(c)**

**(i)** The following question has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4B(c) by Phil Hewitt:

“I have been approached by a number of residents in Prospect Village, a village that has a strong community spirit with an active village hall and are concerned about the condition of their local play area.

It is in poor condition.

Would it be possible to know where Prospect Village Park is on the Council’s refurbishment matrix and when this park was last inspected?”

**5. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence**

To receive any announcements and correspondence from the Chair of the Council.

**6. Leader’s Announcements and Correspondence**

To receive any announcements and correspondence from the Leader of the Council.

**7. Form and Composition of the Cabinet 2024/25**

To receive notification from the Leader of the Council of changes to the form and composition of the Cabinet for 2024/25.

**8. Changes to Membership of Committees 2024/25**

To receive notification of proposed changes to memberships of the Council's committees for 2024/25 as submitted by the Leader of the Labour Group and the Leader of the Green Group that require approval by Council.

**9. Changes to Membership of Outside Bodies 2024/25**

To receive notification of proposed changes to membership of outside bodies for 2024/25 as submitted by the Labour Group Leader that require approval by Council.

**10. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet**

Council is requested to consider a recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 18 July 2024 in respect of the following matter:

**(i) Permission to Spend - Swimming Pool Support Fund (Cabinet 18/07/24, Draft Minute Number 23)**

"That Council be recommended to include £238,275 in the capital programme for the installation of Photo Voltaic Panels at Rugeley leisure centre."

The accompanying report for the above recommendation can be viewed on the [18 July 2024 Cabinet](#) meeting page on the Council's website.

**11. Motions Received Under Council Procedure Rule 6**

**(i) To consider the following Motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6:**

**1. Bleed Kits**

Submitted by Councillor O. Lyons (Item 9.1).

*This Motion was previously referred from the Council meeting held on 17/04/24 to Cabinet for consideration as it was considered to include financial implications.*

*The Motion was duly considered at the Cabinet meeting held on 12 June 2024 (the relevant Minute text from the Cabinet meeting is provided at the end of the motion for reference).*

**2. Supporting Out Armed Forces Community**

Submitted by Councillor Williams (Item 9.2 - 9.5).

*This Motion was previously referred from the Council meeting held on 17/04/24 to Cabinet for consideration as it was considered to include financial implications.*

*The Motion was duly considered at the Cabinet meeting held on 12 June 2024 (the relevant Minute text from the Cabinet meeting is provided at the end of the motion for reference).*

**3. Cannock Chase as a Bee Friendly District**

Submitted by Councillor Muckley (Item 9.6 - 9.7).

**12. Comments and Questions on Part 1 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9**

To receive any comments or questions submitted under Rule 9 on Part 1 Minutes of meetings of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees or Panels as included in the Minutes Record circulated alongside this agenda.

**13. Exclusion of the Public**

The Chair to move the following motion:

"That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 7, of Part 1, Schedule 12A, of the Local Government Act, 1972."

**Part 2**

**14. Comments and Questions on Part 2 Minutes of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels under Rule 9**

To receive any comments or questions submitted under Rule 9 on Part 2 Minutes of meetings of Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees or Panels as included in the Minutes Record circulated alongside this agenda.



**T. Clegg**  
**Chief Executive**

16 July 2024

## Guidance on Declaring Interests at Meetings

### Declaring Interests at Full Council

The Code of Conduct requires that where you have an interest in any business of the Council, and where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the interest, and you attend a meeting of the Council at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

The following interests must be disclosed where they may be affected by any matter arising at the meeting:

- (a) A **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** is an interest of yourself or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) in respect of employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain; sponsorship; contracts; land; licences; corporate tenancies; or securities, as defined with the Localism Act, 2011.
- (b) A **Registerable Interest** includes any unpaid directorships or any body of which you are a member, or are in a position of general control, and (i) to which you are appointed by the Council, or (ii) which exercises functions of a public nature, or (iii) which is directed to charitable purposes, or (iv) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy.
- (c) A **Non-Registerable Interest** is any other matter affecting your financial interest or well-being, or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate.

Where the matter **directly relates** to the interest, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where the matter **affects** the interest, but does not **directly relate** to it, you can remain in the meeting and take part **unless** the matter affects the financial interest or well-being to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision, and a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

### Please make the nature of the interest clear to the meeting

It would be helpful if, prior to the commencement of the meeting, Members informed the Monitoring Officer of any declarations of interest, of which you are aware. This will help in the recording of the declarations in the Minutes of the meeting.

Some items will be mentioned in the papers for full Council but are not actually being considered by Full Council. In such circumstances the Monitoring Officer's advice to Members is that there is no need to declare an interest unless the particular matter is mentioned or discussed. As a general rule, Members only need to declare an interest at full Council in the following circumstances:

- Where a matter is before the Council for a decision and/or
- Where the matter in which the Member has an interest is specifically mentioned or discussed at the Council meeting.

**Cannock Chase Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council**  
**Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock**  
**On Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Part 1**

**Present (Former Councillors):**

Pearson, A.R. (Outgoing Chair)

Foley, D. (Outgoing Vice-Chair)

**Present (Councillors):**

Aston, J.	Johnson, T. (Leader)
Bancroft, J.	Jones, V.
Bishop, L.	Lyons, N.
Boulton, C.	Lyons, O.
Bullock, L.	Mawle, D.
Cartwright, S.	Muckley, A.
Craddock, R.	Newbury, J.
Dunnett, M.	Page, H.
Elson, J.	Preece, J.
Fisher, P.	Prestwood, F.
Fitzgerald, A.	Prestwood, J.
Freeman, M.	Samuels, G.
Gaye, D.	Sutherland, M.
Haden, P.	Thornley, S.
Hill, J.	Thornley, S.J.
Hill, J.O.	Todd, D.
Hughes, G.	Williams, D.
Johnson, J.	Wilson, L.

**1. Outgoing Chair's Remarks**

**(i) New and Re-elected Councillors**

The following newly elected Members were welcomed on to the Council:

- Councillor L. Bullock, Hawks Green with Rumer Hill Ward.
- Councillor R. Craddock, Cannock Longford and Bridgtown Ward.
- Councillor M. Freeman, Cannock Longford and Bridgtown Ward.
- Councillor D. Gaye, Western Springs Ward.

- Councillor G. Hughes, Western Springs Ward.
- Councillor H. Page, Hednesford Hills and Rawnsley Ward.
- Councillor G. Samuels, Hednesford Green Heath Ward.
- Councillor S. Thornley, Cannock Park and Old Fallow Ward.
- Councillor D. Todd, Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Ward.

All other Members who were re-elected as part of the all-out elections held on 2 May 2024 were then warmly welcomed back.

**(ii) Former Councillors**

At the Council meeting held on 17 April, thanks were given to those Members who were retiring at the May election, for their service and dedication to the residents of Cannock Chase and this Council.

Those former Members were acknowledged again for their service to the District and Council, along with those Members who had lost their seats at the recent election:

- P. Stanton - 1 years service.
- P.G.C. Jones - 3 years service.
- B. Kenny - 1 year and 6 months service.
- P. Kruskonjic - 3 years service.
- A. Pearson - 11 years service (2012 to 2021 and 2022 to 2024).
- P. Theodorou - 2 years service.
- M. Boyer - 1 years service.
- P.T. Jones - 2 years service.
- P. Johnson - 1 year and 9 months service.
- D. Foley - 5 years service (2015 to 2019 and 2023 to 2024).
- P. Owen - 5 years service (1992 to 1996 and 2023 to 2024).
- C. Frew - 3 years service.
- L. Arduino - 3 years service.
- M. Hoare - 7 years service (2015 to 2019 and 2021 to 2024).
- M. BATTERY - 10 years service.

Certificates of recognition of service had been produced and the following former councillors present were called forward to collect their certificates from the Chair:

- P.T. Jones.
- P. Kruskonjic.
- M. BATTERY.
- P.G.C. Jones.
- C. Frew.
- D. Foley.

Certificates for those former councillors not present would be sent to them separately.

*The Leader then presented the outgoing Chair with his certificate of service.*

### **(iii) Review of the Year**

It had been a privilege to represent the District of Cannock Chase as Chair of the Council once again, having first held office in 2014-15, and he hoped he had done the Council and District proud.

It had been another year to fondly remember, and one that the Chair and his Consort and wife, had thoroughly enjoyed. He had the opportunity to open a new coffee shop in the District, noting it was encouraging to see that during difficult times, the District continued to attract new business into the area. It had also been pleasing for the Chair to see that the Council had continued to deliver its services to residents during these challenges times, and had been able to continue its good work in areas such as the Council's parks by retaining its Green Flag awards.

The experiences gained through holding a civic role were often things a Chair would not ordinarily get the chance to participate in, and it was really a role held in high esteem by those in the position and brought home the importance of being out in the community.

However, it was also a role that benefited greatly from the wider support of others and therefore thanks were given to the Consort, all elected Members and officers for their support and encouragement during this time and the soon to be newly elected Chair wished success in their role.

### **(iv) Chair's Charities**

At the start of the year 2023/24 civic year the Chair had announced that his charity to fundraise for during the year would be Tree of Hope. This charity had been chosen after reading in the Cannock Chronicle newspaper about a schoolgirl from Cannock who had been diagnosed with a rare condition, Friedrich's ataxia, and needed a new wheelchair to enable her to get outside more. This rare condition could affect mobility, fine and gross motor skills, speech, eyesight, hearing, heart function, and the endocrine system.

The children's charity Tree of Hope helped families to fundraise for children with healthcare needs, and the Chair was so moved by the story that it was easy to make the decision to choose this charity to fundraise for.

The schoolgirl (Caitlin), her sister and mum (Emma) were present at the meeting to collect the monies raised on behalf of the charities. It was understood how difficult it was for charities to fundraise and receive donations in the current climate and it was hoped the fundraising donation would go some way in supporting the invaluable work that Tree of Hope did.

Accordingly, Caitlin, her sister and mum were called forward to receive the donation and thanked for taking the time to attend this evening.

### **(v) Youth Endeavour Award**

The final item prior to the commencement of the formal business of the meeting was the presentation of the Youth Endeavour Award.

The award was given to a young person between the ages of 11 and 18 who lived in the District and had made an outstanding contribution to their community, shown great bravery, or helped others in some way. The Council believed that such people should be recognised and encouraged and be proud of their achievements.

From the nominations received this year, it was decided the award should go to a young man by the name of Jack Gilbert, who was nominated for the award by Miss Hinton, year 10 progress leader at Kingsmead School.

The Chair then read out a citation provided by Miss Hinton as part of the nomination.

Whilst it was never an easy job to choose a winner, Jack's nomination stood out. It was clear that he and his family had been through a very difficult and worrying time, yet the Chair was astounded by the bravery of Jack and his determination to not let the difficulties he had, and continued to face, stop him. It was also wonderful to hear that Jack was on track to succeed in his GCSEs and was wished luck in them.

It was an honour to have the opportunity to meet Jack and his family and to present a very kind and caring young man with the award. Jack was a great role model to the community. Jack was then called forward to collect the youth endeavour award and all Members joined in congratulating him.

## **2. Apologies**

None.

## **3. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

## **4. Election of a Chair of the Council**

Councillor J. Prestwood nominated Councillor S. (Steve) Thornley to be Chair of the Council for the 2024-25 civic year, which was seconded by Councillor S.J. (Sue) Thornley.

The Chair asked if there were any other nominations.

Councillor Elson nominated Councillor Muckley to be the Chair of the Council for the 2024-25 civic year, which was seconded by Councillor Bishop.

The matter was then put to a vote.

### **Resolved:**

That Councillor S. Thornley be elected Chair of the Council for the 2024-25 civic year.

Councillor S. Thornley read and signed the Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

The new Chair thanked Members for appointing him as Chair for the forthcoming year and looked forward to representing the Council and the people of the District.

The new Chair announced that his chosen charities for the year would be S.N.A.P. and the 1<sup>st</sup> Blackfords Sea Scouts. These charities had been chosen as their respective facilities required refurbishment and upgrades to help them continue to serve residents and communities in the District.

The new Chair then advised he was pleased to accept the role, thanked the previous Chair for his work and gave commiserations to Councillor Muckley, who he felt sure would be an excellent Chair in the future.

The new Chair then noted he and the Council were there to serve the residents of the District and give them a better life, working to make the right decisions and achieve that aim if all Members worked together to do so.



*(Councillor S. Thornley in the Chair)*

**5. Election of a Vice-Chair of the Council**

Councillor Muckley nominated Councillor Elson to be the Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2024-25 civic year, which was seconded by Councillor Bishop.

The Chair asked if there were any other nominations.

Councillor J.O. (Jeff) Hill nominated Councillor F. Prestwood to be the Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2024-25 civic year, which was seconded by Councillor Williams.

The matter was then put to a vote.

**Resolved:**

That Councillor F. Prestwood be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2024-25 civic year.

Councillor F. Prestwood read and signed the Acceptance of Office.

**6. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 April 2024 be approved as a correct record.

**7. The Chair's Announcements and Correspondence**

None.

**8. Office of Leader of the Council**

Councillor Bullock nominated Councillor T. Johnson to be the Leader of the Council, which was seconded by Councillor Dunnett.

No other nominations were received, and so the matter was duly put to a vote.

**Resolved:**

That Councillor T. Johnson be elected Leader of the Council to hold office in accordance with the Constitution.

Councillor T. Johnson read and signed the Acceptance of Office.

**9. Form and Composition of the Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor T. Johnson, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Cabinet for 2024-25.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Johnson, T.	Leader of the Council
Newbury, J.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Regeneration and High Streets Portfolio Leader
Williams, D.	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Wilson, L.	Environment and Climate Change Portfolio Leader
Thornley, S.J.	Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader
Preece, J.	Parks, Culture, and Heritage Portfolio Leader
Prestwood, J.	Resources and Transformation Portfolio Leader

## **10. Leader's Announcements and Correspondence**

### **(i) Thanks to Members**

Sincere thanks were given to the outgoing Chair and Vice-Chair, and congratulations to the newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair with best wishes for the new civic year. Congratulations were also given to the worth winner of the youth endeavour award.

The Leader was again surprised to be the Council's Leader, noting he had been born in Hednesford and raised in Chadsmoor, and even a few years ago never thinking he would be in this position. He was very aware of the trust and level of responsibility that had been placed in him, and thanked the Council for electing him as its Leader.

### **(ii) Review of the Year, Election Results and New Administration**

Last year the Leader had asked that all Councillors work together for the benefit of the District and its people, noting that generally this had been the case. Thanks were given to councillors from all the political parties for their work.

Once again, the Leader asked that Members work in a manner of co-operation, cohesion, and where possible, consensus.

Administrations came and went, as did councillors. What was constant was this local authority in some form or another, and even more importantly, the people of Cannock Chase, whom the Council served.

Until the election earlier this month the Council had been under no overall control and a coalition between Labour and Green councillors enabled an Administration to be formed. Thanks were therefore given to the members of the Green party who worked with the Labour group to deliver on the agenda outlined together last year:

- The Museum of Cannock Chase was open, operating and in its present location.
- The bridges in the nature reserves had been replaced.
- Work continued to meet the Council's net zero targets. There had been significant work to raise awareness of the green agenda with events such as the Great Imagining that took place earlier this year and was a tremendous success.
- Political stability was achieved to allow the Council to set a balanced budget for the 2024-25 financial year.

Consensus had enabled the Council to being to meet the challenges set out in the report provided by the external auditors. The report told the Council that it needed to improve. The way in which to do this had been set out and implementation begun to ensure that quality services were provided for the people of Cannock Chase. Investment was taking place in ICT, systems, and finance staff, and there would be major investment in the Council's housing stock.

Regarding standards in public life, it was for the people of the District to decide if Members had met the standards expected of elected representatives. All Members should remember they had been placed in a position of trust by the people they represented and behave accordingly.

### **(iii) Major Projects**

Following Cabinet's approval on 28 March 2024 on the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) spend of up to £9m for the first phase of the Cannock town centre transformation, it was pleasing to say that progression was being made on this, including the preparation for future start on site works, on the multi-storey car park. Further information and updates would follow at future meetings.

Further to this, Cabinet was due to receive a report on the potential for phase 2 of the development of Cannock town centre, following discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Whilst any next phase would be subject to formal Government process and approvals, this provided a significant and exciting opportunity for Cannock town centre, and which continued to be the political priority for this Administration.

Whilst the focus of the LUF had been on Cannock, the Council was also aware of the needs of other locations and town centres.

So, in addition to the exciting plans, it could be announced that the Council was now engaged in discussions with external funding bodies on securing significant future economic investment in the District. Whilst the details of this funding were still being worked on, it was expected the Council could be in a position over the coming months to announce final plans. This would inject even greater growth for the District.

Added to this, coming forward would be the construction of council houses at the Aelfgar site in Rugeley.

Plans for development of the former power station site in Rugeley were progressing, along with the proposals for phase 2 of the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet.

### **(iv) Partnership Working**

The Council would be proceeding with the submission of the Local Plan to the Government over the coming months for planning inspection. The Local Plan covered much more than development, it was also a means by which the Council could protect the environment, open spaces, heritage, and culture. Subject to the outcome of any such process and all necessary approvals of Council as required, this would provide the key development plan for the future of the District. Providing further certainty and confidence for the District, including to those looking to invest and grow here. Members would note the relevance of the Local Plan to the points made previously.

As a sign of the strong partnership and commitment the Council had to South Staffordshire College, the Council engaged with a recent Ofsted inspection. It was pleasing to report that the College had been rated 'Good' overall from the inspection. Not only was the Council proud of the overall 'Good' outcome, but the College was also rated good for every key judgement and provision type, including for apprenticeships, which many seemed to struggle to achieve nationally.

This was a great demonstration of the quality of institutions here in the District for the community and students, and the Council would continue to work very closely with the College over the forthcoming year on what would be some very exciting plans.

This was on top of the multi-agency partnership work that had taken place at the College which had enabled the setting up of the Engineering Skills Academy, Digital Skills Academy, Retail Skills Academy (in partnership with Walsall College), and more recently, the Construction Skills Academy.

These initiatives would train up the District's young people for the jobs of the future, upskill the area's existing workforce and bridge the skills gap in the District.

The Council's Community Safety Partnership work would continue to safeguard vulnerable people and places across the District. Ensuring communities were safe and welcoming places for residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

Crime in the District was down by 10% in the last year, compared with 6% in the rest of Staffordshire, and working with the local police the Council's CCTV team had captured 3,372 incidents that were useful as evidence to the police in the last year.

Delivery of the Safer Streets 5 programme was underway, CCTV cameras had been upgraded and street lighting improved, and taxi marshals were working at night to ensure that people who had a good night out in Cannock town centre got home safely.

Partnership working with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles would continue to focus on health and exercise in the District, including mental health and social isolation.

#### **(v) Closing Remarks**

The Council still had a lot of challenges ahead, particularly in relation to the financial position over the next year. However, as said earlier, investment in systems and staff, and training for councillors would enable the Council to meet the challenges it faced.

Also, there were more exciting projects being developed that would enable the Council to deliver positive outcomes for the people of Cannock Chase.

It was to be an interesting, exciting, and challenging year and the Leader was sure all Members could work together for the people they served and make Cannock Chase Fairer, Greener, Safer, Healthier, and even more Prosperous.

#### **11. Leader of the Opposition**

The Chair called upon the Leader of the largest opposition group to confirm their acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor O. Lyons (Conservatives) confirmed acceptance of office as Leader of the Opposition.

#### **12. Form and Composition of the Shadow Cabinet**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor O. Lyons, notified the Council of the form and composition of the Shadow Cabinet for 2024-25:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Shadow Portfolio</b>
Lyons, O.	Leader of the Opposition
Haden, P.	Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Regeneration and High Streets Shadow Portfolio Leader
Jones, V.	Community Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader
Johnson, J.	Environment and Climate Change Shadow Portfolio Leader
Bancroft, J.	Housing and Corporate Assets Shadow Portfolio Leader
Fitzgerald, A.	Parks, Culture, and Heritage Shadow Portfolio Leader
Sutherland, M.	Resources and Transformation Shadow Portfolio Leader

**13. Allocation of Seats to Committees and Other Bodies**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Item 10.1 - 10.4).

**Resolved:**

That the allocation of seats to the different Political Groups to the Council's committees and other bodies, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be confirmed.

**14. Appointment of Members, Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies for 2024-25**

A schedule setting out the nominations provided by each of the Political Group's Leaders for Members to be appointed to committees, sub-committees, and other bodies, together with nominations for the appointments of Chairs and Vice-Chairs (Item 11.1 - 11.7), as circulated in advance of the meeting, was moved by the Leader.

**Resolved:**

That: the Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and membership of the Council's committees, sub-committees, and other bodies for the 2024-25 civic year, as detailed in the schedule included as Annex 1 to these minutes, be agreed.

**15. Council Appointed Representatives on Outside Bodies 2024-25**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Item 14.1 - 14.3 + Appendix 1 (as circulated in advance of the meeting)).

Members agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15(7) for voting purposes, and then determined the appointments.

Following votes being taken for those bodies where the number of nominations were greater than the number of seats available, it was:

**Resolved:**

That:

- (A) The Council's representatives on outside bodies for the 2024-25 civic year, as detailed in the schedule included as Annex 2 to these Minutes, be approved.
- (B) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Political Group's Leaders, makes appointments to additional outside bodies, and / or amendments to any existing outside bodies, as necessary, throughout the municipal year.
- (C) In the event of the Political Group's Leaders failing to agree nominations to outside bodies as referred to in decision (B), above, the appointment would then be a matter for determination by Council.
- (D) The Chief Executive, when appointing representatives to outside bodies, be authorised to determine which of the appointments should be classed as an 'approved duty' for the purposes of claiming travel and subsistence expenses.

**16. Recommendations Referred from Cabinet**

Consideration was given to the following recommendation to Council, made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 25 April 2024, in respect of:

**Network Infrastructure Replacement (Cabinet 25/04/24, Draft Minute Number 119)**

“That Council be recommended to move £243,410 into the revenue budget to be funded from reserves for the purchase of new network infrastructure equipment.”

**Resolved:**

That £243,410 be moved into the revenue budget to be funded from reserves for the purchase of new network infrastructure equipment.

The meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.

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**Chair**

## Schedule of Memberships of Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies, 2024-25

(Political Balance: Labour 21, Conservatives 10, Green 5, as at 22/05/24)

### Descriptors for letters shown in brackets after Members' names:

- (L) = Labour; (C) = Conservatives; (G) = Green

#### Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (11 Members)

Todd, Diane (L) (Chair)		
Hill, Jeff (L) (Vice-Chair)		
Bishop, Liz (G)	Lyons, Olivia (C)	
Bullock, Les (L)	Mawle, Darrell (G)	
Haden, Philippa (C)	Prestwood, Fred (L)	
Hill, Jean (L)	Thornley, Steve (L)	
Lyons, Nick (C)		
Labour Sub= Fisher, Paul	Conservatives Sub= Bancroft, Josh	Green Sub= Page, Hayley

#### Health, Wellbeing, and The Community Scrutiny Committee (11 Members)

Dunnett, Mandy (L) (Chair)		
Freeman, Maureen (L) (Vice-Chair)		
Bancroft, Josh (C)	Fisher, Paul (L)	
Boulton, Carl (L)	Jones, Val (C)	
Cartwright, Sheila (L)	Page, Hayley (G)	
Craddock, Richard (C)	Samuels, Garry (L)	
Elson, Jo (G)		
Labour Sub= Aston, Julie	Conservatives Sub= Hughes, George	Green Sub= Bishop, Liz

For the purposes of the Committee's statutory functions as the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, the following shall also be appointed:

- Staffordshire County Council Co-opted Member (with full voting rights): Hewitt, P.M.
- Independent Co-opted Member (with full voting rights): Healthwatch Staffordshire

#### Responsible Council Scrutiny Committee (11 Members)

Aston, Julie (L) (Chair)		
Gaye, David (L) (Vice-Chair)		
Bullock, Les (L)	Mawle, Darrell (G)	
Freeman, Maureen (L)	Muckley, Andrea (G)	
Hill, Jeff (L)	Sutherland, Mike (C)	
Hughes, George (C)	Thornley, Steve (L)	
Johnson, Justin (C)		
Labour Sub= Prestwood, Fred	Conservatives Sub= Lyons, Olivia	Green Sub= Elson, Jo

**Planning Control Committee (13 Members)**

Fisher, Paul ( <i>L</i> ) (Chair)		
Cartwright, Sheila ( <i>L</i> ) (Vice-Chair)		
Aston, Julie ( <i>L</i> )	Samuels, Garry ( <i>L</i> )	
Fitzgerald, Adrienne ( <i>C</i> )	Sutherland, Mike ( <i>C</i> )	
Jones, Val ( <i>C</i> )	Thornley, Steve ( <i>L</i> )	
Lyons, Nick ( <i>C</i> )	Thornley, Sue ( <i>L</i> )	
Mawle, Darrell ( <i>G</i> )	Wilson, Lisa ( <i>L</i> )	
Prestwood, Fred ( <i>L</i> )		
Labour Sub= Prestwood, Jacquie	Conservatives Sub= Haden, Philippa	Green Sub= Elson, Jo

**Licensing and Public Protection Committee (10 Members)**

Cartwright, Sheila ( <i>L</i> ) (Chair)		
Todd, Diane ( <i>L</i> ) (Vice-Chair)		
Aston, Julie ( <i>L</i> )	Freeman, Maureen ( <i>L</i> )	
Bishop, Liz ( <i>G</i> )	Jones, Val ( <i>C</i> )	
Fisher, Paul ( <i>L</i> )	Sutherland, Mike ( <i>C</i> )	
Fitzgerald, Adrienne ( <i>C</i> )	Wilson, Lisa ( <i>L</i> )	
Labour Sub= Bullock, Les	Conservatives Sub= Lyons, Nick	Green Sub= Elson, Jo

**Licensing Sub-Committee (3 Members)**

The Sub-Committee will comprise 3 Members of the Licensing and Public Protection Committee

**Audit & Governance Committee (6 Members)**

Hill, Jeff ( <i>L</i> ) (Chair)	
Thornley, Steve ( <i>L</i> ) (Vice-Chair)	
Bishop, Liz ( <i>G</i> )	Hill, Jean ( <i>L</i> )
Gaye, David ( <i>L</i> )	Hughes, George ( <i>C</i> )

**Standards Committee (6 Members + Parish / Town Council Representatives (x8))**

Freeman, Maureen ( <i>L</i> ) (Chair)	
Boulton, Carl ( <i>L</i> ) (Vice-Chair)	
Bullock, Les ( <i>L</i> )	Haden, Philippa ( <i>C</i> )
Gaye, David ( <i>L</i> )	Lyons, Olivia ( <i>C</i> )

1x rep for each Parish / Town Council based in the District.



**Joint Appointments Committee (6 Members - 3 CCDC and 3 SBC)**

Johnson, Tony (L)	Stafford BC
Lyons, Olivia (C)	Members x3)
Thornley, Sue (L)	

The Joint Appointments Committee shall include the Leaders of both Cannock Chase Council and Stafford Borough Council

Meetings of the Joint Appointments Committee will be chaired by the Leader of the Council (or substitute Executive member) that will act as the employer of the Chief Officer being appointed.

**Investigatory & Disciplinary Committee (5 Members)**

Freeman, Maureen (L)	Page, Hayley (G)
Haden, Philippa (C)	Thornley, Sue (L)
Johnson, Tony (L)	

The Chair of the Investigatory & Disciplinary Committee will be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee from those Members present at the meeting.

**Trade Union Consultative Forum (6 Members + Trade Unions Representatives)**

Johnson, Tony (L) (Chair)	
Employee Rep* (Vice-Chair)	
Bishop, Liz (G)	Samuels, Garry (L)
Craddock, Richard (C)	Todd, Diane (L)
Hill, Jeff (L)	

\*The Trade Union Consultative Forum shall appoint a Vice-Chair from the employees' side at the first meeting in the new Municipal year

**Appeals and Complaints (5 Members)**

Labour (3)	Conservatives (1)	Green (1)
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The Appeals and Complaints Panel will comprise not more than 5 eligible Members of the Council appointed in compliance with Section 15 of Schedule 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, concerning political balance.

Members who have been involved in any decision resulting in an appeal or complaint will not be entitled to hear a case.

**Constitution Working Group (6 Members)**

Dunnett, Mandy (L)	Muckley, Andrea (G)
Gaye, David (L)	Newbury, Josh (L)
Lyons, Nick (C)	Preece, John (L)

The Chair of the Working Group will be appointed at the first meeting of the working group from those Members present at the meeting.

### Council Appointed Representatives to Outside Bodies for 2024-25

#### Descriptors for letters shown in brackets after Members' names:

- (C) = Conservatives
- (L) = Labour
- (G) = Green

Name of Body	Date of Retirement	Appointed Representatives
Barbara Bird Memorial Fund	2028 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Mandy Dunnett (L)
Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Charity Management Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Andrea Muckley (G)
Cannock Advice Centre	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Sheila Cartwright (L) Cllr. Maureen Freeman (L) Cllr. Jacquie Prestwood (L)
Cannock Bowling Green Trust	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Maureen Freeman (L) Cllr. Jeff Hill (L) Cllr. Val Jones (C) Cllr. Steve Thornley (L)
Cannock Chase Arts Council	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Jeff Hill (L) Cllr. John Preece (L) Cllr. Jacquie Prestwood (L)
Cannock Conduit Trust	Upon retirement from the Council	Cllr. Maureen Freeman (L) Cllr. Philippa Haden (C) Cllr. Val Jones (C) Cllr. Tony Johnson (L) Cllr. Steve Thornley (L)
Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Hayley Page (G)

**Annex 2**

<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Date of Retirement</b>	<b>Appointed Representatives</b>
Charity for the Provision of Allotments for the Labouring Poor of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley	2028 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Paul Fisher (L) Cllr. David Gaye (L) Cllr. Philippa Haden (C)
Charity for the Provision of a Recreation Ground for Inhabitants of the Ancient Parish of Rugeley	2027 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Carl Boulton (L) Cllr. David Gaye (L) Cllr. Mike Sutherland (C)
Chetwynd Charity	2028 Annual Meeting	Cllr. David Gaye (L) Cllr. George Hughes (C) Cllr. Justin Johnson (C) Cllr. David Williams (L)
CPRE Staffordshire	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. John Preece (L)
Etching Hill Village Hall Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Justin Johnson (C)
Foundation of Clara Caroline Walhouse and the John Wood and Walhouse Church of England School Foundation	2028 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Jeff Hill (L)
Landor Society	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Justin Johnson (C) Cllr. Olivia Lyons (C)
Longdon (Cotton) Almshouses	2028 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Carl Boulton (L) Cllr. David Williams (L)
National Association of Councillors	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Jacquie Prestwood (L) Cllr. Sue Thornley (L)
Norton Canes Community Centre	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Jean Hill (L)

**Annex 2**

Name of Body	Date of Retirement	Appointed Representatives
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Les Bullock (L) Cllr. Mandy Dunnett (L) Cllr. Maureen Freeman (L) Cllr. Philippa Haden (C) Cllr. Jeff Hill (L) Cllr. Josh Newbury (L) Cllr. John Preece (L)
Prospect Village Hall	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Andrea Muckley (G)
Shoal Hill Common Joint Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Mandy Dunnett (L) Cllr. Sue Thornley (L)
Slitting Mill Village Hall Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Justin Johnson (C)
Staffordshire County Council Corporate Parenting Panel	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Julie Aston (L)
Staffordshire County Council – Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee <i>(Co-opted Member)</i>	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Mandy Dunnett (L)
Staffordshire County Council – Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee <i>(Substitute Member)</i>	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Maureen Freeman (L)
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Jo Elson (G)
West Midlands Combined Authority <i>(Non-Constituent Member)</i>	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Tony Johnson (L)
West Midlands Combined Authority <i>(Substitute Member)</i>	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Josh Newbury (L)
West Midlands Combined Authority - Overview & Scrutiny Committee <i>(Voting Member)</i>	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. John Preece (L)
West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee <i>(Substitute Member)</i>	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Steve Thornley (L)
West Midlands Combined Authority – Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Jacquie Prestwood (L)

**Annex 2**

<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Date of Retirement</b>	<b>Appointed Representatives</b>
West Midlands Combined Authority – Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee <i>(Substitute Member)</i>	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Sue Thornley (L)
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2025 Annual Meeting	Cllr. Steve Thornley (L)
West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	2027 Annual Meeting	Cllr. David Williams (L)

## **Motion 1 - Bleed Kits**

“When severe blood loss occurs, such as following a stab or crush injury, a fatality can occur within as little 5 minutes. As a result, traumatic bleeding tragically takes many lives each year, some of which may have been prevented if a specialist bleed control kit had been accessible whilst awaiting the ambulance service.

Bleed kits are more advanced than general first aid kits. Specialist bleed control kits include tourniquets and pressure bandages to stem catastrophic bleeding, coagulation dressings and equipment to help reduce infection.

Locally, the West Midlands Ambulance Service have highlighted the need for bleed kits and our local First Responders have launched an initiative to increase the number of available bleed kits across Cannock Chase.

To help meet this need and to ensure that our local communities are as prepared as possible in the event of such an incident, I propose that this Council:

- (1) Undertake an imminent review of Council managed locations, such as the main parks across the District which are popular destinations for the public, to determine the most suitable and accessible sites in which to locate bleed kits;
- (2) Once suitable sites have been identified, introduce bleed kits; and
- (3) Ensure the bleed kits are checked as required and ongoing maintenance arranged.”

*This motion is original and comprised of the own work of Cllr. O. Lyons*

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### ***Extract of 12 June 2024 Cabinet Minute:***

#### ***Motions Referred from 17 April 2024 Council Meeting (Minute Number 7(i))***

#### **“Bleed Kits Motion**

The Community Wellbeing Portfolio Leader advised the following:

- Work was still ongoing regarding this motion, which was presented by the Leader of the Opposition in April 2024.
  - Three bleed kits had been installed in Heath Hayes, Wimblebury, and Hawks Green.
  - Initial discussions with Burntwood First Responders suggested that bleed kits would be located with defibrillators already installed within the District, funded by a private company. This suggested that whoever took responsibility at each location for the defibrillators would also take on the maintenance of the bleed kit.
  - The Council would also need to ensure that those locations and organisations were happy to maintain the bleed kits going forward. However, the Council was awaiting a formal response to confirm this.
  - Once sufficiently updated, the outcome would be reported back accordingly to the full Council and the proposer of the motion.”
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*In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6(8), the procedure to be followed for considering this Motion is:*

- (a) The motion will already be deemed to have been moved and seconded at the previous Council meeting.*
- (b) The mover of the motion will present the motion again.*
- (c) The relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader (or other Cabinet member if unavailable), shall present the report or recommendations of Cabinet, but may also speak again during the debate on the motion.*

*The original motion will then be discussed under the normal rules of debate.*

## Motion 2 - Supporting Our Armed Forces Community

The council notes that:

- The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within Cannock Chase as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.
- Our nation celebrates our Armed Forces and shows our support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces Community (serving personnel, service families, veterans, and cadets) by holding an Armed Forces Day on the last Saturday each June. Celebrations begin on the Monday of that week with the unique role of the Reserve Forces who are celebrated on Reserves Day which is usually in the middle of Armed Forces Week.
- Cannock Chase has rich military history and served as a training ground for soldiers during the World Wars. The First World War saw the establishment of the Brocton and Rugeley camps, while the Second World War marked the opening of RAF Hednesford. Today, the Army Cadets continue this legacy at their training centre on the old Rugeley camp site.
- Four percent of constituents living within Cannock Chase are veterans with thirty-four percent of those constituents registered disabled.

This Council firmly believes that:

- We pay homage to the generations of service personnel who have come before us. Their sacrifices, made in the pursuit of our freedom and security, have shaped the world we live in today. These brave individuals, from various backgrounds and walks of life, stepped forward when their nation called upon them. They served with honour and distinction, often in the face of great adversity. As we remember their sacrifices, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting our current service personnel, forces families and veterans, ensuring they receive the recognition and support they deserve. Their service is a continuation of this proud tradition, and we owe it to them, and to those who came before, to honour this commitment.
- The Armed Forces community contributes significantly to our society, not only in terms of security but also in terms of skills, values, and diversity. Supporting them is a way of acknowledging and valuing this contribution.
- Veterans are an asset to society and deserve the best possible care and support in recognition of the service they have given and the sacrifices they have made; considers that those veterans and their families who have experienced pain and loss because of their or a loved ones' service in the Armed Forces are rightly compensated.
- Providing support to the Armed Forces Community is a matter of fairness and respect. They have served our country and protected our freedoms, and it is only right that we, as a society, ensure they are supported in return.
- Supporting the Armed Forces Community can also have broader societal benefits. For example, it can help promote social cohesion, community spirit, and a sense of shared responsibility.
- Finally, supporting the armed forces community sends a strong message about the kind of society we want to be - one that values service, sacrifice, and mutual support. It sets a positive example for future generations about the importance of contributing to society and supporting those who do.

The council welcomes that:

- Cannock Chase District Council, along with all other local authorities in Great Britain, has proudly signed the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Cannock Chase District Council has recognised its support for the Armed Forces and has received the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Employee Recognition Scheme (ERS) Silver Award in 2021.
- The Cabinet has recently agreed to refer policy proposals regarding Veterans benefits to full Council.
- Following pressure from lived experience groups campaign groups, the government finally scrapped visa fees for Commonwealth Veterans.

The Council expresses concern that:

- Our council has fallen behind in our advocacy for the Armed Forces Community with other local councils who have recently been awarded Ministry of Defence's ERS Gold Award status. ERS Gold Status is the highest award from the MOD and demonstrates an organisation's increased commitment to the Armed Forces Community and excellent advocacy.
- Our service personnel, with their unwavering commitment and professionalism, have become the backbone of our public sector resilience. They are routinely called upon to maintain essential services amidst industrial action, often stepping into roles far removed from their military duties. This is a testament to their adaptability and dedication, but it also underscores the sacrifices they make on a daily basis. However, without a right to strike, it is the moral duty of their leaders to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant and the responsibility of elected bodies is to uphold their part of this obligation and insist that our service personnel and their families receive the support they deserve.
- A decade of pay cuts in real terms, coupled with the escalating cost-of-living crisis and delays in the Armed Forces pay award, are directly affecting our Service Personnel and their families. Amidst these challenges, it is charities and regimental associations that continue to step in, providing essential cost of living grants and vouchers to our veterans and their families. This situation underscores the urgent need for systemic change to better support those who have served our nation.
- In the aftermath of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the UK has become a sanctuary for many Afghan refugees. However, a significant number of these individuals are grappling with homelessness as they await confirmation of their status. Furthermore, there are still eligible Afghan refugees, including those who have supported the UK and NATO allies in Afghanistan, who remain stranded in their homeland. This situation underscores the urgent need for comprehensive solutions to address these challenges.
- While the government has commendably waived visa fees for Commonwealth Veterans, it has regrettably declined to extend this exemption to their spouses and children. This, coupled with the recent surge in visa fees, has resulted in families bearing the brunt of thousands of pounds in immigration costs amidst an ongoing cost-of-living crisis.



In light of the above, this council resolves

- To continue the role of Armed Forces Champion as there is a clear need for this role which acts as a bridge between the Council and our Armed Forces Community on issues which this Council has responsibility for and to act as an advocate for the Armed Forces Community to residents, community groups, local business, and partner organisations. This role will continue indefinitely with the role being appointed biennial at the Annual General Meeting. The Armed Forces Champion to have the support of a personal assistant to arrange affairs with external stakeholders. The Armed Forces Champion will report to the Cabinet on a biannual basis.
- To set up a short-term working group chaired by the Armed Forces Champion consisting of internal and external stakeholders to improve how the Council advocates and supports the Armed Forces Community. This working group will include the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition, relevant senior officers, local veteran groups and charities, West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association, local Armed Forces Units and Cadet Units. However, the terms of reference will be developed by the working group when formed.
- For the outcome of the short-term working group to be considered by Cabinet and relevant local policies are amended to reflect such a position.
- To commit to obtaining ERS Gold Status within three years. The Council will develop a strategy to achieving this goal and operationalise this plan.
- To continue to support Armed Forces Week by supporting local Armed Forces Week events and to fly the Armed Forces flag during this time. In addition, the Council will consider extending an invitation to our community and Armed Forces Stakeholders to participate in a memorial service and celebration of our Armed Forces Community during this week so that we can continue to celebrate our Armed Forces Community in a positive way.
- Request the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to write to Government, urging it to extend additional fundamental financial support to service personnel. This can be achieved by implementing a cap on food and accommodation charges for the forthcoming 12 months. Additionally, they should advocate for an immediate review of the current Armed Forces accommodation charges, food charges, and allowances.
- Request the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to write to Government articulating concerns about the existing aid provided to Afghan refugees. The letter should appeal for suitable funding to facilitate housing for these refugees. It should also press the Government to expedite plans to ensure the safe arrival of Afghan refugees who have served, including those currently stranded in Iran and Pakistan, to the UK.
- Request the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to write to both the Minister of State for Immigration and the Minister of State for Veteran Affairs. The letter should express this council's endorsement for granting the right to remain to all spouses and children of Commonwealth veterans concurrently with the serving Commonwealth veterans, and importantly, without any associated fees."

“With reference to the following hyperlinks:

- [Defence Employer Recognition Scheme](#)
- [2021 census: How many veterans are in my constituency? \(parliament.uk\)](#)
- [Armed Forces Day](#)
- [Commonwealth Visa Fees \(britishlegion.org.uk\)](#)
- [Credit their Service \(britishlegion.org.uk\)](#)
- [The Armed Forces Covenant \(britishlegion.org.uk\)](#)
- [Afghan Refugees”](#)

*This motion is original and comprised of the own work of Cllr. Williams*

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**Extract of 12 June 2024 Cabinet Minute:**

**Motions Referred from 17 April 2024 Council Meeting (Minute Number 7(ii))**

**“Supporting Our Armed Forces Community Motion**

The Community Wellbeing Portfolio Leader acknowledged and paid tribute to the valiant heroes of D-Day, whose anniversary was commemorated last week, noting their courage and sacrifice continued to inspire us all.

The Community Wellbeing Portfolio Leader then advised the following in respect of the motion:

- Work was ongoing to implement this large motion. Initial discussions had taken place between the Portfolio Leader (proposer of the motion) and the leadership team regarding the financial and workforce implications of the motion. However, more information was required and therefore, the Portfolio Leader was arranging meetings with the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (WM RFCA) and would be attending the WM RFCA annual general meeting.
- The Portfolio Leader had also begun to have informal meetings with external stakeholders in the community to build relations going forward regarding the working group.
- The Portfolio Leader was proud that the ‘D-Day’ flag was flown last week at the Civic Centre and the ‘Armed Forces Week’ flag would be flown during Armed Forces Week (Monday 24 to Sunday 30 June).
- In conclusion, work was ongoing to improve how we supported our Armed Forces Community at the Council and further updates would be provided where relevant.”

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*In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6(8), the procedure to be followed for considering this Motion is:*

- (a) The motion will already be deemed to have been moved and seconded at the previous Council meeting.*
- (b) The mover of the motion will present the motion again.*
- (c) The relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader (or other Cabinet member if unavailable), shall present the report or recommendations of Cabinet, but may also speak again during the debate on the motion.*

*The original motion will then be discussed under the normal rules of debate.*

### **Motion 3 - Cannock Chase as a Bee Friendly District**

“Work undertaken by our sister authority, Stafford Borough Council, helped Stafford achieve Bee Friendly Town status in 2024. We extend our congratulations to the team who worked so hard to achieve this.

This Council recognises that:

- Bees and other pollinators play an essential role in the Earth’s ecosystem being vital for our food crops, gardens and countryside. Eighty percent of all UK crops rely on pollinators. The Government has estimated that this intervention is worth around £500 million to the UK food economy alone.
- The number of bees is in decline and some species have become extinct. Pollinator decline is attributed to a variety of factors including disease, climate change, loss of habitat, and the use of insecticides and herbicides.
- The use of herbicides containing glyphosate has been found to pose a health hazard to humans.
- Under the Environment Act 2021 CCDC has a responsibility to do its part to help halt the decline seen nationally in biodiversity by a deadline of 2030. Work to be bee-friendly would assist with that goal

To enable us to reach our aspirations to be a Bee Friendly District this Council resolves to:

- Cease the use of glyphosate on all land that it manages, with the exception where it is absolutely necessary or to protect Council assets. The decision as to whether it is absolutely necessary should be taken by the appropriate head of service and cabinet member together.
- Undertake a review of current bee-friendly practices of CCDC
- Pledge to take part in No Mow May from now onwards and advertise appropriately, including on-site signage, to ensure the public is on board
- Establish a bees and pollinators action plan for the district to become a Bee Friendly district. Such a plan could include, but is not limited to:
  - The cabinet member for climate change and the environment, and appropriate head of service making contact with the Bee Friendly Trust to discuss how we can work together to make our district more bee-friendly
  - Building on work begun in May 2024 with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust between SWT, CCDC’s leadership team and cabinet
  - Liaising with the team at SBC to discuss sharing resources and ideas to help us on our way and reduce our costs
  - Using planning powers to protect habitats that are important to bees and pollinators
  - Encouraging all new developments to provide for pollinators
  - Stopping the use of all insecticides on local authority land
  - Establishing wildflower meadows on public green spaces and along public highways under the control of CCDC.
  - Planting pollinator-friendly plants, the RHS has a “Perfect for Pollinators” list
  - Planting trees for bees, such as blossom-producing, spring-flowering trees

## Item No. 9.7

- Identifying measures to enable bee-keeping to thrive in our district
- Asking the public not to use insecticides in their garden and to plant bee-friendly plants
- Encouraging schools to help children engage with this agenda
- Working collaboratively with parish and town councils to get more public engagement and identify community champions
- Asking public health bodies and social housing partners to support our efforts”

*This motion was drafted by Cllr Muckley using resources from the following organisations: The Bee Friendly Trust; Plantlife; Royal Horticultural Society; the Bumblebee Conservation Trust; BBC; Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; DEFRA; National Library of Medicine academic journal; as well as previous motions and bee-friendly actions taken by Hillingdon Council, Oldham Council, Walsall Council, Stafford Borough Council and Birmingham Council.*