

Recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 7th January 2026

Particulate Monitoring

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) additional monitoring of Particulate Matter (air pollution) be delivered as set out in Option E; and
- 2) subject to funding being identified and allocated accordingly a further report be brought back to Cabinet once final costs had been identified.

Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Pay Policy 2026/27 be approved.

Business Rates - Discretionary Rates Relief Policy 2026/27

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) A non-domestic rates discretionary relief policy be approved and adopted from 1st April 2026
- 2) Subject to the removal of Burcot as a settlement from the Lickey and Blackwell Parish, the rural settlement list included in the policy be approved and adopted for use from 1st April 2026.

Council Tax - Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums 2026/27

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the determinations as set out in Appendix A be adopted with effect from 1st April 2026.
- 2) The Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services be authorised to consider, on a case-by-case basis, a reduction to the long-term empty premium under Section 13A(1)(C) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 3) the Council retained the existing discounts for unoccupied and furnished homes, as set out in Appendix A (below) and did not implement additional council tax premiums for unoccupied and substantially furnished homes.

Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) The Council Tax Reduction Scheme be retained for 2026-27 tax year, subject to uprating of income bands by 3.8% in-line with increases to national benefits.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2026-27 to 2028-29 Fees and Charges and Consultation Outcomes including Worcestershire Regulatory Services Budget Recommendations

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) Members take account of any feedback from the Consultation on the Budget 2026/27.
- 2) Members endorse the further work / proposals being undertaken on the Medium-Term Financial Plan to produce a balanced position for 2026/27 – 2028/29 including the initial set of savings proposals and pressures including fees and charges increases.
- 3) The recommended increases relating to Worcestershire Regulatory Services of £25,000 for 2027/28 and £59,000 for 2028/29 be approved.
- 4) The updated three-year capital programme 2026/27 – 2028/29 along with available funding for further capital projects to be undertaken going forward and the proposed projects for funding along with revenue implications.