

FINANCE, ASSETS & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 26th March, 2026
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present:	Councillor Mark Holland (Chair)	
Councillors:	Turnock P Waring	Stubbs Grocott
Apologies:	Councillor(s) Parker, Bettley-Smith, Allport, Lawley and Dean	
Substitutes:	Deputy Mayoress. Councillor Susan Beeston Councillor Nicholas Crisp	
Officers:	Simon McEneny Craig Turner Georgina Evans-Stadward	Deputy Chief Executive Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer Service Director - Strategy, People and Performance Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth
Also in attendance:	Councillor Stephen Sweeney	

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as listed above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2026 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT - THIRD QUARTER 2025/26

The Deputy Leader / Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth introduced the Financial and Performance Review report for the third quarter of the financial year that showed a balanced budget had been achieved.

The Chair moved on to the red performance indicators in appendix B.

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ID1.13 - Average number of days per employee lost to sickness

The Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance commented that figures were mainly in relation to long term absences and advised that people were being supported when they were off sick and then coming back to work.

ID1.8a - Total number of digital online transactions

The Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance commented that the target setting was being changed for the next financial year and would reflect the actual usage around digital transactions.

ID2.6a - Complainants informed within the required timescales of action to be taken about alleged breaches of planning control

The Deputy Leader commented that while performance for the year was below target, the situation had recently improved and it was expected that the target would be met for the year ahead.

ID2.3 - Quality of major development applications

The Deputy Leader advised that this related to the number of applications turned down by the Council over a two-year period and had to do with the way the Planning Committee worked.

The Chair commented that the Planning Committee was part of the Council and asked if there were any implications for the authority.

The Deputy Chief Executive responded that the only penalty was the financial aspect of fielding the inquiry. The more appeals were lost the higher the cost.

ID1.4a - Materials collected for recycling and composting verified via WDF

The Deputy Leader commented that a dry summer meant a reduction of the weight of the grass cut which is what was bringing the figures down.

ID1.4b - Food Household collections from the kerbside

Cllr Waring said that while the target was largely met the graph seemed to suggest that the Council was only just above it.

The Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance noted the comment.

Resolved: That the contents of the report and appendices be noted and that the Council's service and financial performance for this period continue to be monitored and challenged.

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5. TOWN DEAL AND FUTURE HIGH STREET FUNDS UPDATE

The Deputy Leader / Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth introduced the report on the projects delivered through the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds that was also recently presented at the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Stubbs referred to social media accounts covering progress made on various sites.

The Deputy Chief Executive updated members on projects. The Chatterley Valley largest two buildings would be creating around 1,100 jobs. The final design for Kidsgrove train station would be signed by Network Rail in April. Canal Pathways were all done and a planning application was on the way for the Community Learning Hub at Kings Academy. The Enterprise Units would be awarding a contract to a contractor in the week ahead after a rigorous procurement exercise. In relation to the highways improvements, the demolition of Brown's garages in Kidsgrove had just started making way for a temporary car park to allow for the public realm and car parking changes to be made.

Cllr Waring added that being mindful of the strict design constraints East Midlands Rail would be hosting an open day to showcase what they would be doing so that people get a better idea of what was happening.

Resolved: That the report on the delivery of the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds projects be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. WORK PROGRAMME

Resolved: That the work programme be noted.

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7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received from members of the public.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting be held on 11th June 2026.

**Councillor Mark Holland
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.19 pm