



Time and date

6.30pm on Wednesday **7 January 2026**

Place

The Lights, Andover

Councillors Present:

Arrival time noted if after meeting start

Cllr S Hardstaff (Chairman)	✓	Cllr J Goodwin (Vice Chairman)	✓	Cllr K Bird	✓	18:31pm
Cllr M Farren	✓	Cllr L Gregori	x	Cllr A Horsnell	✓	18:34pm
Cllr J Hughes	x	Cllr R Hughes	x	Cllr R Kidd	x	
Cllr H Neate	✓	Cllr E Reynolds	✓	Cllr G Walters	x	

Officers Present:

Tor Warburton (Town Clerk), Leah Walsh (Admin Assistant)

Members of the Public:

1

County/Borough Councillors:

0

Members of the Press:

0

PUBLIC SESSION

PR 056/01/26 There were no comments received from the Member of Public present.

APOLOGIES

PR 057/01/26 Apologies were received from Councillors L Gregori, R Kidd, J Hughes, R Hughes and G Walters.

INTERESTS

PR 058/01/26 Non-pecuniary declarations were received from:

1. Councillor E Reynolds, as a member of the Drove Association and as an allotment plot holder.

MINUTES

PR 059/01/26 *(Cllr K Bird arrived 6.31pm and did not participate in the vote)*
 It was proposed by Councillor M Farren and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and **RESOLVED: FOR - 4, AGAINST - 0, ABSTENTIONS - 1**, that the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on [6 November 2025](#), be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CONTRACTUAL & DELEGATED PAYMENTS

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman/Vice Chairman:

Date:

PR 060/01/26 Members received and noted the payments that had already been made for the period of [1 November 2025 to 18 December 2025](#)

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

PR 061/01/26 Members noted that there were no payments made above the RFO's delegated authority.

FINANCES

(Cllr A Horsnell arrived 6.34pm and did not participate in the vote)

PR 062/01/26 It was proposed by Councillor S Hardstaff and seconded by Councillor M Farren and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the following reports, be approved:

- [Bank Statements & Bank Reconciliation](#)
- [Cashbook](#)
- [Earmarked Reserves](#)
- [Financial Comparison to date](#)

BUDGET

PR 063/01/26 Members received and reviewed the [2026/2027 budget](#) for consideration as an option to be recommended to Full Council.
It was proposed by Councillor K Bird and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds that the budget be tabled for discussion.

Members then entered into discussion.

PR 064/01/26 Councillor S Hardstaff drew Members' attention to the Band D equivalent figures from TVBC that had now come in and noted that the number of dwellings had increased by 121, bringing the total to 17,482 properties within the town.

PR 065/01/26 After a number of questions and discussions on this matter, Councillor H Neate stated that simply raising a budget to maintain the Council without delivering tangible benefits would be fundamentally wrong. She emphasised that the Council exists to serve the community, which inevitably incurs costs. In developing the budget, the business plan was used as a guiding framework. She noted that the first year of the plan focused on exploration and research, and she was pleased to report that this period was now showing fruitful progress. Councillor H Neate said she would come back to another point that she wanted to mention.

PR 066/01/26 Councillor E Reynolds raised a query regarding a statement about items "being removed," noting that it should state that the toilets had already been removed. He also expressed concern that the wardens had not been notified about taking on additional responsibilities. The Town Clerk confirmed that this information had been included to show what measures had already been implemented to help reduce costs and prevent allotment rents from increasing. She noted, however, that this matter would be considered further by the Allotment Committee..

PR 067/01/26 Councillor H Neate raised a point regarding earmarked reserves, noting that they should be time-bound, as most of them are. She gave the example of the elections reserve, which is necessary to protect the Council against a costly event. She also mentioned the building reserve, adding that if it does not come to fruition, it would be a matter for discussion in the next financial year.

PR 068/01/26 Councillor M Farren raised a question about whether this Committee could suggest to the Allotment Committee, a focus on applying for grants. The Town Clerk noted that the current vacant staffing position would most likely be filled by someone whose job description would include applying for grants, reducing reliance on the

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman/Vice Chairman:

Date:

precept. She added that this matter would be considered further by the HR Committee.

PR 069/01/26

Cllr K Bird spoke in regard to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), stating that she did not believe residents should not be charged in advance. Councillor K. Bird summarized by noting that the Council aims to avoid operating on a bare-bones budget, ensuring there is some leeway if needed. While the LGR is likely to feature in next year's budget, planning needs to begin in this year's budget. She added that this additional provision will allow the Council to better serve Andover residents by being adequately prepared.

PR 070/01/26

Councillor J Goodwin raised concerns about the cost of allotments to the Council and asked whether they could be handed back to TVBC.

It was clarified that the allotments were originally handed over by TVBC and that it is the Council's statutory duty to manage them. Additionally, with LGR on the horizon it would be the Unitary body rather than TVBC that ATC would look to hand them back to, if it was in their remit to do so.

Councillor J Goodwin further noted that with a new authority coming in 2027, the Council might consider transferring responsibilities rather than taking on more, in order to avoid increasing the budget.

PR 071/01/26

Councillor K Bird responded that this would not be appropriate, as it would prevent the Council from properly representing the residents of Andover at a local level. Councillor S Hardstaff asked if any Members who had not yet spoken wished to do so. As there were none, he noted that there were now three proposals on the table and asked whether there was a proposer for one of them.

PR 072/01/26

It was proposed by Councillor M Farren and seconded by Councillor J Goodwin that **Option 2** be recommended to Full Council. It was **RESOLVED: FOR - 2, AGAINST - 5, ABSENTION - 0.**

MOTION FAILED.

PR 073/01/26

It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor K Bird that **Option 3** (a 5% increase with agreed amendments) be recommended to Full Council. It was **RESOLVED: FOR - 5, AGAINST - 1, ABSENTION - 1.**

MOTION PASSED

PR 074/01/26

The Town Clerk drew Members' attention to the zero lines still included in the budget, and it was recommended that the matter be referred to Full Council for review.

DATA PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

PR 075/01/26

Members received and considered the [Draft Data Protection Policy and Procedure](#). Councillor E Reynolds thanked the officers for their time and effort in creating the document and asked for it to be minuted.

PR 076/01/26

It was proposed by Councillor M Farren, seconded by Councillor J Goodwin, and **RESOLVED Unanimously** that the Draft Data Protection Policy and Procedure be recommended to Full Council for approval.

NEXT MEETING

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman/Vice Chairman:

Date:

PR 077/01/26 Members noted that the date of the next meeting would be on **Wednesday 8 April 2026** at **The Lights, Andover, at 6.30pm.**

MEETING CLOSURE

PR 078/01/26 The Chairman closed the meeting at **7.20pm.**

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman/Vice Chairman:

Date: