KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2026 in the Council Chamber, Kidderminster Town Hall

Present: Councillors: Steve Hollands (Chair), Liam Carroll, George Connolly, Bernadette Connor, Helen Dyke, Doug Hine, Fran Oborski and Mary Rayner.

In Attendance: Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Christopher Pugh, Corporate Services Manager

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor John Beckingham and Shazu Miah.

ABSENT: None

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
Nil

3. MINUTES
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th April 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE
The Committee noted the Terms of Reference, as approved by Full Council.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
Councillor Helen Dyke was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

6. Approval of Accounts and Budget Monitoring

Members were dissatisfied that they had received this information on the day of the meeting and had not had sufficient time to scrutinise it.

The CEO explained that the delays were due to issues around year end 2025-26 and the switch over of accounting systems from WFDC to The town Council's new package, Gov.Finance.

RESOLVED: To defer further consideration of this matter to another meeting of the Committee, to be held within the next few weeks.

The CEO acknowledged the concerns raised and said that he would send the information to all members prior to the meeting and invite members to submit any questions or queries to the Committee.

7. BANK RECONCILIATIONS

The Committee received the Bank reconciliations for January, February and March 2026.

- 30/4/2026: £1,175,073
- 31/5/2026: £1,014,583
- 33/6/2026: £ 917,912

The Committee noted that £500,000 has been deposited in a short term investment account (CCLA) which is attracting interest payments over £1,500 per month.

8. INTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT

The Committee received the final Internal Audit report for 2025-26, prepared by LCC Consultancies, which had been presented to Full Council on 11th June 2026

The CEO set out the Council’s proposed responses to the points raised in the report, which were also included in the report. The CEO pointed out the requirements under the Transparency Code and said that the Committee would be updated on progress in this matter.

Resolved: To Approve the Council’s responses to the Internal Audit report for 2025-26 and the actions set out in the report.

9. QUARTERLY VISION ACTION PLAN REPORTS

The meeting received the Action Plan report and welcomed the progress being made on the various objectives in the Council’s Vision/ Strategy 2025-2029. It was noted that 2 items were red flagged- In Bloom and the Community Awards. The CEO pointed out that these matters had not been included in the Council’s budget 2026-27 and Members agreed that the objectives in these matters should be reviewed by Full Council.

The recommended amendment for “In Bloom” was that the Council would support any organisation wishing to promote this campaign in Kidderminster, through the budgets for floral displays, Town centre planting and where possible, through parks works” – to Full Council.

Members discussed Provision 1. B “Provide outstanding parks, playgrounds and public spaces” and the Council’s measures to support the Tennis Club. Concerns were expressed regarding public access and the Committee asked that this matter be referred to the Operational Services Committee to consider what options the Council has to increase/ improve public access to the tennis courts.

10. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

The CEO presented the Strategic Risk Register at 30th June 2026.

The Committee noted the reduced probability of IT systems failure as the switch over to Cloudy IT progressed (SR1) and the increased probability of

Local Government re-organisation, following the announcement that there would be 2 unitary authorities for Worcestershire from 1st April 2028.

RESOLVED: To approve the Strategic Risk register at 30th June 2026

11. WEB-BASED INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS, NEW RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

The Committee noted the information available on the Town Council's website under "Directory of Services". The County Council's Regulatory Services would be added to the Directory.

The CEO to send the link to all Members and invite suggestions for addition to the Directory.

12. WORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Corporate Services Manager, Chris Pugh, presented proposals for a work management system, Monday.com. After discussion and questions it was agreed to consult all staff and run a pilot trial, when the matter would be further considered.

13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Received and noted.

The Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed: ____________________ Date: ____________________

Chairman