



Strategy and Resources Meeting

Tuesday 16th June 2026

The Trinity Centre

7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs S Ward (Chairman), Cooper, Cook, Parkin, Pears, Perks, Puri and Raut.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Mary Kidner – Head of Finance & Governance.

There were no members of the press or public present.

1 Election of Deputy Chairman

Resolved that Cllr Parkin be elected as Deputy Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

2 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 21st April 2026.

5 Matters Arising

No matters arising were reported.

6 Questions from Members

Cllr Puri said that Rob Pocock did not stand in the recent Town Council elections following ten years of dedicated service as a Town Councillor for the Vesey Ward. Cllr Puri asked if Rob Pocock could be considered for a Town Councillor Recognition Award, adding that Rob had been involved since the very beginning of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council, including being at the heart of the campaign to secure the referendum that led to its creation.

Cllr Ward said he fully endorsed a Councillor Recognition Award for Rob Pocock, but procedurally it would need to be considered by Full Council and suggested that it be added as an agenda item for the next meeting in July.



Cllr Parkin asked, in light of increasing complaints from residents about Lime bikes being left abandoned across the Town, causing obstructions on pavements and elsewhere, if the Town Council would liaise with Lime Bikes to understand what measures they are putting in place to ensure the bikes are returned to the correct locations and stored properly after they have been used.

Cllr Ward responded that the Town Council had sponsored and been actively involved with the previous bike public hire scheme, but the Combined Authority had contracted Lime to deliver the current scheme with no involvement from the Town Council. Cllr Ward said that he would write to the Mayor of West Midlands - Richard Parker, and that the CEO would also pick up the issues with the Combined Authority lead officer.

Cllr Parkin said it was important to have a dialogue so the Town Council could be involved with any further changes to the scheme and asked if the physical docking stations from the previous scheme were going to be removed.

Cllr Puri said that hirers should be charged for bikes that are not docked correctly and suggested looking at learning from other areas that have had Lime bikes before Birmingham.

Cllr Pears said that the police have requested that Lime bikes be removed from the Town Centre.

Cllr Perks asked the CEO to ask why there were no virtual docking stations near to the railway stations, as this could be of use to commuters.

7 Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Libraries and Community Centres

Cllr Ward said that an increase in the usage of the libraries and community centres was something to be proud of and said that you can see the difference that the improvements have already made for visitors.

In response to a question from Cllr Pears, the CEO reported that Mere Green Library and Community Centre is currently at approximately 80% capacity for letting and that it is at 100% during peak times.

Cllr Parkin asked how the conversations were progressing in regard to the asset transfer of the buildings from Birmingham City Council (BCC) to the Town Council. The CEO responded that it would be discussed at the next senior officer meeting and that building asset transfers would be raised by BCC officers with the new cabinet member at BCC.

Cllr Parkin also asked if the Town Council website could prominently include information about the Libraries and Community Centres, including opening hours and how to book rooms. The CEO said that a review of the Town Council website was currently in progress.

Cllr Raut asked if Town Council meetings would be held in the Community Centres going forward, Cllr Ward responded that availability for evenings bookings was very limited and that rotating Town Council meetings had caused confusion previously, for residents wishing to attend.

Resolved to

- a) note the first five months' performance to March 2026 of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Libraries and Community Centres;
- b) note the final pro rata Contract Fee of £179,697 for 2025/26;
- c) note the Contract Fee of £529,902 for 2026/27; and



d) approve further improvements to the libraries and community centres outlined in Table 4, at a cost of £46,800, to be funded by the earmarked reserve.

8 Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring

The CEO reported that there had been a change in the RAG status for E4 - Progressing transfer of allotment sites, from green to orange. The Town Council Solicitors are meeting with BCC Solicitors on Thursday to discuss the transfers. The CEO said that she hoped that the next two sites would be transferred by the end of 2026 with the remaining three sites transferred by the end of December 2027.

Cllr Cook asked about the Devo deal sites to be transferred from BCC. Cllr Ward said there are 13 sites in the Devo Deal that the Town Council has asked to be transferred. The Town Council has made provision to maintain these sites in the Town Ranger contract, on their transfer.

Cllr Pears asked with new BCC leadership, if a Leaders meeting had been arranged to discuss the Park and devolution. Cllr Ward said that he has requested that regular Leader's meetings take place with Cllr Harmer, in addition he has meetings scheduled for the next week with the Managing Director and the Lead Commissioner at BCC.

In response to a question from Cllr Cooper, the CEO responded that the Town Council had agreed that allotment rents would remain the same as those set by BCC, until all sites have been transferred to ensure consistency across all Sutton Coldfield sites.

Resolved to note the Strategic Plan progress monitoring report.

9 Cultural Strategy for Royal Sutton Coldfield

Resolved that the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield Culture Strategy 2026 – 2036, be recommend to Full Council for approval

10 Community Infrastructure Levy

Resolved to note the Community Infrastructure Levy update.

11 Risk Register

In response to a question from Cllr Pears on properties in Town Council ownership, the CEO confirmed that all allotment sites have toilet buildings and some have community buildings. The Town Council does insure any Council owned allotment structures, as per the management agreement. In addition, annual checks are carried out for health and safety, legionella testing and asbestos management.

Resolved to note the Risk Register.

12 Regular Payments

In response to a question from Cllr Cooper, the CEO reported that PJA provide advice on strategic highway matters, advice on the highway elements of planning applications, and technical support in matters relating to the Royal Sutton Coldfield Gateway proposals.



Cllr Pears asked for an update on progressing the priorities of the Active Travel Scheme, the CEO said an update would be brought to Planning and Highways Committee over the coming months.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of regular expenditure payments and the use of BACS and variable direct debit as detailed in the report.

13 Bank Reconciliations

Resolved to note the bank reconciliations.

14 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting scheduled for 15th September 2026, clashes with a Birmingham City Council (BCC) Meeting. To ensure attendance by Councillors elected to BCC and the Town Council, the next Strategy and Resources Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2026.

The meeting ended at 7:46 pm

Signed as a true record

16th Sept 2026