

# **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Questions to Portfolio Holders**

### **Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Wednesday 6 November 2024**

#### **Question received from Cllr Callum Beswick:**

"The SMDC lengthsman grant (administered by AES) provides vital support to our town and parish councils, to enable them to maintain the appearance of our towns and villages to the highest of standards. I am aware that the grant has been fixed at £400 for at least the last 15 years. Given that the minimum wage has almost doubled during this time, and the council's priority action in the corporate plan to improve relationships with town and parish councils, will the portfolio holder commit to increasing the size of this important grant?"

#### **Response from Councillor M Swindlehurst, Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Tourism:-**

It has been a cash limited contribution with the parish raising any additional monies required via its precept. No increase to this amount has been included in the MTFP and to do so would require additional budget growth, adding to the pressure on the Council's budget. We do have a range of further initiatives that can support towns and parishes in placemaking. We welcome discussions, either at an individual parish level, or collectively through the parish assembly.