



Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of Council held on 26 February 2024

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item	Decision
9	<p>Members' Allowances 2024/2025</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance.</p> <p>Purpose of report</p> <p>To determine the levels of the allowances to be paid to Members for the forthcoming 2024/2025 financial year and proposed changes to the Members Allowance Scheme following the consideration of the report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (the "Panel") attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <p>1.1 Consider the levels of allowances to be included in the 2024/2025 Members' Allowances Scheme, and whether the Panel's recommendations (as set out at paragraph 2.0 of this report and Appendix 1 should be adopted or modified in any way.</p> <p>1.2 Authorise the Assistant Director Law and Governance to prepare an amended Members' Allowances Scheme, in accordance with the decisions of Council for implementation with effect from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>1.3 Authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to take</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That having given due consideration, the following levels of allowances be included in the 2024/2025 Members' Allowances Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the Basic Allowance (currently £4836 pa) be increased in in line with the 2024/2025 staff pay award (percentage) when agreed, rounded up to give 12 equal payments and payment of the increase backdated to 1 April 2024.• That all Special Responsibility Allowances be increased in in line with the 2024/2025 staff pay award (percentage) when agreed, rounded up to give 12 equal payments and payment of the increase backdated to 1 April 2024.• That A new Special Responsibility Allowance be introduced for Minority Opposition Group Leaders from April 1 2024, based on the following criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Group Leader of a minority opposition Group with 2 – 5 Members: 25% of the Main Opposition Group Leader SRA (if required, rounded up to 12 equal payments)○ Group Leader of a

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	<p>all necessary action to revoke the current (2023/2024) Scheme and to publicise the revised Scheme pursuant to The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).</p> <p>1.4 Thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for its report and set a fee of £300 for each Panel Member for the work carried out on this review and propose the same level of fee for any reviews carried out in 2024/2025 capped at a maximum of £1200 per person, which can be funded from existing budgets.</p>	<p>minority opposition Group with 6 or more members: 50% of the Main Opposition Group Leader SRA (if required, rounded up to 12 equal payments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the co-optees allowance be increased in line with the staff pay award for 2024/2025 (percentage), when agreed, and rounded up to give 12 equal payments and payment of the increase backdated to 1 April 2024. • That the Independent Persons allowance be increased in line with the staff pay award for 2024/2025 (percentage), when agreed, and rounded up to give 12 equal payments, and payment of the increase backdated to 1 April 2024. • That Dependents' Carers' and Childcare Allowances remain at the current level, are paid on the basis of the actual costs incurred up to the maximum hourly rate set out below and to a maximum cap of 40 hours per month, subject to production of receipts and cannot be paid to a member of the claimant's household: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Childcare: £10 per hour ○ Dependent Relative care - £20 per hour • That mileage remain at the current level in line with HMRC approved mileage rates, and if any adjustments are implemented by HMRC then the revised rates

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		<p>should be applied to Members' travel allowances effective from the date of implementation by HMRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there be no change to subsistence allowances. • That Democratic Services continue to book overnight accommodation if required. • That there be no change to the list of approved duties for which claims may be made. • That Non-Executive Director allowances be increased in line with the staff pay award for 2024/205, rounded up to give 12 equal payments, and payment of the increase backdated to 1 April 2024 and costs recharged to the relevant company. <p>(2) That the Assistant Director Law and Governance be authorised to prepare an amended Members' Allowances Scheme, in accordance with the decisions of Council for implementation with effect from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>(3) That the Assistant Director of Law and Governance be authorised to take all necessary action to revoke the current (2023/2024) Scheme and to publicise the revised Scheme pursuant to The Local Authorities (Member's Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).</p> <p>(4) That the Independent Remuneration Panel for its report and set a fee of £300 for each Panel Member for the</p>

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		<p>work carried out on this review and propose the same level of fee for any reviews carried out in 2024/2025 capped at a maximum of £1200 per person, which can be funded from existing budgets.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Budget Setting for 2024/25 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy up to 2028/29</p> <p>Report of the Assistant Director of Finance (S151)</p> <p>Purpose of report</p> <p>To consider and approve the Budget Setting for 2024/25 and MTFS 2028/29 as per the recommendations.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Council resolves to:</p> <p>1.1 Have regard to the statutory report of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 25 report) at Appendix 3 in approving recommendations 1.2 – 1.9.</p> <p>1.2 Approve the proposed Fees and Charges schedule for 2024/25 (Appendix 7) and statutory notices be placed where required.</p> <p>1.3 Consider and note the Equality Impact Assessments of the Budget (Appendix 8 and 8b)</p> <p>1.4 In relation to the Business Plan (Section 4.1) to approve:</p> <p>1.4.1 The Business Plan set out</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That, having due regard, the statutory report of the Chief Finance Officer and the comments of the Chief Finance Officer in respect of the proposed amendments, be noted.</p> <p>(2) That, subject to the following amendments with authority delegated to the Section 151 Officer to update the budget papers to reflect the amendments, the proposed Fees and Charges schedule for 2024/25 be approved and it be noted that statutory notices would be placed where required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That the 2024/25 increase in bulky waste charges be removed and the 2023/24 levels be retained and a new premium charge for faster service be introduced ● That the charge for replacement bins be removed ● That the 2024/25 increase in the NOA, Cooper School and Stratfield Brake fees and charges be removed and the fees be retained at 2023/24 levels at a cost of £0.012m. <p>(3) That, having given due consideration, the Equality Impact Assessments of the</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">in Appendix 1.</p> <p>1.5 In relation to the Revenue Budget Strategy (Section 4.3) and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (Section 4.6) to approve:</p> <p>1.5.1 The net revenue budget for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2024, as set out in Table 4.3.1, and further analysed in the Budget Book provided at Appendix 12.</p> <p>1.5.2 The MTFS and Revenue Budget 2024/25 (Sections 4.3 and 4.6 respectively), including the Savings Proposals and Pressures included at Appendices 4 and 5 respectively.</p> <p>1.6 In relation to Council Tax to approve:</p> <p>1.6.1 An increase in the Basic Amount of Council Tax for Cherwell District Council for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2024 of £5, resulting in a Band D charge of £153.50 per annum.</p> <p>1.7 In relation to the Capital Programme and related strategies (Section 4.4) to approve:</p>	<p>Budget be noted.</p> <p>(4) That the Business Plan (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(5) That the net revenue budget, for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2024, at Table 2.2 of the Budget Amendment report which incorporated budget movements to fund the amendments to the budget, with authority delegated to the Section 151 Officer to amend other tables within the budget accordingly, be approved</p> <p>(6) That, subject to the following amendments with authority delegated to the Section 151 Officer to update the budget papers to reflect the amendments, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2024/25 including the Savings Proposals and Pressures be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That savings proposal reference SWAST243 (£0.075m) be removed to reflect resolution (2) to not introduce a charge for replacement bins. • That savings proposal SWAST241 be amended by introducing alternative charges for bulky waste (as set out in resolution (2)) in 2024/25 and it be noted this has a net nil impact on the budget and MTFS. • That savings proposal SPCON242 be reduced by £0.022m in 2024/25 in order to keep Pioneer Square public conveniences open. • That a new pressure of

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	<p>1.7.1 The Capital Bids and Capital Programme at Appendix 17 and 18 respectively.</p> <p>1.7.2 The Capital and Investment Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix 19), including the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy, and the revised 2023/24 MRP Policy (Appendix 20).</p> <p>1.7.3 The Treasury Management Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators, and Affordable Borrowing Limit for 2024/25 (Appendix 21).</p> <p>1.8 In relation to reserves (Section 4.5) to approve:</p> <p>1.8.1 A minimum level of General Balances of £6.1m as supported by Appendix 15.</p> <p>1.8.2 The Reserves Policy (Appendix 14).</p> <p>1.8.3 The medium-term reserves plan described in Appendix 16.</p> <p>1.9 In relation to the Pay Policy Statement approve:</p> <p>1.9.1 The Pay Policy Statement, as</p>	<p>£0.020m for an additional cleaning contract for the public conveniences at Pioneer Square be agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the general contingency budget be reduced by £0.129m to fund the agreed amendments to the proposed budget. <p>(7) That an increase in the Basic Amount of Council Tax for Cherwell District Council for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2024 of £5, resulting in a Band D charge of £153.50 per annum be agreed.</p> <p>(8) That the Capital Bids and Capital Programme (annexes to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(9) That the Capital and Investment Strategy 2024/25 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book), including the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy, and the revised 2023/24 MRP Policy (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book).</p> <p>(10) That the Treasury Management Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators, and Affordable Borrowing Limit for 2024/25 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(11) That a minimum level of General Balances of £6.1m be approved.</p> <p>(12) That the Reserves Policy (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) and the medium-term reserves plan</p>

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	<p>required by the Localism Act 2010, detailed in Appendix 9.</p>	<p>(annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(13) That the Pay Policy Statement, as required by the Localism Act 2010 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Calculating the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 and setting the Council Tax for 2024/25</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p>Purpose of report</p> <p>To detail the calculations for the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 and the setting of Council Tax for 2024/25.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Council resolves:</p> <p>(1) To approve the Council Tax Base 2024/25 that was determined at the Executive meeting held on 8 January 2024:</p> <p>a) for the whole Council area as 59,027.2 [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (“the 1992 Act”)]; and</p> <p>b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That it be noted that the Council Tax Base 2024/25 was determined at the Executive meeting held on 8 January 2024:</p> <p>A) for the whole Council area as 59,027.2 [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (“the 1992 Act”)]; and</p> <p>B) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as in the attached Appendix 1.</p> <p>(2) That it be agreed that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) is £9,060,675.</p> <p>(3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the 1992 Act:</p> <p>A) £137,412,530 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the 1992 Act, taking into account all</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Precept relates as in the attached Appendix 1.</p> <p>(2) That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) is £9,060,675.</p> <p>(3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the 1992 Act:</p> <p>a) £137,496,126 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the 1992 Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.</p> <p>b) £122,083,104 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the 1992 Act.</p> <p>c) £15,413,022 being the amount by which the</p>	<p>precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.</p> <p>B) £121,996,104 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the 1992 Act.</p> <p>C) £15,416,426 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the 1992 Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the 1992 Act).</p> <p>D) £261.17 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the 1992 Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses).</p> <p>E) £6,355,750 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the 1992 Act as per the attached annex to the Minutes (as set out in</p>

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	<p>aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the 1992 Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the 1992 Act).</p> <p>d) £261.12 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the 1992 Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses).</p> <p>e) £6,352,346 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the 1992 Act as per the attached Appendix 2.</p> <p>f) £153.50 being the amount at 3(d) above less the</p>	<p>the Minute Book).</p> <p>F) £153.50 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T(1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the 1992 Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept or special item relates.</p> <p>(4) It be noted that for the year 2024/25 the Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the 1992 Act, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="991 1335 1449 1901"> <thead> <tr> <th>Valuation Band</th> <th>Oxfordshire County Council</th> <th>Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>1,213.71</td> <td>179.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>1,415.99</td> <td>209.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>1,618.28</td> <td>239.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>1,820.56</td> <td>269.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2,225.13</td> <td>329.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>2,629.70</td> <td>388.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>3,034.27</td> <td>448.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>3,641.12</td> <td>538.56</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(5) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the 1992 Act, hereby</p>	Valuation Band	Oxfordshire County Council	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley		£	£	A	1,213.71	179.52	B	1,415.99	209.44	C	1,618.28	239.36	D	1,820.56	269.28	E	2,225.13	329.12	F	2,629.70	388.96	G	3,034.27	448.80	H	3,641.12	538.56
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	<p>result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T(1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the 1992 Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept or special item relates.</p> <p>(4) It be noted that for the year 2024/25 the Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the 1992 Act, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated below: -</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="376 1458 928 1953"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="376 1458 528 1615">Valuation Band</th> <th data-bbox="533 1458 711 1615">Oxfordshire County Council</th> <th data-bbox="716 1458 928 1615">Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1621 528 1653"></td> <td data-bbox="533 1621 711 1653">£</td> <td data-bbox="716 1621 928 1653">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1659 528 1691">A</td> <td data-bbox="533 1659 711 1691">1,213.71</td> <td data-bbox="716 1659 928 1691">179.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1697 528 1729">B</td> <td data-bbox="533 1697 711 1729">1,415.99</td> <td data-bbox="716 1697 928 1729">209.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1736 528 1767">C</td> <td data-bbox="533 1736 711 1767">1,618.28</td> <td data-bbox="716 1736 928 1767">239.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1774 528 1805">D</td> <td data-bbox="533 1774 711 1805">1,820.56</td> <td data-bbox="716 1774 928 1805">269.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1812 528 1843">E</td> <td data-bbox="533 1812 711 1843">2,225.13</td> <td data-bbox="716 1812 928 1843">329.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1850 528 1881">F</td> <td data-bbox="533 1850 711 1881">2,629.70</td> <td data-bbox="716 1850 928 1881">388.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1888 528 1919">G</td> <td data-bbox="533 1888 711 1919">3,034.27</td> <td data-bbox="716 1888 928 1919">448.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="376 1926 528 1957">H</td> <td data-bbox="533 1926 711 1957">3,641.12</td> <td data-bbox="716 1926 928 1957">538.56</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(5) The Council, in</p>	Valuation Band	Oxfordshire County Council	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley		£	£	A	1,213.71	179.52	B	1,415.99	209.44	C	1,618.28	239.36	D	1,820.56	269.28	E	2,225.13	329.12	F	2,629.70	388.96	G	3,034.27	448.80	H	3,641.12	538.56	<p>sets the amounts shown in the annex to the Minutes (ass et out in the Minute Book) as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.</p> <p>(6) That the Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the 1992 Act.</p>
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	<p>accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the 1992 Act, hereby sets the amounts shown in Appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.</p> <p>(6) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the 1992 Act.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Member Development Framework and Programme 2024-25</p> <p>Report of Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Purpose of report</p> <p>To consider and agree the Member Development Framework and Programme for 2024-25</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Council resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the Member Development Framework for 2024-25</p> <p>1.2 To approve the Member Development Programme for 2024-25</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Member Development Framework for 2024-25 be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the Member Development Programme for 2024-25 be approved.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Updates to the Constitution</p> <p>Report of the Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Purpose of report</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the amendments being made under the existing Monitoring Officer delegation</p>

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	<p>The Constitution is the document by which, in accordance with the law, the Council exercises all its powers and duties. It is essential that it is reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose. This is to update members with the latest changes following meetings of the Constitution Review Group (CRG).</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the amendments being made under the existing Monitoring Officer delegation, as detailed in Appendix 5</p> <p>1.2 To approve the amendments to the Constitution referred to in this report and appendices 3, 4 and 6.</p> <p>1.3 To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make the amendments to the Constitution, including a delegation to make textual amendments to address any inconsistencies or correct any cross-referencing errors arising from or as a consequence of the amendments (insofar as the Monitoring Officer does not already have such a delegation).</p>	<p>be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the following amendments to the Constitution be approved: Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules; Contract Procedure Rules, and Annex to the Code of Conduct for local determination of applications.</p> <p>(3) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make the amendments to the Constitution, including a delegation to make textual amendments to address any inconsistencies or correct any cross-referencing errors arising from or as a consequence of the amendments (insofar as the Monitoring Officer does not already have such a delegation).</p>
15	<p>Motions</p> <p>To debate the following motion which has been submitted with advance notice, in accordance with the Constitution (to be debated in the order submitted).</p> <p>Topic: Right to Grow Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the following motion be adopted:</p> <p>“The cost-of-living crisis has highlighted the need for access to enough fresh food, especially fruit and vegetables. This has been worsened by the lack of available allotments and communal gardens.</p> <p>Greater access to growing</p>

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		<p>spaces would better support CDC in ensuring it places the health and well-being of its residents at the heart of its policy making by increasing the availability of fresh locally produced food at an affordable price.</p> <p>Such initiatives can reduce pressures on NHS and social care whilst increasing community cohesion, tackling loneliness and isolation, and providing for the healthy food needs of their neighbourhoods.</p> <p>We recognise that officers already work with our communities to encourage them to come together to develop local growing spaces in areas of under-used publicly owned land and that we have endorsed the countywide Food Strategy. But that we can always do more.</p> <p>This council therefore calls on the Executive to,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify council owned land suitable for community cultivation and facilitate the production of a publicly available map of such sites. 2. Adopt a 'Right to Grow' policy whilst continuing to work with Cherwell Collective and other community organisations to encourage the adoption of such land for growing schemes by means of a simple licence at no direct cost to the community. 3. Consider ways to encourage developers to include community growing

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		<p>spaces in all new developments and, where practical, on land awaiting development.</p> <p>4. Write to all Cherwell MPs asking them to support the national 'Right to Grow' campaign."</p>