



Summary of the Decisions Taken at the Meeting of Budget Planning Committee held on 25 July 2023

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item	Decision
6	<p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024-25</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p>Purpose of report</p> <p>To enable members to consider the proposed banded scheme for Council Tax Reduction for 2024-25.</p> <p>The current scheme was introduced from April 2020 following a period of consultation and engagement. In general, it has been well received with limited contact from customers. It is proposed to continue with the current scheme, uprated for inflationary factors.</p> <p>The scheme assesses the maximum level of Council Tax Reduction based on the net income of the applicant and household members, the main principles of the scheme remain unchanged. Pensioners are protected and continue to be eligible to receive 100% Council Tax Reduction</p> <p>If the applicant or partner is in receipt of a passported benefit such as Income Support Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) income based and income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or receiving War widows or War disablement pensions they will be placed into the highest band and will receive 100% Council Tax Reduction.</p> <p>Working age households will receive a</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the contents of the report be noted.</p> <p>(2) That, having given due consideration. the Executive be recommended to agree that the current scheme (adjusted for inflationary purposes) is retained for 2024/25.</p>

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	<p>discount, depending on their level of income and the band that they fall into.</p> <p>The current scheme is understood by customers and has enabled them to budget for their council tax payments, and this is reflected in the Council Tax collection rates with Cherwell being the highest performer across the county for 2022-23.</p> <p>The current scheme reduces the number of changes that the customer will experience with less bills and notification letters generated and enables better personal budgeting. There is still a lot of financial uncertainty for many customers and in the current financial climate with the ongoing cost of living crisis it is therefore recommended that the existing scheme should be retained for 2024.25.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended to:</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of the report, and any financial implications for the Council.</p> <p>1.2 To recommend to Executive that the current scheme (adjusted for inflationary factors) is retained for 2024/25</p>	
7	<p>Budget Process 2024-25</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p>Purpose of report</p> <p>This report summarises the approach Cherwell District Council (CDC) intends to take in order to set its 2024/25 budget and 5-year Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the report be noted.</p>

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	<p>the period to 2028/29 and revises the Reserves Policy.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of Appendix 1.</p>	
8	<p>Monthly Finance Performance Report</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p>Purpose of report</p> <p>This report summarises Cherwell District Council's (CDC's) Outturn position for revenue and capital for 2022/2023 and gives the Committee the opportunity to consider the financial aspects of the report.</p> <p>The council has been successful in delivering a revenue outturn position for 2022/23 with an overall minor underspend of (£0.001m). This is a significant achievement under the current economic circumstances.</p> <p>The Council has an in-year capital underspend of (£14.958m) against a budget of £24.413m, of which £14.273m is requested to be reprofiled in future years. This represents an overall decrease in the total cost of schemes of (£0.685m) due to a number of schemes no longer going ahead.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of this report.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the report be noted.</p>
9	Review of Committee Work Plan	Resolved

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	To review the Committee Work Plan.	(1) That the update on the Committee Work plan be noted.