

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 2 February 2015 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman), Leader of the Council
Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman), Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Ken Atack, Lead Member for Financial Management
Councillor Norman Bolster, Lead Member for Estates and the Economy
Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Banbury Brighter Futures
Councillor Michael Gibbard, Lead Member for Planning
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Clean and Green
Councillor Kieron Mallon, Lead Member Banbury Developments, Performance and Communications
Councillor D M Pickford, Lead Member for Housing
Councillor Nicholas Turner, Lead Member for Joint Working and ICT

Also Present: Councillor Sean Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Nicholas Mawer, Chairman, Budget Planning Committee

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Martin Henry, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Paul Sutton, Head of Finance and Procurement
Jo Pitman, Head of Transformation (for agenda item 7)
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections

111 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

112 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

113 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

114 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

115 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcement:

1. Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public were permitted to film, broadcast and report on the meeting, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being affected.

116 **Draft Budget and Business Plan 2015-16**

The Head of Finance and Procurement and the Head of Transformation submitted a report which presented the draft budget and business plan 2015-16. The Council was required to produce a balanced budget for 2015-16 as the basis for calculating its level of Council Tax. It has to base that budget on its plans for service delivery during the year, recognising any changes in service demand that may arise in future years.

The report also detailed the proposed strategic priorities, the underpinning key objectives, and deliverables for 2015-16 which had now been converted into a proposed business plan for the Council. The proposed business plan sits alongside the draft budget so as to demonstrate that the Council adopts a strategic approach to managing all of its resources by aligning the development and delivery of the Council's priorities and key deliverables to the proposed budget.

The first draft budget was reported to the Executive meeting on 1 December 2014, along with the draft strategic priorities and key deliverables for the Council for 2015-16. The draft budget had been reviewed by the Budget Planning Committee and the strategic priorities/key deliverables had since been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who proposed no amendments.

The budget information had been updated to reflect changes since the December meeting of Executive and, subject to any further changes, this final draft would be used to prepare an integrated final budget and business plan (detailing the strategic priorities and annual deliverables for 2015-16) to be submitted to Full Council on 23 February 2015.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft budget in the context of the Council's service objectives and strategic priorities be approved.
- (2) That the balanced budget be approved.
- (3) That Full Council be recommended to approve a Council tax freeze.
- (4) That the proposed 2015-16 capital programme (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be agreed.
- (5) That it be noted the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) financial forecast was currently being refreshed and would be reported back to Executive once this exercise had been completed.
- (6) That Full Council be recommended to approve the updated draft revenue budget at its 23 February 2015 meeting.
- (7) That authority be delegated to the Head of Finance and Procurement, in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Lead Member Financial Management to amend the contributions to or from general fund balances to allow the Council Tax increase to remain at the level recommended by Executive to Full Council following the announcement of the final settlement figures, and as a result of any financial implications arising from resolution (6).
- (8) That Full Council be recommended to approved the draft 5 year business strategy, 2015-16 council objectives, 2015-16 performance pledges and 2015-16 business plan (annexes to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book).
- (9) That the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment that had been undertaken in relation to both the proposed Business Plan and Budget for 2015/16 be noted.

Reasons

This report presents a final analysis of the Council's draft 2015-16 revenue and capital budget. This will be presented to Full Council on the 23 February to support the setting of the Council Tax.

It is a legal requirement to set a balanced budget and the recommendations as set out represent what is believed to be the best way of achieving this.

Alternative Options

To reject the current proposals and to make alternative recommendations or ask officers for further information.

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

118 **Bicester Leisure Centre**

The Director of Community and Environment submitted an exempt report regarding Bicester Leisure Centre.

Resolved

- (1) That the role of Bicester Leisure Centre as the strategic indoor leisure facility for the town be supported.
- (2) That negotiations be progressed with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for the acquisition of sufficient additional adjacent land to enable the future expansion of the Leisure Centre to fulfil this strategic role.
- (3) As set out in the restricted minutes.
- (4) As set out in the restricted minutes.
- (5) As set out in the restricted minutes.
- (6) That a further report on these matters be received following further negotiations.

Reasons

As set out in the exempt minutes

Alternative Options

As set out in the exempt minutes

The meeting ended at 6.56 pm

Chairman:

Date: