

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 30 August 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman)
Councillor Douglas Webb (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Tom Wallis

Substitute Members: Councillor Maurice Billington (In place of Councillor Alan MacKenzie-Wintle)

Also Present:: Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Financial Management

Apologies for absence: Councillor David Anderson
Councillor Alan MacKenzie-Wintle
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Officers: Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive
Sanjay Sharma, Interim Head of Finance / Deputy Section 151 Officer
Mandy Anderson, Financial Analyst
Belinda Green, Revenues and Benefits Manager
Richard Stirling, Corporate Procurement Manager
Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections Officer

15 **Declarations of Interest**

Members made the following general declarations of interest:

Councillor Ian Corkin, declaration, as a board member of Graven Hill Village Development Company.

16 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

17 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held on 25 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

19 **Quarter 1 2017-18 - Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which summarised the Council's Revenue, Capital and Reserves positions as at the end of quarter one of the financial year 2017-18.

In considering the report, some members of the Committee raised concerns on the Solihull Partnership and the number of projects still outstanding. Councillor Barry Richards who represented the Committee on the Solihull Partnership Steering Group reminded the Members that the report was from the first quarter and that many projects had now been completed. He also reported to the members that the work he had seen had been of good quality and value.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Richards for the work he had done with the Solihull Partnership Steering Group on behalf of the Committee.

In response to members concerns regarding previous significant slippage and variance in capital bids the Interim Head of Finance explained that he had received assurance that Project Managers had reviewed all projects and that some projects were no longer required and would therefore not be included on the next report.

The Committee requested that the Interim Property Investment Manager, Regeneration and Estates and the Lead Member for Estates and the Economy attend the meeting of the Committee on 31 October 2017 to give an update on the Capital Bids and the work with Solihull Partnership.

In response to comments regarding a Capital Bid for Kidlington that had been removed from the list without the work being completed, the Chief Executive suggested that the matter would be investigated and an update sent to members outside of the meeting

The Committee requested that the dates when Capital Bids were originally submitted be included in future reports so it was known how long projects had been outstanding.

In response to Members concerns regarding the surety of revenue and suggestion that a strategy was required, the Chief Executive agreed that an Investment Strategy was required and informed the Committee that work was being done to increase the surety of revenue.

Resolved

- (1) That, having reviewed the projected revenue and capital position at June 2017, it be noted and no comments be forwarded to Executive.
- (2) That, having reviewed the current position of reserves, they be noted.

20 **Review of Procurement Strategy Progress**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which summarised the Council's Procurement Strategy progress for quarter one of the financial year 2017-18.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress made during Quarter 1 2017-18 in implementing the Council's Procurement Strategy be noted.

21 **Business Rates Monitoring 2017-2018**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which provided members with an update on the business rates position as at the end of quarter one of the 2017-18 financial year.

The Financial Analyst explained to members that the reserves may be needed to balance the budget as South Oxfordshire and Oxford City Councils were likely to earn more from the pool than previously thought.

In response to comments raised by some members of the committee querying why the increase in business rates had been so large, the Financial Analyst explained that it was likely to do with revaluation and agreed that if member forwarded specific details outside of the meeting they would be investigated.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.

22 **Review of Committee Work Plan**

The Committee considered its work programme.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the work programme be noted.

23 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved

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.

24

Medium Term Revenue Plan - 2017/18 to 2021/22

The Chief Finance Officer submitted an exempt report to update members on the Medium Term Revenue Plan.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the exempt report be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm

Chairman:

Date: