

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 31 October 2017 at 6.30 pm

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

Councillor David Anderson
Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Alan MacKenzie-Wintle
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Substitute Members: Councillor Barry Wood (In place of Councillor David Hughes)

Apologies for absence: Councillor David Hughes

Officers: Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer
Chris Hipkiss, Interim Property & Investment Manager
Richard Stirling, Corporate Procurement Manager
Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections Officer

34 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

35 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

36 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held on 26 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

38 **Review of Procurement Strategy Progress**

The Committee considered the Chief Finance Officers report which summarised the Council's Procurement Strategy progress for Quarter 2 of the financial year 2017-18.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress made during quarter two 2017/18 in implementing Cherwell District Council's Procurement Strategy be noted.

39 **Quarter 2 2017-18 - Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which summarised the Council's Revenue, Capital and Reserves position as at the end of Quarter Two of the financial year 2017-18 and projections for the full year.

The Chairman asked Councillor Richards to give an update from the Solihull Partnership Steering Group. Councillor Richards commented that the work which had been completed was very satisfactory. The Steering Group had benefitted both Cherwell District Council and the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and level of trust had been re-instated. Councillor Richards thanked the officers for the work they had done and was happy to report that a point had been reached that the Committee had hoped would be reached.

The Chief Finance Officer reported that a template had been agreed which gave sufficient detail to Solihull Partnership and should continue to be used.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Richards for his involvement in the Steering Group and the work it had undertaken.

When reviewing the Capital Monitoring Report, members commented that they understood North Oxfordshire Academy AstroTurf was not the responsibility of Cherwell District Council and requested that this be investigated. The Chief Finance Officer agreed to provide clarification to Members outside of the meeting.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Interim Property Investment Manager explained that the Capital Monitoring Report was due to be reviewed and any items no longer relevant would be removed. There was a new strong team in place preparing capital and revenue budgets, progress had been made and lessons learnt on how to improve processes.

In considering the Reserves, Members asked if the Country Park Reserve could be used to purchase land for recreational purposes. The Chief Finance Officer explained that a review of reserves was due and when the report came

back to committee, items would be updated and there would be an explanation of the purpose of the Country Park reserve.

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration, the projected revenue and capital position at quarter 2, be noted.
- (2) That Executive be recommended to note the excellent work of the Solihull Partnership Steering Group and the substantial work of the Special Projects Manager and his team in restoring confidence in Cherwell District Council's partnership with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

40 **Review of Committee Work Plan**

The Committee considered its work programme.

Resolved

- (1) That the Work Programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

Chairman:

Date: