

Cherwell District Council

Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 8 January 2018 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 Colin Clarke, Lead Member for Planning
Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Financial Management
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes, Lead Member for Change Management, Joint Working and IT
Councillor Kieron Mallon, Lead Member for Public Protection and Community Services
Councillor Richard Mould, Lead Member for Performance
Councillor D M Pickford, Lead Member for Clean and Green
Councillor Lynn Pratt, Lead Member for Estates and the Economy

Also

Present: Councillor Sean Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group

Apologies for absence: Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Housing

Officers: Paul Sutton, Executive Director: Finance and Governance / Section 151 Officer
Claire Taylor, Director: Customers and Service Development
James Doble, Monitoring Officer
Natasha Clark, Democratic and Elections Team Leader

88 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

89 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

90 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

91 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

92 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

93 **Bespoke / Custom Build Mortgage Pilot Scheme**

The Executive Director: Finance and Governance submitted a report to consider joining a version of the existing Local Authority Mortgage Schemes (LAMS) which was developed by Arlingclose to promote access to self/custom build home ownership within the district. It sets out the Bespoke/Custom Build (BCB) scheme which offers support to local people to access self/custom build houses by reducing the risk of self-build and provides a return to the council which could be reinvested in housing related activities.

Resolved

- (1) That agreement be given to join the Bespoke/Custom Build (BCB) scheme, but limited to an initial pilot scheme of 10 BCB mortgages, for launch in early 2018.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director: Finance and Governance, in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management, to extend the scheme to new applications once the success of the pilot has been assessed and further capital funding is in place for additional bridging loans.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director: Finance and Governance, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Lead Member for Financial Management, to enter into legal agreements required for the Bespoke/Custom Build scheme where land is owned by third parties.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director: Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director: Place & Growth and the Lead Member for Housing and the Lead Member for Estates & Economy to set the criteria for prioritising access to the scheme for applicants with a local connection.

Reasons

The scheme has been developed as an evolution of the local authority mortgage scheme (LAMS) to be relevant and available for customers wanting to self or custom build. The approach generates small returns for the authority and as a partnership activity does not require significant investment in people

and expertise to run the scheme. The primary benefits are the ability to start small and test the extent to which the product may increase access to the self-build market.

Alternative options

Option 1: To not join the scheme. This option has been rejected because the council may fail to meet housing needs in the district.

Option 2: To join the scheme without first conducting a pilot. This option has been rejected because it is more prudent to test the waters with a pilot to manage the expectations of the custom and self build community.

94 Council Tax Base 2018-2019

The Executive Director: Finance and Governance submitted a report to provide Executive with an estimate of the Council Tax Base for 2018-2019 and seek approval for the final determination of the Council Tax Base to be delegated to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management.

Resolved

- (1) That having given due consideration to the report of the Executive Director: Finance and Governance for the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for 2018-2019, the following be agreed:
 - (a) That pursuant to the Executive Director: Finance and Governance's report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Cherwell District Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2018-2019 shall be **52,681.6** This shall be subject to final confirmation by the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management.
 - (b) As for the parishes which form part of its area shown in the annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book), the amount calculated as the Council Tax Base for the year 2018-2019 in respect of special items shall be as indicated in the column titled Tax Base 2018-2019.
 - (c) As for the Flood Defence Areas which form part of its area, the amount calculated as the Council Tax Base for the year 2018-2019 for the purposes of levies on Oxfordshire County Council by River Authorities, shall be:

Thames Flood Defence Area	50,381.7
Anglian (Great Ouse) Flood Defence Area	1,864.7
Severn Region Flood Defence Area	435.2
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	52,681.6.

- (2) That final approval of the Council Tax Base for 2018-2019 be delegated to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management.

Reasons

For the purposes of Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the Council is required to calculate the tax base (which will be used for tax setting purposes in February 2018) in respect of:

- (a) the whole of its area and;
- (b) for any parts of its area for the purposes of:
 - (i) Apportioning precepts and levies and;
 - (ii) Calculating the tax base for each area subject to a special item

Alternative options

Option 1: None. The Council has to set a tax base in order to set its council tax for 2018-2019.

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm

Chairman:

Date: