Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 27 February 2018 at 6.30 pm

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

                Councillor Hugo Brown
                Councillor Ian Corkin
                Councillor David Hughes
                Councillor Andrew McHugh
                Councillor Barry Richards
                Councillor Tom Wallis
                Councillor Sean Woodcock

Substitute   Councillor Barry Wood (In place of Councillor Alan MacKenzie-
Members: Wintle)

Apologies   Councillor David Anderson
for   Councillor Carmen Griffiths
absence: Councillor Alan MacKenzie-Wintle

Officers: Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive
                Cecilie Booth, Interim Assistant Director of Finance
                Mandy Anderson, Financial Analyst
                Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections Officer

11   Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12   Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

13   Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held on 30 January 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14   **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

15   **Business Rates Monitoring 2017-2018**

The Executive Director for Finance and Governance submitted a report which provided an update on the business rates position as at the end of Quarter 3 of the 2017-2018 financial year.

In considering the report, members queried the uptake of business rate relief and the support given to local businesses.

The Financial Analyst explained that there were three specific schemes available but not all of the available relief had been used. Every effort had been given to ensuring businesses were aware of the relief available and encouragement given to take advantage of the schemes.

Resolved

1)   That the report be noted.

16   **Review of Procurement Strategy Progress**

The Executive Director of Governance and Finance submitted a report which summarised the Council's Procurement Strategy progress for Q3 of the financial year 2017-18.

In considering the report members commented that the information presented was limited and questioned if it was still useful to the Committee.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that procurement was part of the core strategy to ensure public value was always delivered and suggested that the information covered by this report could be delivered in a different way. Going forward there would continue to be a high value procurement team which would be integrated into the finance team. There was therefore an option to report procurement through the budget monitoring report.

Resolved

1)   That the progress made during Quarter 3 2017-2018 in implementing the Council's Procurement Strategy be noted.

17   **Quarter 3 2017-18 - Performance, Budget and Risk Monitoring Report**

The Executive Director of Finance and Governance and Director of Customers and Service Development submitted a report which summarised the Council's Performance, Budget and Risk monitoring position as at the end

of the third quarter of the financial year 2017-18 with relevant projections for the full year.

In considering the report members commented on capital monitoring and enquired as to the status of 'The Hill' project as work had not yet commenced and once again slippage had occurred. The Committee were also concerned that there was slipping in the Disable Facilities Grants.

In response to member's comments, the Chief Executive advised that these matters would be investigated and an update sent to Members of the Committee and to relevant Ward Members outside of the meeting.

Resolved

1)   That the projected revenue, capital and reserves position at December 2017 be noted.

2)   That the performance position at the end of the third quarter be noted.

3)   That the revised risk register be noted.

18   **Review of Committee Work Plan**

The Committee considered its work programme.

Resolved

1)   That the Work Plan be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

Chairman:

Date: