

# Public Document Pack

## Cherwell District Council

### Executive

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 7 September 2009 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)

Councillor G A Reynolds  
Councillor Ken Attack  
Councillor Norman Bolster  
Councillor Michael Gibbard  
Councillor James Macnamara  
Councillor Kieron Mallon  
Councillor Nigel Morris  
Councillor D M Pickford  
Councillor Nicholas Turner

Also present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer  
Councillor Leslie F Sibley

Officers: Mary Harpley, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service  
Ian Davies, Strategic Director - Environment and Community  
John Hoad, Strategic Director - Planning, Housing and Economy  
Mike Carroll, Head of Improvement  
Karen Curtin, Head of Finance  
Pam Wilkinson, Principal Solicitor  
Tony Brummell, Head of Building Control & Engineering Services  
Gillian Greaves, Head of Housing Services  
David Marriott, Head of Economic Developments & Estates  
Lisa Chaney, Urban Centres Development Officer  
Alexa Coates, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer  
Linda Rand, Design & Conversation Team Leader  
Jo Smith, Communications Manager  
James Doble, Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager

#### 25 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 26 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had agreed Councillor Sibley could speak on RAF Bicester and Bicester Market Square Highway and Environment Improvement Scheme.

27 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

28 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

29 **RAF Bicester Planning Brief**

The Head of Planning and Affordable Housing Policy submitted a report on the responses received to the consultation draft Planning Brief incorporating Informal Development Principles and Management Guidelines.

**Resolved**

- 1) That the responses received to the draft document be noted and the contents of the amended document for publication be approved, with the amendment that officers be requested to look at the inclusion of public art and whether this conflicts with the conservation objectives on this site.
- 2) That concern be expressed to the Ministry of Defence that the maintenance of the buildings on the technical site has not been undertaken in accordance with the DCMS protocol
- 3) That concern be expressed to the Ministry of Defence at the extent to which the disposal of this site has been undertaken in a manner contrary to the DCMS protocol, in particular with respect to a comprehensive approach to securing the future of the whole of the heritage asset
- 4) That Defence Estates and English Heritage be invited to engage fully and quickly in the process of drawing up Management Guidelines for the flying field and Technical site to ensure that these are agreed prior to the sale.

**Reasons** – RAF Bicester comprises the flying field and technical site, east of Buckingham Road, and the domestic site and former officers' and airmen's housing, west of Buckingham Road. Some of the housing is occupied by USAF personnel based at Croughton and some has been sold off on the open market. It is described by English Heritage as "*the best preserved bomber airfield dating from the period up to 1945*". The flying field, technical site, domestic site, the former officer mess (now a care home) and some of the early housing (but not the later housing) is designated a conservation area and there are 41 grade II listed buildings and sixteen areas designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

## Options

Planning Brief: <b>Option One</b>	To approve the content of the Planning Brief, as amended following consultation, for publication.
<b>Option Two</b>	To make any other changes as Members see fit.
Maintenance of technical site: <b>Option One</b>	To express its concern to the Ministry of Defence at the fact that the maintenance of the buildings on the technical site has not been in accordance with the DCMS protocol.
<b>Option Two</b>	To take no action in this respect.
Disposal of site: <b>Option One</b>	To express its concern to the Ministry of Defence at the extent to which the disposal of this site has been undertaken in a manner contrary to the DCMS protocol, in particular with respect to a comprehensive approach to securing the future of the whole of the heritage asset.
<b>Option Two</b>	To take no action in this respect.
Preparation of Management Guidelines <b>Option One</b>	To invite Defence Estates and English Heritage to contribute to the joint preparation of Management Guidelines for the technical site and flying field as a matter of urgency with the aim of agreeing a joint document prior to the marketing of this part of the site.
<b>Option Two</b>	To take no action in this respect.

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## Member Development Strategy

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report presenting a Member Development and Support Strategy for approval and an update on the general progress of the member development programme 2009/10.

### Resolved

- 1) That the Member Development and Support Strategy be approved.

- 2) That an annual review of the Member Development and Support Strategy and the progress of the member support interviews be requested.

**Reasons** - Member training was identified as an area for improvement in the recent Corporate Performance Assessment. The Audit Commission commented that the Council should ensure better attendance at organised training events by monitoring and reviewing the completion of individual training and development plans.

**Options**

<b>Option One</b>	To agree the Draft Member Development and Support Strategy and review annually.
<b>Option Two</b>	Leave member support and development as it is, without seeking a solution to poor attendance at training events which the Council would likely to be criticised for as part of any future assessment.
<b>Option Three</b>	Amend the proposed Member Development and Support Strategy.

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**Bicester Market Square Highway and Environmental Improvement Scheme**

The Head of Economic Development and Estates submitted a report to confirm that the Council can, in collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council, move forward to public consultation on three proposed plans for an environmental Improvement Scheme of Bicester Market Square.

**Resolved**

- 1) That the three options for the Environmental Improvement Scheme of Bicester Market Square described in the report, go forward for public consultation.
- 2) That the County Council be requested to make it clear in the consultation that:
  - the implementation of any scheme will be timed so that it does not clash with the programme for the Bicester town centre redevelopment.
  - designs that result in the loss of public car parking may have significant financial implications and will require the approval of the District Council as landowner of the Market square car park.

**Reasons** – The environmental improvements of Bicester Market Square has been a project that this Council has been involved with for some time. The scheme is now a joint financial collaboration of Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council. The scheme has progressed to the stage of three proposed options being available for public consultation in November

2009. This report seeks the approval of the Council to progress with consultation on all three options.

### Options

<b>Option One</b>	Approve all three Options to go out to public consultation in November 2009.
<b>Option Two</b>	Reject one or more options. However this may result in a delay to the public consultation event if a new option is drafted or changes made to the other options in light of any comments.

### 32 **Pitt Review into Summer 2007 Floods - Further Implications following the Government's Response to the Report Recommendations**

The Head of Building Control and Engineering Services submitted a report which noted that all the recommendations of the Pitt Report into the Summer 2007 floods were accepted by the Government in late 2008. Following that in April 2009 the draft Flood and Water Management Bill was published and consulted upon. The Bill seeks to rearrange the various ways in which existing land drainage and flood risk management powers and responsibilities are organised, and proposes some new duties for those involved. If enacted the Bill would have significant implications for the way these services are delivered locally. The purpose of this Report is to appraise Members of those implications and to recommend an approach that supports the promotion of high quality land drainage services in Cherwell District in the future.

#### **Resolved**

- 1) That the ways in which the Flood and Water Management Bill seeks to place greater accountability on the Public Sector for flood risk management be supported.
- 2) That it be noted that it is likely the lead statutory role in land drainage and flood risk management will rest in future with Oxfordshire County Council.
- 3) That it be recognised following from (2) above that in future it will only be possible to provide land drainage and flood risk management services at District level through agencies or operational protocols to the Lead Local Flood Authority which is proposed to be the County Council.
- 4) That the Council pursue partnership discussions about how District Councils and especially district officers with extensive local knowledge in Oxfordshire might work with the County Council to provide high quality land drainage and flood risk management services in the future.

**Reasons** – The Head of Building Control and Engineering Services reported to the Executive on 3 November 2008 with a summary of the Pitt Review Final Recommendations and intimated that the Government was set on using those

as a basis for fundamental changes in the way land drainage and flood risk management is organised and delivered in England and Wales. There has followed a draft Flood and Water Management Bill which sets out the Government's proposals.

33 **Bryan House Bicester Redevelopment Scheme**

The Head of Economic Development and Estates, Head of Housing Services, and Head of Urban and Rural Services submitted a joint report to consider options for progressing the Bryan House redevelopment scheme.

**Resolved**

- 1) That a land exchange with Sanctuary Housing be approved to enable the redevelopment of the Bryan House site with affordable housing, with the loss of one public car parking space.

**Reasons** – For some time the Council has been working with Sanctuary Housing to bring forward a scheme to redevelop the Bryan House site in Chapel Street Bicester. The site was transferred to Charter Community Housing in 2004 as housing for older people but has been empty since July 2006 as it was no longer fit for purpose.

**Options**

<b>Option One</b>	Proceed with the scheme as currently proposed, resulting in the loss of nine public car parking spaces
<b>Option Two</b>	Ask Sanctuary to amend their scheme to delete two housing units, and reduce the loss of public car parking spaces to one. This is the option put forward in the recommendation.

34 **Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/09**

The Strategic Director Customer Services and Resources submitted a report seeking approval of the combined Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9, subject to any amendments of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.

**Resolved**

That the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 (as set out in the minute book), be recommended for approval by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.

**Reasons** – The combined Annual Report and Summary of Accounts build on our commitment to be an accessible, value for money council. It aims to provide an easy to understand overview of our accounts, available in different formats.

## Options

<b>Option One</b>	Consider and recommend the latest draft Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 (attached at Appendix 1), to be given final approval by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.
<b>Option Two</b>	Consider and not recommend the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 (attached at Appendix 1), to be given final approval by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.

### 35 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

#### **Resolved**

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

### 36 **Orchard Way Banbury Redevelopment Scheme**

Report of Head of Economic Development and Estates and Head of Housing Services to consider options for progressing the redevelopment scheme.

#### **Resolved**

To proceed with the redevelopment of the Orchard Way flats and shops site as previously approved, and approve a supplementary capital estimate of £1.1m to fund the scheme.

**(All officers left the meeting with the exception of members of Corporate Management Team.)**

### 37 **Pay and Grading Review 2010**

The Head of Human Resources and the Head of Finance submitted a joint report to provide an update of progress made to date in respect of the job evaluation project and to seek guidance on the parameters for negotiation of both the new pay structure due for implementation on 1 April 2010 and the new local pay deal.

#### **Resolved**

- 1) That the progress made in respect of the job evaluation project be noted.

The Executive - 7 September 2009

- 2) That parameters for negotiation of the new local pay deal and the new pay structure be agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Chairman:

Date:





# Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/09

Delivering in partnership

# Leader's message



This annual report and summary of accounts is an easy-to-read overview of how Cherwell District Council has continued to improve and protect public services during 2008/09. We've maintained a sound

financial position, characterised by reduced running costs. Not many organisations can say they have improved services and reduced their costs at the same time - a major achievement. Councillors are clear that residents expect this from a council that has been graded "excellent" by the Audit Commission – something I am very proud of.

The financial year 2008/09 was busy, productive, and an important milestone year for Cherwell District Council. We embedded a robust performance management regime, which enables councillors to track and manage priority projects, while keeping enough capacity to react to the emerging economic downturn.

This report details our achievements and shows how we performed against our public promises. An investment of £15 million means residents can access brand new leisure facilities across the district. Working with our partners we've helped reduce thefts from vehicles, robbery and household burglaries by 9 per cent, against a target of 5 per cent and we kept council tax increases below the rate of inflation.

Our last financial year was a "good news story" and I pay credit here to the hard work and dedication of council staff. The public should be assured that the council will not rest on its laurels. Cherwell District Council will continue to improve services while reducing costs. We believe we have a winning formula.

**Councillor Barry Wood**  
Leader, Cherwell District Council

## What we promised

## What we did

Ensure 90 per cent of our streets and parks are clean at any one time

Target exceeded – 93 per cent streets and parks clean at any one time

Achieve a recycling rate of 49 per cent

Target exceeded – recycling rate is 49.6 per cent

Reduce waste going to landfill by 1,500 tonnes

Target exceeded – 1,640 fewer tonnes sent to landfill

Reduce the council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 4 per cent

Target exceeded – the now-completed refurbishment of Bodicote House and other new measures will help us reduce emissions

Ensure at least 78 per cent of residents, when asked, say they feel safe at home and in the community

Target exceeded – 87 per cent of residents felt safe outside in the local area during the day and 57 per cent after dark

Work with Thames Valley Police to reduce crime involving theft from vehicles, robbery and household burglary by 5 per cent

Target exceeded – theft from vehicles, robbery and household burglaries reduced by 9 per cent

Support provision of the best possible services at the Horton General Hospital

Target achieved – we continued to support and influence the Better Healthcare Programme which is developing proposals for services at the Horton

Support new and improved healthcare services in Bicester and surrounding areas	Some progress made – but the start of the Primary Care Trust’s procurement process was delayed, limiting our ability to act this year
Invest £15m in rebuilding or refurbishing our sports centres to deliver better future services in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington	Target achieved – with the construction work completed in 2008/09 leading to the opening of fully-modernised Bicester and Kidlington leisure centres in June 2009 and of Woodgreen Pool in Banbury in August 2009
Contribute to the creation of 200 new jobs in the district	Target exceeded – 817 new jobs created (although more were lost as a result of the economic downturn)
Achieve 400 new homes including a minimum of 100 affordable homes	Target exceeded – 428 new homes completed including 122 affordable homes
Enhance Kidlington village centre by replacing the street furniture	Good progress made – completed in May 2009
Ensure that at least 90 per cent of our customers, when asked, are satisfied with our service when contacting the council	Target exceeded – in March 2009, 99 per cent of the council’s face-to-face and telephone customers were satisfied with the customer service they received
Keep our council tax increase to below inflation	Target achieved – the council tax increase for 2009/10 was below the rate of inflation (for the third year in a row)
Provide rural customers with more ways to access our services, including ten new access points in local communities	Target exceeded – Customers can pay Council bills at 26 PayPoints throughout the District, including 9 in village locations, and access council information and services at three LinkPoint kiosks located in villages.
Ensure that 70 per cent of our customers when asked feel well-informed about the council	Target not achieved – The 2008 annual customer satisfaction survey showed 64 per cent of residents feel well informed. We are taking action to improve on this performance

## Chief Executive’s look forward



As I write this we are halfway through 2009/10. We are making very good progress towards our 16 promises for this year, including the promise to reduce our costs by a further £1 million by the beginning of 2010/11.

We continue to manage the impact of the economic recession on the council itself – it’s reducing our income from some services such as planning applications and significantly increasing our workload in others, such as housing benefits. It looks as if we’ll have to manage these challenges for some time. We may well face substantial cuts to our funding from central

government over the next few years and we are doing all we can now to be best-placed to protect services when this happens.

We have worked hard this year to support residents who have been made redundant or face the threat of redundancy. Our Job Clubs in Banbury and Bicester have been an important part of this and we’ll continue to focus our efforts on supporting people who find themselves in this situation.

**Mary Harpley**  
Chief Executive

# 2008/09 – Headlines

- We were awarded 'excellent' status under the comprehensive performance assessment (previously 'good') and became the joint fifth best-performing district council in the country out of 238.



- We improved our score (the scale is one to four) under the national use of resources inspection regime for financial reporting' and for value for money (from two to three).

- All of this was achieved at the same time as reducing overall operating costs.

**excellent**

Recognised as an **excellent council** by the Audit Commission

## Cherwell: A district of opportunity

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- We led and funded the successful launch of a job club in Banbury and started planning for a job club in Bicester.



- The number of households living in temporary accommodation fell to under 100 for the first time. This has now improved further to 63 families against a target of 96.

- Adopted the new rural strategy.



## A cleaner, greener Cherwell

- Our street cleansing service now operates additional hours in urban areas.

- We met our targets for dealing with litter, graffiti, and fly posting, reducing the low level of environmental crime even further.

- We processed 86per cent of 'major' planning applications within the Government target of 13 weeks, against a target of 80 per cent.

- We invested in additional waste bins and new street cleansing vehicles which will improve cleansing standards and operational efficiency.



## A safe and healthy Cherwell

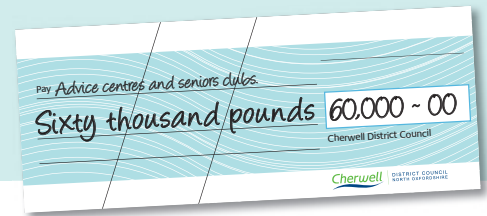
- We met targets for reducing serious violent crime and serious acquisitive crime.



- We established six neighbourhood action groups with community representation.

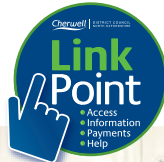
- Grants allocated to improve 17 village halls.

- An additional £60,000 of grant funding given to support advice centres and seniors clubs.



## An accessible council

- We opened one-stop shops in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.
- We installed three Link Point kiosks at Cropredy Bridge Stores, Sibford Gower and Deddington Library. Customer access is now available 8.45am to 5pm, five days a week.
- We resolved all complaints within the published time.



## A value for money council:

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- We delivered over £1 million of efficiency savings.
- We completed the refurbishment of Bodicote House to plan and budget, helping reduce our costs and improve our environmental performance.



- We will receive income from letting the town centre offices in Banbury to the primary care trust for a new GP led health centre and dentist and are exploring options to let Old Bodicote House.

# Summary of accounts 2008/2009

## Head of finance's statement

The council's statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. The council's annual accounts are subject to an annual audit inspection by the Audit Commission. The purpose of the accounts is to give residents, businesses, tax payers and partners clear information about the council's finances.

A full copy of the accounts is available for examination on request. It is available at [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk) or if you prefer a printed copy can be ordered via the website.



This summary gives a brief overview of the council's expenditure and income and its financial position for the year ending 31 March, 2009.

Our income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 March, 2009 shows that we spent £30.6m on running services but after exceptional items, other costs and income, our spend for the year was £20.2m. The money that we spend comes from local and national taxes and business rates given back to us by central Government.

**Actual  
2008/09  
£'000**

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<b>Expenditure</b>	
Service expenditure	30,581
<b>Net service expenditure</b>	<b>30,581</b>
Exceptional items	2,000
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>32,581</b>
Town and parish precepts	3,755
Surplus from trading activities and sale of assets	-845
Investment income	-6,050
Interest cost on pension fund	1,750
Other accounting items (including pension fund and depreciation)	-7,652
Use of reserves	-3,317
<b>Amount we spent</b>	<b>20,222</b>
<b>Funding</b>	
Collection fund	-3,857
Cherwell District Council tax	-5,961
Government grant - general	-1,236
Government grant - NNDR from pool	-9,123
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>20,177</b>
Decrease in general fund balance in 2008/09	-45
General fund balance at 31 March, 2008	1,949
<b>General fund balance at 31 March, 2009</b>	<b>1,904</b>

### Service expenditure by strategic priority



### General fund balance

This balance shows how much money we had at the beginning of the year as our working balance (known as the general fund balance), the amount left over from the income and expenditure account, statutory amounts we took into account (such as depreciation) and money we have put away in our reserves for future projects. This gives us our working balance for the next financial year.

### Capital expenditure and financing

Cherwell spent money on a variety of capital activities during the year to continue to provide first-class public facilities and investing in the infrastructure of the district.

The council delivered 100 per cent of its 08/09 capital budget. Capital expenditure (spending on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets) and capital income (mainly receipts from the sale of such assets), are detailed in the notes to the financial statements and summarised in the tables below:

2008/09 capital expenditure	£'000
Operational assets	8,562
Non-operational assets	14,551
Intangible assets	259
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS)	5,252
	<b>28,624</b>

Capital schemes	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£`000	£`000	£`000
Town centre redevelopments	234	154	80
Housing services	2,742	2,794	(52)
Environmental services	999	954	45
ICT projects	944	1,048	(104)
Sports centre modernisation	19,249	19,242	7
Bodicote house accomodation changes	1,034	1,070	(36)
Health and recreation	913	937	(24)
Various small value schemes	499	425	74
Flood alleviation scheme*	2,000	2,000	0
	<b>28,614</b>	<b>28,624</b>	<b>(10)</b>

The table below shows how we funded our capital programme:

2007/08 capital expenditure financing	£'000
Capital receipts	23,963
Government grants and other contributions - assets	1,259
Government grants and other contributions - REFCUS	733
Direct revenue financing	669
REFCUS funded from earmarked reserve through revenue	2,000
	<b>28,624</b>

### Balance sheet - what are we worth?

Our balance sheet gives a “snapshot-in-time” picture of our financial position at the end of the financial year. It shows the value of our assets and investments, what we owe (now and in the future) funds we hold for others and amounts owed to us. As well as how much cash we hold and how our organisation is financed (reserves and balances). All as that particular “snapshot-in-time”.

We started the year with £159 million of net assets, earmarked reserves of £12.5 million and a general fund balance of £1.9 million. As at 31st March, 2009 the net asset figure had fallen by £29 million mainly due to the fall in interest rates resulting in a forecast increased pension deficit and a reduction in value (impairment) of assets, such as land and buildings as a result of the general property

market slump. At the end of the year we remain financially sound with net assets of £130 million, £9.2 million of earmarked reserves and £1.9 million of general fund reserves.

Balance sheet	£'000
Assets such as land and buildings and stock owned by the council	102,726
Money invested to generate interest to support the council tax	85,111
Cash and bank balance	-133
Money owed to us	10,433
Money we owe**	-68,316
<b>Total assets and liabilities</b>	<b>129,821</b>

\* Funds allocated in 08/09 budget, for delivery in 09/10

\*\* Including pension fund and other funds held on behalf of others



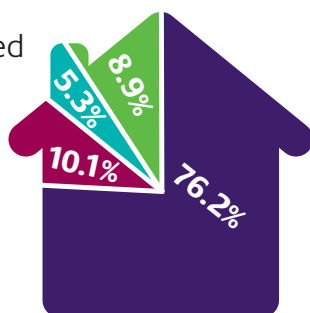
## Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement summarises how much cash we paid in and how much we paid out during the year. The council's bank balance improved by £0.1m during 2008/2009.

## Collecting local taxes

**Council tax:** Cherwell District Council, as the billing authority, collects the council tax for Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police Authority and the individual town and parish councils as well as the district's own requirements. Council tax income for 2008/2009 was £71.7m. This includes additional £0.6m collected above the 98 per cent collection rate. This amount will be distributed among all preceptors.

The council tax collected by Cherwell District Council during 2008/2009 was distributed as follows.



Cashflow	£'000
Bank balance on 1 April, 2008	-252
Cash outflow from revenue activities	12,793
Cash inflow from investments	-8,078
Net cashflow from capital activities	20,216
Net decrease in short term deposits	-25,050
Net increase in cash	-119
Bank balance on 31 March, 2009	-133

**Business Rates:** Business rates are set by the Government. Cherwell District Council collects the business rates due in the district and pays them directly to the government. The Government redistributes these funds to all local authorities using a method based on population. During 2008/2009 the council paid £62m to the Government and received £9m.

### 2008/2009 £'000

Oxfordshire County Council	54,137
Thames Valley Police	7,191
Parishes	3,755
Cherwell District Council	5,961
	<b>71,044</b>

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## Glossary

**Exceptional items** Exceptional items are ones that are material in terms of the authority's overall expenditure and are not expected to recur frequently or regularly.

**Capital receipts** These are monies received from the sale of assets e.g. council buildings and surplus land. The council is required, under current legislation, to "set aside" a proportion of the receipt to meet debt repayments where debt-free councils can spend the receipts (subject to certain restrictions).

**Collection fund** This account reflects the statutory requirement

to maintain a separate Fund, which shows the transactions of the billing Authority in relation to national non-domestic rates and council tax, and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to preceptors and the council's general fund. The collection fund is consolidated with the other accounts of the council.

### Business rates (or national non domestic rates - NNDR)

These are paid on commercial, business and non-residential properties. The Government determines the level, although the council is responsible for its billing

and collection. The proceeds are pooled and then redistributed among local authorities.

### Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Capital expenditure which does not result in, or remain matched with, tangible assets. Examples of this include expenditure on items such as private sector housing grants or expenses included in the promotion of a private act of Parliament.

**A full glossary of terms used in this summary of accounts can be found in the 2008/09 statement of accounts**

# Cherwell's Green Credentials



The District Council and its communities have been working hard to reduce the environmental effect of their activities. This work has made sure that the Council and the Cherwell district is well placed to respond to the recently introduced Government indicators and targets regarding climate change.

Before the Government set out the new protocols, Cherwell's Environmental Strategy for a Changing Climate was already being devised. It was published in May 2008 and can be found at [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk) by clicking 'climate change and sustainability' in the environment and planning section.

A leaflet entitled 'Working together on Climate Change' can be found on the same page or picked up at libraries, the Council's One Stop Shops or at roadshows.

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## District Council Actions in 2008/09 included:

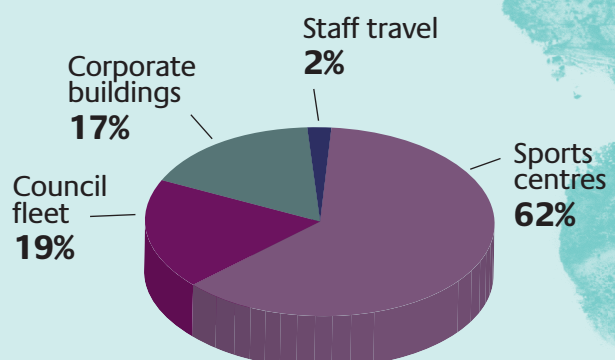
- Changed our main office accommodation to improve energy efficiency;
- Reduced by 23 per cent the amount of office accommodation we use to make available any surplus for letting to local organisations;
- Replaced 25 per cent of the refuse collection fleet with each new vehicle having reduced nitrous oxide emissions of 80 per cent and soot particles of 60 per cent less;
- Improved light fittings and controls were installed in Banbury Museum which are expected to reduce emissions each year through lower energy use by 31 tonnes and annual costs by £5,000;
- Energy consumption data analysis undertaken which allows us to target areas for future lower energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> reductions (see National Indicator 194 and our carbon footprint baselines opposite);
- Supported local business in the procurement of goods and services;
- Set up a partnership group from the Cherwell district to support others and develop actions by them to cut CO<sub>2</sub>;
- Implemented additional internal recycling and energy reductions activities;
- Adopted a green procurement policy;
- Produced and distributed a climate change advisory advice leaflet to all households

## Future Activities Include:

- Supporting local businesses, communities and residents in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to climate change;
- Continuing with the refuse collection fleet replacement programme where there are cost savings and reduced emissions;
- Achieving further energy efficiencies in Council buildings;
- Reducing the Council's business mileage
- Purchasing electricity using a green tariff

NI 194 showed a baseline of
Nitrous Oxides emissions 14256 kg
Soot 519 kg

Carbon Footprint Baseline 2007/08



# Delivering in partnership

Communities in Cherwell face a variety of issues that the district council can't address on its own. Instead we join forces with other organisations in Oxfordshire to share expertise, objectives and success. Cherwell District Council is grateful for the help given by these organisations and recognises many of the services the community receives could not be delivered without successful partnership working.

## Partnerships in action

You'll see a full list of our partnership organisations on the back cover. Here's just a selection of our achievements in 2008/9.

### Oxfordshire Housing Partnership

Met our target of delivering 256 units.



### Oxfordshire Economic Partnership

Launched the UK's first job clubs in Banbury and Bicester to help people get back to work.



### Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership

Provide funding to offer CCTV cameras for installation in taxis.



### Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership

County-wide campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse launched by broadcaster and journalist Nick Ross, who pronounced it the best campaign of its kind he'd seen.



### Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board

Achieved the highest participation rate of all English counties, with more than 26 per cent of adults involved in sport in Oxfordshire.



### Bicester Vision

Part of Bicester Vision's work this year, as its influence continues to grow, was to organise a retail conference which attracted about 150 retailers.

### Homelessness Strategy Partnership

Raised awareness of homelessness prevention among young people with the No Place Like Home campaign



### Kidlington Village Centre Management Board

Completed first phase of Exeter Close conversion, providing extended playing fields pavilion and refurbishing tennis courts.

### Banbury Town Centre Partnership

Gained a Silver Guild award in the Britain in Bloom competition after installing new planters and the sun motif at Banbury Cross.

pic to come of Exeter close or Sun motif

# Performance indicators

All councils are required by the Government to collect information on areas such as waste, planning, benefits and housing and report on them each year.

This enables us to compare current performance against past years and see how we compare with other local authorities.

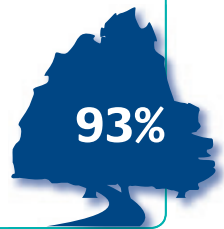
## Where we are performing well

While we want to improve across all services we have prioritised those services we know are particularly important to the public. Because of this we are pleased to highlight some of our key achievements in 2008/09

**Jobs** 817 new jobs were created

We spent £910,000 on 140 schemes to improve the homes of people with disabilities.

93 per cent of our streets and parks are clean at any one time against a target of 90 per cent.



The waste recycling rate is 49.6 per cent, exceeding the target of 49 per cent.



49.6%

The amount of waste sent to landfill was reduced by 1640 tonnes against a target of 1500 tonnes.

428 new homes were completed against a target of 400 and 122 affordable homes completed against a target of 100.



428

The number of households living in temporary accommodation fell to under 100 for the first time. This has now been reduced to 63 families against a target of 96.

We reduced theft from vehicles, robbery and household burglaries by 9 per cent against a target of 5 per cent and met targets for reducing serious violent crime and serious acquisitive crime.



## Delivering our targets

- Our corporate plan sets out our ambitions for delivering services to the community. In 2008/09 the council has met or made satisfactory progress on 96 per cent of the performance targets in the corporate plan. This is despite having considerably more difficult performance targets and surpasses the figure of 91 per cent reported last year.
- In order to ensure the council is making best use of all its resources each year we have an internal corporate improvement plan. The council met 89 per cent of the targets in the corporate improvement plan, compared with 79 per cent in 2007/08, and made satisfactory progress on another 9 per cent.
- During the year, the Audit Commission released national comparative figures for performance against best value performance indicators (BVPI) for 2007/08. This shows we achieved 74 per cent of BVPIs in the top half of performance nationally, compared with 68 per cent in 2006/07.

## What we said we'd improve

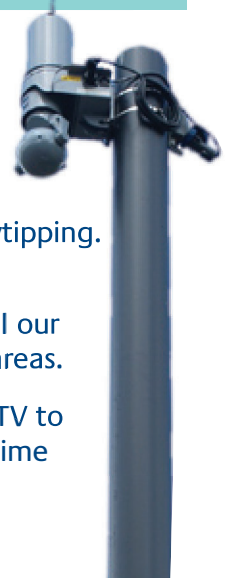
In our last annual report we set out a number of areas where we wanted to improve our performance. This is how we did:

	Removing dog mess	▶ We surpassed our targets for keeping streets free from litter including dog mess.
	Removing abandoned vehicles	▶ We surpassed our targets for both investigating and removing abandoned vehicles.
	Providing guidance to preserve the character of all our conservation areas	▶ 64per cent of our conservation areas have detailed character appraisals against our target of 75 per cent. These appraisals are of the highest possible quality and we will continue to make progress towards our target in 2009/10.
	Increase waste recycling by introducing a kitchen waste recycling service.	▶ This cannot be achieved until the county council delivers the local food waste processing facility. We hope to commence the collection of kitchen waste for recycling in Autumn 2009.
	Ensure our workforce reflects the make up of the local community.	▶ Our approach to recruitment aims to make the council attractive to everyone, regardless of ethnic background, religion or disability.
	Work with other agencies to reduce anti-social behaviour	▶ The council, working with the police, the courts and youth services, have engaged with hundreds of young people and their parents to deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour. We have also pioneered new initiatives to support young people who could drift into crime.

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For 2009/10 we have identified a number of key areas where public concern is high or performance does not meet the high standards we expect and these have been prioritised for action. They include:

- The impact of the economic recession on jobs and services.
- Encouraging visits from schools to Banbury Museum.
- The progress of major regeneration and development schemes.
- The time taken to process the smaller planning applications.
- The time taken to deal with the increasing numbers of claims for benefits.
- Reducing the incidents of flytipping.
- Preserving the character of all our conservation areas.
- Upgrading CCTV to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.



## Glossary

**Performance indicator**, Information that measures the extent to which a policy, programme or initiative is achieving its outcomes. The Government sets performance indicators for local government. Until the end of 2007/08 these were known as best value performance indicators. These have now been abolished and from 2008/09 have been replaced with national indicators.

## What we promise to deliver in 2009/10:

In the council tax leaflet we sent to every household we set out our 16 promises for 2009/10.

Reduce the council's vehicle emissions by 10 per cent

Increase resident satisfaction with street and environmental cleanliness from 66 per cent to 70 per cent by improving the removal of dog mess and abandoned vehicles

Increase the household recycling rate to 50 per cent

Remove 90 per cent of fly tipping within 48 hours of reporting

Work with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by 200 offences or incidents compared with 2008/09

Continue to support the provision of the best possible services at the Horton General Hospital

Continue to support new and improved health care services for Bicester and surrounding areas

Open our new Spiceball leisure centre and improved Bicester and Kidlington leisure centres, and re-open the Woodgreen open-air pool

Help and support Cherwell's residents and businesses through uncertain times

Contribute to the creation of 200 new jobs

Deliver 100 affordable homes

Work with partners to start the Bicester town-centre development

Make major improvements to Parsons Street, Banbury

Make it easier for local businesses to trade with us

Place ten new Link-Points in our rural areas to provide residents and businesses with a greater choice of access to our service

Take the steps required to reduce our costs by a further £1 million by the beginning of 2010/11

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## We're listening...

Whether you have suggestions about how we can improve this publication, a comment about our services or would like to tell us your views, we're keen to hear from you.

### Take part

You can take part in our latest consultations by visiting our consultation portal <http://consult.cherwell.gov.uk/portal>

### Talk to us

You can find out more by contacting the community planning team, exploring our website or using our comments, complaints and compliments system:



01295 221575



[consultation@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)



[www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk)



Follow us on twitter.

[www.twitter.com/cherwellcouncil](http://www.twitter.com/cherwellcouncil)



Cllr Barry Wood,  
Leader of the Council  
FRINGFORD

# Your Cherwell District Councillors

Portfolio holders  
Vice Chairman  
Chairman  
Deputy Leader



Cllr G A Reynolds  
SIBFORD



Cllr Norman Bolster  
BICESTER: WEST



Cllr Michael Gibbard  
YARNTON, GOSFORD  
& WATER EATON



Cllr James Macnamara  
THE ASTONS  
& HEYFORDS



Cllr Kieron Mallon  
BANBURY:  
EASINGTON



Cllr Nigel Morris  
BANBURY:  
EASINGTON



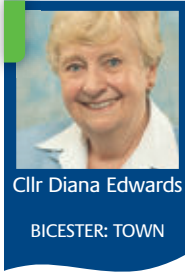
Cllr Debbie Pickford  
BICESTER: TOWN



Cllr Nicholas Turner  
BANBURY:  
HARDWICK



Cllr Ken Attack  
CROPREDY



Cllr Diana Edwards  
BICESTER: TOWN



Cllr George Parish  
BANBURY: RUSCOTE



Cllr Colin Clarke  
BANBURY:  
CALTHORPE



Cllr Mr Alastair Milne Home  
BANBURY:  
CALTHORPE



Cllr Fred Blackwell  
BANBURY:  
EASINGTON



Cllr Ann Bonner  
BANBURY: GRIMSBURY  
& CASTLE



Cllr Margaret Cullip  
BANBURY: GRIMSBURY  
& CASTLE



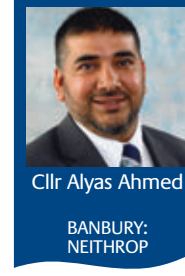
Cllr Christopher Smithson  
BANBURY: GRIMSBURY  
& CASTLE



Cllr John Donaldson  
BANBURY:  
HARDWICK



Cllr Tony Ilott  
BANBURY:  
HARDWICK



Cllr Alyas Ahmed  
BANBURY:  
NEITHROP



Cllr Martin Weir  
BANBURY:  
NEITHROP



Cllr Patricia Tompson  
BANBURY: RUSCOTE



Cllr Andrew Fulljames  
AMBROSDEN  
& CHESTERTON



Cllr Keith Strangwood  
BANBURY: RUSCOTE



Cllr Lawrie Stratford  
BICESTER: EAST



Cllr Rose Stratford  
BICESTER: EAST



Cllr Nicholas Mawer  
BICESTER: NORTH



Cllr Carol Steward  
BICESTER: NORTH



Cllr Nick Cotter  
BICESTER: SOUTH



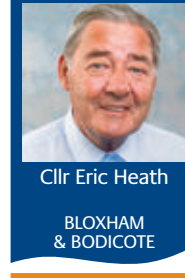
Cllr Daniel Sames  
BICESTER: SOUTH



Cllr Russell Hurl  
BICESTER: WEST



Cllr Leslie F Sibley  
BICESTER: WEST



Cllr Eric Heath  
BLOXHAM  
& BODICOTE



Cllr Lynda Thirzie Smart  
BLOXHAM  
& BODICOTE



Cllr Mrs Catherine Fulljames  
CAVERSFIELD



Cllr Rick Atkinson  
ADDERBURY



Cllr P A O'Sullivan  
DEDDINGTON



Cllr Victoria Irvine  
HOOK NORTON



Cllr Douglas Williamson  
KIDLINGTON: NORTH



Cllr John Wyse  
KIDLINGTON: NORTH



Cllr Maurice Billington  
KIDLINGTON: SOUTH



Cllr Neil Prestidge  
KIDLINGTON: SOUTH



Cllr Devena Rae  
KIDLINGTON: SOUTH



Cllr Simon Holland  
KIRTLINGTON



Cllr David Hughes  
LAUNTON



Cllr Timothy Hallchurch MBE  
OTMOOR



Cllr Luke Annaly  
THE ASTONS  
& HEYFORDS



Cllr Douglas Webb  
WROXTON



Cllr Trevor Stevens  
YARNTON, GOSFORD  
& WATER EATON

## Cherwell District Council

Bodicote House  
Bodicote  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX15 4AA

Main telephone number for general enquiries: 01295 227001

Local offices currently deal with council tax and Housing matters for personal callers – the range of services available will be developed during 2008/09:

### Banbury

Castle Quay  
Banbury  
OX16 9PQ

### Bicester

38 Market Square  
Bicester  
OX6 7YD

### Kidlington

Exeter Hall  
Oxford Road  
Kidlington  
OX5 1AB

The information in this document can be made available in other languages, large print braille, audio tape or electronic format on request. Please contact 01295 227001

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać. 01295 227001

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ। 01295 227001

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。01295 227001

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔  
01295 227001

## Our partners

### Supporting People Partnership

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/supportingpeople](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/supportingpeople)

### Children and Young People Partnership

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cypp](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cypp)

### Oxfordshire Housing Partnership

[www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk)

### Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

[www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk)

### Oxfordshire Economic Partnership

[www.oep.org.uk](http://www.oep.org.uk)

### Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership

[www.saferoxford.org.uk](http://www.saferoxford.org.uk)

### Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership

[www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk)

### Health and Well Being Partnership Board

[www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk)

### Cherwell Community Planning Partnership

[web address tbc](#)

### Cherwell Safer Community Partnership

[www.cherwellcsi.org](http://www.cherwellcsi.org)

### Homelessness Strategy Partnership

[web address tbc](#)

### Cherwell Registered Social Landlords Partnership

[web address tbc](#)

### Cherwell M40 Investment Partnership

[www.cherwell-m40.co.uk](http://www.cherwell-m40.co.uk)

### Kidlington Village Centre Management Board

[www.kidlington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kidlington-pc.gov.uk)

### Banbury Town Centre Partnership

[web address tbc](#)

### Bicester Vision

[www.bicestervision.co.uk](http://www.bicestervision.co.uk)