

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting
of the Executive held on 1 November 2010**

1. Date of publication of this summary:-

2 November 2010

2. Decisions (if any) taken as a matter of urgency under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16 (and not therefore subject to the call-in procedure):-

None

3. Date by which notice of call-in of any of the following decisions must be received in writing by the Chief Executive (see notes below):-

Noon on Friday 5 November 2010

4. Notes:-

- (a) For background documentation to the following decisions, please refer to the agenda and supporting papers (copies of which are available on the Council's website (www.cherwell.gov.uk) or from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services);
- (b) Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text to the Chief Executive by the deadline specified above, and must state the reason or reasons why "call-in" has been requested;
- (c) Call-in can be requested by any six non-executive members of the Council.
- However, if at any point during a municipal year the total number of opposition councillors is six or less the total number of non-executive members required to call-in a decision shall be the total number of opposition councillors less two.
- (d) Decisions not called-in by the deadline specified above will become effective immediately the deadline has expired (unless they are recommendations to the Council).
- (e) The Council has stipulated that the call-in procedure should not be used to challenge decisions as a matter of course and should be used only when fully justified.

**M Harpley
Chief Executive**

Decisions

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item and Recommendations	Decision
6	<p>Planning Policy for Wind Energy Development</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To approve the attached draft document entitled “Planning Guidance on the Residential Amenity Impacts of Wind Turbine Development” as a basis for public consultation.</p> <p>(2) To agree that a public consultation is undertaken with relevant key stakeholders and that after this, the outcome of that public consultation is reported to members alongside a revised draft of the policy for approval.</p>	Recommendations Approved
7	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To support the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in Hennef Way, Banbury;</p> <p>(2) To note the possible implications which may arise from developing an action plan to deal with an Air Quality Management Area; and</p> <p>(3) To note the further areas where elevated nitrogen dioxide levels have been identified and may lead to them being declared Air Quality Management Areas in the future.</p>	Recommendations Approved
8	<p>Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To approve the Draft Economic Development Strategy attached</p>	Recommendations Approved

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	<p>as appendix 1 to this report for public consultation</p> <p>(2) To give delegated authority to the Head of Planning Policy & Economic Development, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder (Economic Development & Estates) to make minor further modifications to the draft Economic Development Strategy prior to it being published for public consultation.</p>	
9	<p>Hardship Relief (for National Non Domestic Rates)</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To consider the hardship discount scheme outlined in this report</p> <p>(2) To approve the proposed Hardship Relief policy framework to be adopted forthwith and be reviewed on an annual basis. (Appendix 1)</p>	Recommendations Approved
10	<p>Discretionary Rate Relief for Charities, Community Amateur Sports Clubs and 'Not for Profit' Bodies (for National Non Domestic Rates)</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To consider the discretionary scheme outlined in this report.</p> <p>(2) To approve the proposed Discretionary Relief policy framework to be adopted forthwith and be reviewed on an annual basis. (Appendix A)</p>	Recommendations Approved
11	Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report	Recommendations Approved

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	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) to approve the Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Secretary of State; (2) to note the district's housing delivery position 	
<p>12</p>	<p>Early response to the Comprehensive Spending Review and potential implications for the 2011/12 budget and the medium-term</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the outcome of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review for local government and the very tough target of an overall 26% cut in government grant over the next four years. (2) To note that this outcome is very much in line with our own 'realistic' planning scenario of 30% real term cuts, although we will not know our actual position until late November/early December. (3) To support all the proposed actions which are now underway to generate income and realise cumulative savings of £11.9m (listed in 3.13) for inclusion in 2011/12 budget. (4) To note the informal view of the Resources Scrutiny Working Group in relation to the fees and charges review. A number of these options are expected to be confirmed at the next formal meeting of the Resources and 	<p>Recommendations Approved</p>

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	<p>Performance Board (Appendix 2).</p> <p>(5) To note all the options for further savings which are under consideration in 3.22 so that when we receive a clearer indication of our actual government grant for 2011/12 and possibly beyond we are able to bring fully worked up savings for consideration at the 6 December Executive meeting.</p>	
13	<p>Value for Money Review of Development Control and Major Developments</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To endorse the updated VFM Review conclusion that the DC&MD service:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has exceed delivery of the savings target from the 2007 full VFM Review and delivered all the key improvements 2. has driven down its costs since the full VFM Review was undertaken 3. although, on the face of it, is above average cost, analysis shows core service costs would be closer to average when local factors and accounting practices of other comparator authorities are taken into account 4. has good performance and productivity, provides good quality with improving levels of customer satisfaction 	Recommendations Approved

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	<p>5. is at a balanced point. There is capacity to cope if applications increase, though this may be at the expense of performance, but with the flexibility to down-size the service relatively quickly if income or applications decline.</p> <p>(2) To adopt the following recommendations from the update VFM Review, changing the way the service is delivered in the future, achieving savings of up to £167k and, thereby, reducing the Council's reliance on Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.</p> <p>Savings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce application advertising by only placing the minimum legal level requirement in the Oxford Times, saving £76k per annum 2. Remove duplication in minor application publicity (mainly neighbourhood notifications), saving £3k per annum 3. Introduce e-consultation to all parishes and internal and external consultees, saving £15k per annum 4. Reduce the professional fees budget by £20k per annum by no longer utilising the services of agricultural/retail specialist advice in routine applications 5. Deletion of a vacant, part-time, career planner post, saving £7k per annum 6. In the event that fee income remains the same or declines, reduce staff establishment costs by 	

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	<p>ending the temporary contract to “backfill” resources allocated to the Eco Town project. This gives budget flexibility of £46k and, should there be a small upturn in fee income, allows for the continuation of this temporary post.</p> <p>Income:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce charges for pre-application advice from 2011/12. It is estimated that income in the region of £10K per annum may be achievable. <p>Service Improvements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Redirect staff resources released by the changes in service delivery associated with achieving the savings above, to improve support for the application process and other resource pinch points (especially speed of validation/registration). <p>(3) To note the endorsement of the findings of this Review by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group at its meeting on 21 September 2010 and their request that further consideration be given to a more efficient and less costly way of undertaking Ward Notifications such as using the e-mail system or appending Notifications to the Members’ Newsletter.</p>	
14	<p>Value for Money Review of Planning Policy</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Endorse the updated VFM Review conclusion that the Planning 	Recommendations Approved

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	<p>Policy service:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. has exceed delivery on the savings target from the 2007 full VFM Review and delivered all the key improvements 4. has steadily driven down its costs since the full VFM Review was undertaken 5. compared with similar local authorities, costs are now below average spend for the family group 6. levels of satisfaction have improved for the way the Council manages local development, which is influenced by planning policy 7. the service is achieving on or just below its performance targets 8. will need to reduce the services it delivers if it is to achieve the VFM savings block of £50k. <p>(2) To agree that the proposal for achieving the £50k savings block be adopted as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>Performance Management Framework 2010/11 Second Quarter Performance Report</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the many achievements referred to in paragraph 1.4. (2) To request that officers report in the third quarter on the items identified in paragraph 1.5 where performance was below target or 	<p>Recommendations Approved</p>

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	<p>there are emerging issues.</p> <p>(3) To agree the responses identified to issues raised in the quarter one performance report in paragraph 2.1 or to request additional action or information.</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>2010/11 Projected Revenue & Capital Outturn at 30 September 2010</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To note the projected revenue & capital position at September 2010.</p> <p>(2) To approve the transfer of £234,000 to the organisational change reserve.</p> <p>(3) To approve the Capital Slippage of £2.2m from the 2010/11 capital programme as detailed in Appendix 1 and consider this as part of the 2011/12 budget process.</p> <p>(4) To note the Q2 performance against 2010/11 investment strategy and the mid year report in Appendix 2.</p> <p>(5) To note progress against the Procurement Action plan detailed in Appendix 3 and the savings recorded in Appendix 4.</p>	<p>Recommendations Approved</p>