

**Committee:** Executive  
**Date:** Monday 1 December 2008  
**Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Venue:** Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

### Membership

<b>Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman)</b>	
<b>Councillor Norman Bolster</b>	<b>Councillor Kieron Mallon</b>	<b>Councillor Nicholas Turner</b>
<b>Councillor Michael Gibbard</b>	<b>Councillor Nigel Morris</b>	
<b>Councillor James Macnamara</b>	<b>Councillor D M Pickford</b>	

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest that they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

4. **Urgent Business**

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

5. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 12)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

## **Strategy and Policy**

### **6. Forward Plan (Pages 13 - 24)**

**6.35 pm**

Report of Chief Executive

#### **Summary**

To review the Forward Plan of the key Executive decisions which will be taken over the next four months. These are the key decisions of which the Council's Executive is currently aware.

#### **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To resolve to note the Forward Plan for the period referred to above.

### **7. Eco-Town: Update on Current Position and Next Steps (Page 25)**

**6.40pm**

Report of Head of Planning and Affordable Housing Policy

#### **Summary**

To consider next steps on the concept of an alternative Eco Development at North West (NW) Bicester.

#### **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended:

To consider and decide appropriate next steps in light of more detailed information to follow.

### **8. Bullingdon Immigration Removal Centre at site A DSDC Bicester (Pages 26 - 30)**

**7.10pm**

Report of Head of Development Control and Major Developments

#### **Summary**

To advise members of the proposed Bullingdon Immigration Removal Centre for the UK Border Agency. A secure Category C (5.2m Continuous security fence) 800 bed secure facility based on prison designs where detainees (illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers) are held awaiting deportation.

#### **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended:

To consider and note any community issues arising from the expected development of an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) near Bicester.

**9. Informal Development Principles Bryan House, Bicester (Pages 31 - 62)**

**7.25 pm**

Report of Head of Planning and Affordable Housing

**Summary**

To seek approval to the publication, following public consultation, of Informal Development Principles to guide the redevelopment of the site.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To approve the publication of an Informal Development Principles document, which has been amended in response to public consultation, for the redevelopment of Bryan House, Chapel Street, Bicester.

**10. Annual Review of Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits Discretionary Powers (Pages 63 - 71)**

**7.35 pm**

Report of Head of Exchequer

**Summary**

To review the reliefs currently awarded under the discretionary powers the Council has in relation to council tax, business rates and housing and council tax benefits and decide whether any changes should be made to take effect from 1 April 2009.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the Head of Exchequer's decision to offer 4 dates for payment by direct debit to council tax and business rate payers; the dates being 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of each month from 1 April 2009.
- (2) To resolve to continue with the discretionary awards that it resolved to give on 3 December 2007, which are:
  - a) Not to offer any reduction for early lump sum payments, as provided for by Regulation 25 of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992.
  - b) Not to offer any reductions to encourage taxpayers to use particular methods of payment, as provided for by Regulation 26 of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992.
  - c) To continue the local scheme disregarding the whole of any War Widows Pension or War Disablement Pension when calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit.
  - d) To continue with the practice established in 2004/05 of reducing the Council Tax discount for second homes from 50% to 10%, except for annexes that are not otherwise exempt and are occupied by families as part of their main residence, which from 1 April 2008 have been excluded from this provision.

- e) To continue with the practice established in 2004/05 of reducing the Council Tax discount for long-term empty properties to nil.
- f) To continue with the present practice of awarding 100% rate relief to charity shops; village halls; community centres and premises used for scouting and other youth groups.
- g) To retain the existing levels of discretionary rural rate relief.

## **Service Delivery and Innovation**

### **11. Draft Budget 1 and Service Plans 2009 - 2010 (Pages 72 - 76)**

**7.45 pm**

Report of Strategic Director for Customer Service and Resources and the Chief Accountant

#### **Summary**

The Council has to adopt a budget for 2009/10 as the basis for calculating its level of Council Tax and has to base that budget on its plans for service delivery during the year, recognising any changes in service demand that may arise in future years. This is the first of three opportunities that the Executive has to shape and refine the interaction between service plans and financial matters before the final budget is presented to the Council on the 23rd February 2009.

#### **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended:

- 1) to consider the draft budget (detailed in Appendix 1) and service plans in the context of the Council's service objectives and strategic priorities;
- 2) to endorse the proposed service priorities (detailed in Appendix 2);
- 3) to agree the approach to the overall capital programme and 09/10 expenditure profile (detailed in Appendix 3);
- 4) to provide guidance on the treatment of service growth bids (detailed in Appendix 4);
- 5) to advise of any other matters they would like taken into consideration in producing a balanced budget for the next meeting of the Executive on January ;
- 6) to endorse the draft budget and service plans as the basis for consultation;
- 7) to invite the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board to consider the draft budgets and service plans, service priorities and service growth bids at their meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 and submit their comments to the Executive meeting to be held on 12 January 2009.
- 8) to resolve that the Council does not participate in the Government's free swimming programme due to the fact that the Government grant is insufficient to cover the cost arising.
- 9) To approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £250,000 for the provision of disabled facility grants in the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

## **Value for Money and Performance**

### **12. Annual Monitoring Report (Pages 77 - 230)**

**8.30 pm**

Report of Head of Planning and Affordable Housing Policy

#### **Summary**

To consider the progress made on the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) in terms of meeting milestones in the Local Development Scheme and to consider monitoring information on business development, housing, biodiversity, open space, transport, and local services for the monitoring year April 2007 to March 2008.

#### **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended to:

- (1) endorse this report for submission to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2008 and delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Affordable Housing Policy to make any minor presentational changes in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing;
- (2) note the housing delivery position described in the report;
- (3) resolve that the Council continues to bring forward proposals for the delivery of sites identified for residential development in the Non-Statutory Cherwell Local Plan 2011, which was approved as interim planning policy for development control purposes on 13 December 2004, and that officers continue to work with the development industry, local communities and other interested parties in order to do this in the interests of sustaining housing delivery (including the provision of affordable housing) to meet the requirements of the adopted Oxfordshire Structure Plan and, upon adoption, the South East Plan.

#### **Urgent Business**

### **13. Urgent Business**

Any other items which the Chairman has decided is urgent.

**(Meeting scheduled to close at 8.45 pm)**

## **Information about this Agenda**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence should be notified to [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or 01295 221587 prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal

and prejudicial interests is set out in Part 5 Section A of the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

**Personal Interest:** Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

**Prejudicial Interest:** Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

### **Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates**

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

### **Queries Regarding this Agenda**

Please contact James Doble, Legal and Democratic Services james.doble@cherwell-dc.gov.uk (01295) 221587

**Mary Harpley**  
**Chief Executive**

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