

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting  
of the Executive held on 1 December 2008**

1. Date of publication of this summary:-

2 December 2008

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 December 2008

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-dc.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk)) or from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services);
- (b) Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing 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:-
- (i) the Chairman of the relevant Select Committee;
  - (ii) any five Members of the relevant Select Committee;
  - (iii) any six Members of the Council, or the combined total of Opposition Group members less two, whichever is the smaller number.
- (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
5	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(1) To resolve to note the Forward Plan for the period referred to above.</p>	Agreed
6	<p><b>Eco-Town: Update on Current Position and Next Steps</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>To consider and decide appropriate next steps in light of more detailed information to follow.</p>	Agreed
7	<p><b>Bullington Immigration Removal Centre at site A DSDC Bicester</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>To consider and note any community issues arising from the expected development of an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) near Bicester.</p>	Agreed
8	<p><b>Informal Development Principles Bryan House, Bicester</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(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.</p>	Agreed
9	<p><b>Annual Review of Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits Discretionary Powers</b></p>	Agreed

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	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(2) To resolve to continue with the discretionary awards that it resolved to give on 3 December 2007, which are:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>e) To continue with the practice established in 2004/05 of reducing the Council Tax</p>	

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	<p>discount for long-term empty properties to nil.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>g) To retain the existing levels of discretionary rural rate relief.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Budget 1 and Service Plans 2009 - 2010</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>2) to endorse the proposed service priorities (detailed in Appendix 2);</li> <li>3) to agree the approach to the overall capital programme and 09/10 expenditure profile (detailed in Appendix 3);</li> <li>4) to provide guidance on the treatment of service growth bids (detailed in Appendix 4);</li> <li>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 ;</li> <li>6) to endorse the draft budget and service plans as the basis for consultation;</li> <li>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></li> </ol>	<p>Agreed, with the amendments:</p> <p>Recommendation 5 be updated to include that the Medium Term Financial Strategy be updated and be made available for Executive in January.</p> <p>Recommendation 7 – all recommendations of Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board as set out in Appendix 1A be adopted.</p> <p>Recommendation 9 'revenue' to be deleted and 'capital' to be inserted.</p>

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	<p>2008 and submit their comments to the Executive meeting to be held on 12 January 2009.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
11	<p><b>Annual Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended to:</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(2) note the housing delivery position described in the report;</p> <p>(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</p>	Agreed

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	Oxfordshire Structure Plan and, upon adoption, the South East Plan.	
13	<p><b>The Impact of the Economy on the Housing Benefits Function</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended to:</p> <p>(1) note the contents of this report and the increased workloads in processing housing and council tax benefit applications.</p> <p>(2) approve a supplementary estimate of £14,000 to ensure that the backlog in processing housing and council tax benefit applications is eliminated which will ensure a robust service to the public and residents of the district during this period of economic uncertainty.</p> <p>(3) approve a further supplementary estimate of £16,000 to ensure that the increased workload of claims can be dealt with efficiently and ensure that claimants receive a timely response.</p> <p>(4) ask officers to identify actions to secure up to £40,000 of savings to offset the supplementary estimates and updated at next report.</p> <p>(5) receive an update on the number of additional claims relating to the economic climate at the January Executive. Options for the future delivery of the service will be discussed at the same meeting.</p>	<p>Agreed, with the amendment that:</p> <p>Recommendation 3 be amended to insert 'up to £16,000'.</p> <p>Recommendation 4 be amended to read '£30,000'.</p>
15	<p><b>Dry Recyclables Collection and Disposal</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations as set out in exempt report.</b></p>	Agreed