

Committee: Executive
Date: Monday 10 January 2011
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Membership

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| Councillor Barry Wood (Chairman) | Councillor G A Reynolds (Vice-Chairman) |
| Councillor Ken Atack | Councillor Norman Bolster |
| Councillor Colin Clarke | Councillor Michael Gibbard |
| Councillor James Macnamara | Councillor Nigel Morris |
| Councillor D M Pickford | Councillor Nicholas Turner |

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 - 14)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2010.

Strategy and Policy

6. **Housing in Cherwell and the Current Economic Climate** **6.35 pm**
(Pages 15 - 66)

Report of Head of Housing Services

Summary

- To update the Executive on the progress made in implementing the Affordable Housing and the Recession Action Plan approved by Executive in January 2009
- To advise the Executive on the Government's proposed housing policy changes and housing and welfare benefit reform and its potential impact on the Council's housing function in the current economic climate
- To recommend to Executive a Housing & Current Economic Climate Action Plan to steer the Council through these changes until the new Housing Strategy is in place in April 2012.
- To advise Executive on plans to bring forward a new Cherwell Housing Strategy in 2012 that will respond to the new policy context and financial climate
- To endorse a Cherwell District Council response to the Government consultation "Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing"

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the progress and completion of the Affordable Housing and the Recession Action Plan (Appendix A)
- (2) To endorse a Housing and the Current Economic Climate Action Plan for moving forward (Appendix B)
- (3) To endorse the response to the Government consultation paper (Appendix C)
- (4) To note the current and proposed housing and welfare benefit changes and the potential impact upon the Housing Service (Appendix D)
- (5) To approve the plans to bring forward a Cherwell Housing Strategy and approve the structure for Member involvement in the Housing Strategy Programme Board

7. Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document
(Pages 67 - 72)

6.55 pm

Report of Strategic Director Planning, Housing and Economy

Summary

To consider the Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and to approve the use of the draft SPD as informal guidance with immediate effect.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To consider the Planning Obligations Draft Supplementary Planning Document (a copy is available in the Members Room and on request from the Planning Policy Team, it can also be viewed on the website) and endorse it for public consultation.
- (2) To approve the use of the draft Supplementary Planning Document as informal guidance with immediate effect.
- (3) To authorise the Strategic Director, Planning, Housing and Economy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Planning and Housing, to make any further minor non-substantive changes as are necessary to the draft Supplementary Planning Document prior to the publication for public consultation.

Value for Money and Performance

8. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee- Car Parking Charges Call-in

7.10 pm

To consider recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 January 2011 (if any) resulting from the Call-in of the Executive decisions regarding car parking charges.

9. Budget 2011/12 Draft 2 (Pages 73 - 110)

7.25 pm

Report of Head of Finance

Summary

The Council has to adopt a budget for 2011/12 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 second opportunity that the Executive has to shape and refine the interaction between corporate plan service plans and financial matters before the final budget is presented to the Council on the 21 February 2011.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To note the outcome of the 2011/12 provisional settlement (detailed in Appendix 1);
- (2) To consider the draft revenue budget 2 (detailed in Appendix 2a) in the context of the Council's service objectives and strategic priorities; (see the corporate plan Appendix 2b);
- (3) To note the draft corporate plan for 2011/12 which is currently subject to consultation. (Detailed in Appendix 2b)
- (4) To agree the approach to the overall capital programme and 10/11 expenditure profile (detailed in Appendix 3);
- (5) To advise of any matters they would like taken into consideration in producing a balanced budget for the next meeting of the Executive ;
- (6) To consider the Tax Base Report (Appendix 4) and
 - to resolve that, in accordance with the Regulations, as amended, the amount calculated by the Cherwell District Council as its council tax base for the year 2011/2012 shall be 50,337; and
 - to approve the report of the Head of Finance, made pursuant to the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, and the calculations referred to therein for the purposes of the Regulations; and
 - to resolve that the tax base for parts of the area be in accordance with the figures shown in column 13 of Appendix 4b.
 - to resolve to continue with the discretionary awards that it resolved to give on December 1 2008.

10. Culture and Heritage Value for Money Review (Pages 111 - 156) 7.55 pm

Report of Interim Chief Executive

Summary

To consider the findings of the Value for Money (VFM) Review of Culture and Heritage report and the recommendations arising from the report

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To endorse the overall conclusion of the review that the service is low cost for the Museum but high cost for its Arts service, has high performance in terms of visitor numbers to the museum and is high quality in terms of user satisfaction for the museum.
- (2) To agree that improvements in value for money be sought and approve the following recommendations for achieving savings of £81,130 in 2011/12;
 1. Introduce single staffing at Banbury Museum, saving £13,385

2. Reduce the Museum exhibitions budget and operational costs, saving £15,476
 3. Reduce arts funding by £31,906, ending grant aid support for all provision other than The Mill, Banbury
 4. Reduce Arts Officer hours to 43 per week, saving £15,108
 5. Reduce the operational revenue budget for Arts officers by 26%, saving £5,255
- (3) To cease core service funding of The Courtyard, Bicester due to the intended change in use of the facility from a dedicated youth arts centre which, prima facie, negates the operational agreement the Council is party to. However, retain the provision of a dedicated arts officer to the facility to continue support for the remaining youth arts provision. Subject to further negotiation with OCC and the Arts Council Lottery Unit, this will enable further savings of £38,000 in 2011/12.
- (4) To agree in principle subject to further assessment, to transfer the operation of the Museum and Tourist Information Centre (TIC) into a bespoke Trust developed for the purpose from 2013/14, saving an estimated £64,000 in NNDR.
- (5) To ask officers to bring a detailed report on the creation of a Trust for the Museum and TIC to a future meeting.

Urgent Business

11. Urgent Business

Any other items which the Chairman has decided is urgent.

(Meeting scheduled to close at 8.05pm)

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to 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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