

**Summary of the Decisions Taken at the Meeting  
of Council held on 24 February 2014**

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Agenda Item and Recommendations</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Members Allowances 2014/15</b></p> <p>Report of Head of Law and Governance</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To determine the levels of the allowances to be paid to Members for the forthcoming 2014/2015 financial year following the submission of the report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To consider the levels of allowances to be included in the 2014/2015 Members' Allowances Scheme, and whether the Panel's recommendations should be adopted or modified in any way</p> <p>1.2 To authorise the Head of Law and Governance to prepare an amended Members' Allowances Scheme, in accordance with the decisions of the Council for implementation with effect from 1 April 2014.</p> <p>1.3 To authorise the Head of Law and Governance to take all necessary action to revoke the</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the levels of allowances to be included in the 2014/2015 Members' Allowances Scheme be agreed as set out in the annex to the minutes (as set out in the Minute Book).</p> <p>(2) That the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to prepare an amended Members' Allowances Scheme, in accordance with the decisions of the Council for implementation with effect from 1 April 2014.</p> <p>(3) That the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to take all necessary action to revoke the current (2013/2014) Scheme and to publicise the revised Scheme pursuant to The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).</p> <p>(4) That the Independent Remuneration Panel be thanked for its report and a fee of £300 for Panel Members for the work carried out in 2013/2014 and the same level of fee for 2014/2015 be agreed.</p>

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	<p>current (2013/2014) Scheme and to publicise the revised Scheme pursuant to The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).</p> <p>1.4 To thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for its report and set a fee of £300 for Panel Members for the work carried out in 2013/2014 and propose the same level of fee for 2014/2015.</p>	
10	<p><b>Corporate Plan, Revenue and Capital Budgets and Treasury Strategy 2014-15</b></p> <p>Report of Director of Resources and Interim Head of Finance and Procurement</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>To review the Council's General Fund Budget, Capital Programme, Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Balances to ensure the robustness of the estimates included and to seek formal adoption of all parts of the Council's financial plans and Corporate Plan for the 2014-15 budget year.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To consider the contents of this report in approving the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2014-15 and to formally record that consideration.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the 2014-15 General Fund Budget and</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the contents of the report in approving the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2014-15 be noted and that consideration be formally recorded.</p> <p>(2) That the 2014-15 General Fund Budget and 2014-15 Capital Programme proposed by the Executive on 3 February 2014 contained in the annexes to the minutes and amended for the changes to the collection fund and investment income (as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the Collection Fund Estimates (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(4) That the draft 5 year strategy, 2014-15 business plan and public pledges (annexes to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book) and authority be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Leader of the Council and</p>

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	<p>2014-15 Capital Programme proposed by the Executive on 3 February 2014 as detailed in Annex 1 amended for the changes to the collection fund and investment income as set out in paragraphs 3.12 and 3.13.</p> <p>1.3 To approve the Collection Fund Estimates contained in Annex 2</p> <p>1.4 To approve the draft 5 year strategy, 2014-15 business plan and public pledges (detailed in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 to Annex 1) and to delegate authority to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Lead Member for Performance and Customers to make any minor amendments to the plan or pledges as required before final publication in March 2014.</p> <p>1.5 To approve the Treasury Management Strategy as detailed in Annex 3.</p> <p>1.6 To approve the appended statement of pay policy for 2014-15 as required by the Localism Act and detailed in Annex 4.</p> <p>1.7 To approve the Business Rates Retail Relief Policy as outlined in paragraphs 3.18 and 3.19 and contained in Annex 5 and the formal resolutions that underpin the policy:  1.7.1 The Council award “Retail Relief” of up to £1,000 to qualifying businesses in occupation of retail premises which have a rateable value of</p>	<p>the Lead Member for Performance and Customers to make any minor amendments to the plan or pledges as required before final publication in March 2014.</p> <p>(5) That the Treasury Management Strategy (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(6) That the statement of pay policy for 2014-15 as required by the Localism Act (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(7) That the Business Rates Retail Relief Policy as contained in the annex to the minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) and the following formal resolutions that underpin the policy be approved:  i. The Council award “Retail Relief” of up to £1,000 to qualifying businesses in occupation of retail premises which have a rateable value of £50,000 or less in accordance with discretionary relief powers (Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended)) for the financial years 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 and 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.  ii. The business to qualify for the relief must be “retail” as detailed in the Business Rates Retail Relief Policy.  iii. The Council, through the National Non-Domestic Rate Return process, seek full reimbursement of the cost of “retail relief” from Central Government.</p>

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	<p>£50,000 or less in accordance with discretionary relief powers (Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended)) for the financial years 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 and 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.</p> <p>1.7.2 The business to qualify for the relief must be “retail” as detailed in the Business Rates Retail Relief Policy.</p> <p>1.7.3 The Council, through the National Non-Domestic Rate Return process, seek full reimbursement of the cost of “retail relief” from Central Government.</p> <p>1.8 To approve the discount and exemptions as follows:</p> <p>1.8.1 Agree that in respect of properties within Class A and B as defined by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012(furnished chargeable dwellings that are not the sole or a main residence of an individual) the discount provided by Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 shall be reduced to zero.</p> <p>1.8.2 Agree that in respect of properties within Class C as defined by the Council Tax(Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (a</p>	<p>(8) That the discount and exemptions as follows be approved:</p> <p>i. Agree that in respect of properties within Class A and B as defined by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012(furnished chargeable dwellings that are not the sole or a main residence of an individual) the discount provided by Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 shall be reduced to zero.</p> <p>ii. Agree that in respect of properties within Class C as defined by the Council Tax(Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (a property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) the discount provided by Section 11A of the said Act shall be reduced to 25% for a maximum period of six months and thereafter to zero.</p> <p>iii. Agree that in respect of properties within Class D as defined by the said Regulations (chargeable dwellings that are vacant and undergoing major repair work to render them habitable) the discount provided by Section 11A of the said Act shall be reduced to 50% for twelve months and thereafter to zero.</p> <p>(9) That agreement be given to transfer £100,000 from General</p>

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	<p>property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) the discount provided by Section 11A of the said Act shall be reduced to 25% for a maximum period of six months and thereafter to zero.</p> <p>1.8.3 Agree that in respect of properties within Class D as defined by the said Regulations (chargeable dwellings that are vacant and undergoing major repair work to render them habitable) the discount provided by Section 11A of the said Act shall be reduced to 50% for twelve months and thereafter to zero.</p>	<p>Fund Balances to a Housing Earmarked Reserve, with funding released by the Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management and the Lead Member for Housing.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><b>Calculating the amounts of Council Tax for 2014-2015 and setting the Council Tax for 2014-2015</b></p> <p>Report of Chief Finance Officer and Interim Head of Finance and Procurement</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>To detail the Calculations for the amounts of Council Tax for 2014-15 and the setting of Council Tax for 2014-2015.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Council resolves:-</p> <p>1.1 That it be noted that at the Executive meeting held on 6 January 2014 the Council calculated the Council Tax</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That it be noted that at the Executive meeting held on 6 January 2014 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2014-15:</p> <p>a) for the whole Council area as 47,609 [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and</p> <p>b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as in the attached annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book).</p> <p>(2) That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's</p>

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	<p>Base 2014-15:</p> <p>a) for the whole Council area as 47,609 [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and</p> <p>b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as in the attached Appendix 1.</p> <p>1.2 That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014-15 (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) is £5,879,712.</p> <p>1.3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014-15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-</p> <p>a) £69,336,279 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.</p> <p>b) £59,526,742 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.</p> <p>c) £9,809,537 being the amount by which the aggregate at 8(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8(b) above, calculated by the Council, in</p>	<p>own purposes for 2014-15 (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) be £5,879,712.</p> <p>(3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014-15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-</p> <p>a) £69,336,279 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.</p> <p>b) £59,526,742 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.</p> <p>c) £9,809,537 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).</p> <p>d) £206.04 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (6(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses);</p> <p>e) £3,929,825 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) referred to in</p>

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	<p>accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).</p> <p>d) £206.04 being the amount at 8(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (6(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses);</p> <p>e) £3,929,825 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act as per the attached Schedule 2.</p> <p>f) £123.50 being the amount at 8(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 8(e) above by Item T(6(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept or special item relates;</p> <p>1.4 It be noted that for the year 2014-15 the Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance</p>	<p>Section 34(1) of the Act as per the attached Schedule 2 (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book).</p> <p>f) £123.50 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T(1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept or special item relates;</p> <p>(4) That it be noted that for the year 2014-15 the Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="956 1294 1525 1742"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="963 1305 1107 1361"><u>Valuation Band</u></th> <th data-bbox="1112 1305 1289 1395"><u>Oxfordshire County Council</u></th> <th data-bbox="1294 1305 1517 1451"><u>Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1451 1289 1485">£</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1451 1517 1485">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1491 1107 1525"><b>A</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1491 1289 1525">805.61</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1491 1517 1525">107.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1532 1107 1565"><b>B</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1532 1289 1565">939.87</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1532 1517 1565">124.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1572 1107 1606"><b>C</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1572 1289 1606">1,074.14</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1572 1517 1606">142.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1612 1107 1646"><b>D</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1612 1289 1646">1,208.41</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1612 1517 1646">160.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1653 1107 1686"><b>E</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1653 1289 1686">1,476.95</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1653 1517 1686">196.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1693 1107 1727"><b>F</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1693 1289 1727">1,745.48</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1693 1517 1727">231.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1733 1107 1767"><b>G</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1733 1289 1767">2,014.02</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1733 1517 1767">267.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="963 1774 1107 1807"><b>H</b></td> <td data-bbox="1112 1774 1289 1807">2,416.82</td> <td data-bbox="1294 1774 1517 1807">321.02</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>as indicated below :-</p> <p>(5) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in the annex to the Minutes (as set out in the</p>	<u>Valuation Band</u>	<u>Oxfordshire County Council</u>	<u>Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley</u>		£	£	<b>A</b>	805.61	107.01	<b>B</b>	939.87	124.84	<b>C</b>	1,074.14	142.68	<b>D</b>	1,208.41	160.51	<b>E</b>	1,476.95	196.18	<b>F</b>	1,745.48	231.85	<b>G</b>	2,014.02	267.52	<b>H</b>	2,416.82	321.02
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	<p>Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated below :-</p> <p>1.5 The Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="375 517 938 960"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="375 517 528 584"><u>Valuation Band</u></th> <th data-bbox="528 517 715 584">Oxfordshire County Council</th> <th data-bbox="715 517 938 584">Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="528 584 715 607">£</td> <td data-bbox="715 584 938 607">£</td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 607 528 629"><b>A</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 607 715 629">805.61</td> <td data-bbox="715 607 938 629">107.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 629 528 651"><b>B</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 629 715 651">939.87</td> <td data-bbox="715 629 938 651">124.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 651 528 674"><b>C</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 651 715 674">1,074.14</td> <td data-bbox="715 651 938 674">142.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 674 528 696"><b>D</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 674 715 696">1,208.41</td> <td data-bbox="715 674 938 696">160.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 696 528 719"><b>E</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 696 715 719">1,476.95</td> <td data-bbox="715 696 938 719">196.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 719 528 741"><b>F</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 719 715 741">1,745.48</td> <td data-bbox="715 719 938 741">231.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 741 528 763"><b>G</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 741 715 763">2,014.02</td> <td data-bbox="715 741 938 763">267.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 763 528 786"><b>H</b></td> <td data-bbox="528 763 715 786">2,416.82</td> <td data-bbox="715 763 938 786">321.02</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>shown in Appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014-15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.</p> <p>1.6 The Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2014-15 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.</p>	<u>Valuation Band</u>	Oxfordshire County Council	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley		£	£	<b>A</b>	805.61	107.01	<b>B</b>	939.87	124.84	<b>C</b>	1,074.14	142.68	<b>D</b>	1,208.41	160.51	<b>E</b>	1,476.95	196.18	<b>F</b>	1,745.48	231.85	<b>G</b>	2,014.02	267.52	<b>H</b>	2,416.82	321.02	<p>Minute Book) as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014-15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.</p> <p>(6) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2014-15 not be excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.</p>
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13	<p><b>Section 113 Arrangements and Shared ICT Service and Systems Policy Framework Decision</b></p> <p>Report of Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>To approve entering into a Section 113 agreement between Cherwell District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council and to add the principle of a shared ICT service and associated harmonisation of ICT business applications between</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the entering into an agreement between Cherwell District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council pursuant to Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other enabling powers so that employees can be placed at the disposal of the other Councils for the purposes of shared working be approved and that the Head of Law and Governance, Cherwell and</p>																														



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	<p data-bbox="379 226 927 367">Cherwell District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire to the policy framework.</p> <p data-bbox="379 412 671 443"><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p data-bbox="379 483 815 515">The meeting is recommended:</p> <p data-bbox="379 555 927 1317">1.1 To approve the entering into an agreement between Cherwell District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council pursuant to Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other enabling powers so that employees can be placed at the disposal of the other Councils for the purposes of shared working and that the Head of Law and Governance, Cherwell and South Northamptonshire be authorised to complete such agreement in negotiation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Stratford-on-Avon District Council.</p> <p data-bbox="379 1361 927 1688">1.2 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive (Cherwell and South Northamptonshire) to negotiate and approve a protocol – on the respective roles of members and officers and dealing with conflicts of interest in consultation with the Chief Executive (Stratford)</p> <p data-bbox="379 1733 927 2056">1.3 To agree that the principle of shared working between Cherwell District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council for the purpose of the proposed shared ICT service and associated harmonisation of</p>	<p data-bbox="1054 226 1481 479">South Northamptonshire be authorised to complete such agreement in negotiation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Stratford-on-Avon District Council.</p> <p data-bbox="959 524 1501 846">(2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive (Cherwell and South Northamptonshire) to negotiate and approve a protocol – on the respective roles of members and officers and dealing with conflicts of interest in consultation with the Chief Executive (Stratford).</p> <p data-bbox="959 891 1501 1285">(3) That the principle of shared working between Cherwell District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council for the purpose of the proposed shared ICT service and associated harmonisation of ICT business applications be added to the adopted policy framework be approved.</p>

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	<p>ICT business applications be added to the adopted policy framework.</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Calendar of Meetings 2014/15 and Draft Calendar of Meetings 2015/16</b></p> <p>Report of Head of Law and Governance</p> <p><b>Purpose of Report</b></p> <p>Council is asked to consider the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2014/15 and the municipal year 2015/16.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the calendar of meetings for Cherwell District Council (CDC) for the municipal years 2014/15 (Appendix 1) and 2015/16 (Appendix 2).</p> <p>1.2 To note the joint meetings calendar of meetings (Appendix 3).</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the revised tabled calendar of meetings for Cherwell District Council (CDC) for the municipal years 2014/15 and 2015/16 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the joint meetings calendar of meetings (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be noted.</p>