



Committee: Executive

Date: Tuesday 2 September 2025

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD

Membership

Councillor David Hingley (Chair)	Councillor Lesley McLean (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tom Beckett	Councillor Chris Brant
Councillor Jean Conway	Councillor Nick Cotter
Councillor Ian Middleton	Councillor Robert Parkinson
Councillor Rob Pattenden	

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. Requests to Address the Meeting

The Chair to report on any requests to address the meeting.

4. Minutes (Pages 9 - 18)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2025.

5. Chair's Announcements

To receive communications from the Chair.

6. HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) Fuel (Pages 19 - 28)

Report of Assistant Director Environmental Services and Corporate Director Communities

Purpose of report

This report looks at the issues of cutting vehicle fleet emissions by the adoption of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel to replace standard diesel fuel. The report considers the reduction in emissions and the potential increase in revenue costs from moving to HVO.

Recommendations

The meeting resolves:

- 1.1 To support the change from standard diesel to HVO diesel commencing from Autumn 2025 leading to a substantial reduction in emissions during 2025/26 & 2026/26.
- 1.2 To note the small increase in fuel costs as a result of moving to HVO which can be contained within the existing fuel budget.

7. Domestic Abuse Policy (Pages 29 - 54)

Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing

Purpose of report

To seek approval for a new Domestic Abuse Policy.

Recommendations

The meeting resolves:

- 1.1 To approve the new Domestic Abuse Policy.

8. Made in Banbury (Pages 55 - 98)

Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing

Purpose of report

A new cultural strategy for Banbury and an exploration of the economic impact of investment in the cultural sector offer a perspective on the importance of cultural organisations for the district. This report highlights the connection between the council's wellbeing strategy, the Banbury Area Priority Plan and the development of coordinated investment.

Recommendations

The meeting resolves:

- 1.1 To endorse Made in Banbury, a cultural strategy for the Town.
- 1.2 To acknowledge the impact investment in arts and culture can have on the local economy.
- 1.3 To support the Banbury Quays Consortium in their coordination of marketing cultural offers to audiences under a shared 'Made in Banbury' approach across the district with a grant of £3000 from existing funding allocations for the next two years.
- 1.4 To monitor the implementation and delivery of the action plan appended.
- 1.5 Given the independent nature of the cultural strategy, the area oversight groups are to consider culture in their placemaking plans. Ensuring the arts organisations of the district contribute to the cultural development of the district overall.

9. Bicester Market Square Project (Pages 99 - 114)

**** Due to the size of the documents, to assist access, the appendices are published as a supplement to the main agenda pack ****

Report of Corporate Director of Communities

Purpose of report

To provide an update to the Executive on the progress of the Market Square, Bicester regeneration and public realm improvement project and to seek approval to continue to the next stage of the project, and ultimately on to complete the project, subject to all of the required procurement processes being undertaken successfully. This report details the next steps of the design work required to the concept plan, seeking the required planning permissions, approval of the draft programme and budget approvals based on the estimated cost plans undertaken as part of stage 1 of the project.

Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To note the progress of the project to date, including the public engagement process and how the proposed concept design was developed.
- 1.2 To approve the concept design presented for development to the next stage.
- 1.3 To approve that the £881,000 from Oxfordshire County Council town centre s106 funds be added to the currently approved £4.25m capital programme budget for this project – to give a maximum total project budget of £5,131,000 to complete this project in full.

- 1.4 To delegate to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration in conjunction with the Corporate Director of Communities and the Assistant Director of Finance the tranches of budget for each stage of the project as required, into the capital programme to enable completion of this project.
- 1.5 To delegate to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration in conjunction with the Corporate Director of Communities and Assistant Director of Law and Governance to approve the appointment of the preferred Consultant & Contractor, to work with the Councils project team to deliver this project following the required Council procurement processes.
- 1.6 To delegate to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration in conjunction with the Corporate Director of Communities and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance the decision on the specific contract options & construction route to deliver the project in full (which is currently proposed as a two-stage contract process) (NEC 4E x22) following the Councils required procurement processes.
- 1.7 To note the current draft programme of works and estimated timescales of each stage of work, as provided by WSP, as part of their Stage 1 feasibility work as set out in Appendix 4.
- 1.8 To delegate to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration in conjunction with the Corporate Director of Communities to confirm approval to submit the planning application of the detailed design.

10. Response to Motion: Government Review of Local Authority Funding (Pages 115 - 162)

Report of Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To respond to the motion raised at the Council meeting of 21 July 2025 by Councillor Edward Reeves in relation to Government Review of Local Authority Funding.

Recommendations

The Executive committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the Executive's response to the motion.

11. Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2025 - 2026 (Pages 163 - 212)

Report of Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer) and Assistant Director Customer Focus

Purpose of report

To report to Executive the council's forecast year-end financial, performance and risk position as of the end of Quarter 1 2025, further detail can be found in the report and its appendices.

Recommendations

The meeting resolves:

- 1.1 To consider and note the contents of the council's finance, performance and risk management report as at Quarter 1.
- 1.2 To approve the reprofiling of projects in the capital programme as per Appendix 1.
- 1.3 To approve £40k from Policy Contingency for pump priming The Hill.

12. Budget Process 2026/2027 (Pages 213 - 228)

Report of Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To inform the Executive of the proposed approach to the 2026/27 Budget Process and provides context and background information on the existing Medium-Term Financial Strategy and information on latest government announcements relevant to the Strategy.

Recommendations

The meeting resolves:

- 1.1 To approve the Budget Process for 2026/27.
- 1.2 To approve the base assumptions to be used for the 2026/27 budget.
- 1.3 To approve a five-year period for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2030/31 and five-year period for the Capital Programme to 2030/31.

13. Urgent Business

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

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members' Lounge at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221534 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.

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.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Natasha Clark, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk,
01295 221534

Shiraz Sheikh
Monitoring Officer

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