



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting
of the Executive held on Tuesday 2 September 2025**

1. Date of publication of this summary: 3 September 2025
2. Decisions (if any) taken as a matter of urgency under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in the Constitution (and not therefore subject to the call-in procedure): None, however item 9, Response to Motion: Government Review of Local Authority Funding., is not subject to call in as it is for noting and information only.
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 Tuesday 9 September 2025
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.gov.uk) or from Democratic Services);
 - (b) Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text 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 any five non-executive members of the Council.
 - (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.

**Shiraz Sheikh
Monitoring Officer**

Agenda Item and Recommendation	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options	Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service
<p>Agenda Item 6 HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) Fuel</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Environmental Services and Corporate Director Communities</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting resolves:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.2 To note the small increase in fuel costs as a result of moving to</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the change from standard diesel to HVO diesel commencing from Autumn 2025 leading to a substantial reduction in emissions during 2025/26 & 2026/26 be supported.</p> <p>(2) That the small increase in fuel costs as a result of moving to HVO, which can be contained within the existing fuel budget, be noted.</p>	<p>To move to HVO fuel with the implementation plan commencing from Autumn 2025 will reduce fleet emissions in 2025/26 with the full year effect in 2026/27.</p>	<p>Option 1: Continuing using diesel until either Battery Electric Vehicles or Hydrogen Vehicles are available at an affordable price. Fleet emissions will remain very high until the current Large Goods Vehicles are replaced. This may take a considerable number of years</p>	<p>None</p>

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HVO which can be contained within the existing fuel budget.				
<p>Agenda Item 7 Domestic Abuse Policy</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the new Domestic Abuse Policy.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the new Domestic Abuse Policy be approved.</p>	<p>The new Domestic Abuse Policy outlines the Council's role and responsibilities and how residents receive advice and support.</p> <p>It provides an overview of what residents can expect from the Council when they approach the Council for support with domestic abuse and how the Council will ensure that their circumstances are handled confidentially, sensitively and non-judgmentally.</p> <p>It provides an overview of the housing support that is provided by the Council, particularly through the</p>	<p>Option 1: Not to bring forward a Domestic Abuse Policy. The Council has statutory duties in delivering housing services and participating in multi-agency arrangements regarding victim and perpetrator management, however, there are no statutory duties to have a domestic abuse policy. The Council is aiming to achieve an accreditation in recognition of its practice and focus on this area, and a policy is an important part of achieving this. This option is therefore rejected.</p>	<p>None</p>

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		<p>housing options team, housing register and through the Sanctuary Scheme, which provides additional security measures to properties.</p> <p>It outlines the multi-agency role and multi-agency arrangements that the Council is part of and that are in place within Oxfordshire to coordinate responses, provide support and monitor perpetrators.</p>		
<p>Agenda Item 8 Made in Banbury</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting resolves:</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That Made in Banbury, a cultural strategy for the Town, be endorsed.</p> <p>(2) That the impact investment in arts and</p>	<p>Culture has an important role to play in the delivery of successful placemaking strategies and in the economic health of our Towns. In endorsing the work of the sector through these plans and providing an enabling and supportive</p>	<p>Option 1: Not endorse Made in Banbury and the consequent actions This has been rejected as the strategy and action plan support the published policies of the Council and the small financial contribution can be</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>1.1 To endorse Made in Banbury, a cultural strategy for the Town.</p> <p>1.2 To acknowledge the impact investment in arts and culture can have on the local economy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.4 To monitor the implementation and</p>	<p>culture can have on the local economy be acknowledged.</p> <p>(3) That the Banbury Quays Consortium be supported 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 each of the next two years.</p> <p>(4) That the implementation and delivery of the action plan be monitored.</p> <p>(5) That, given the independent nature of the cultural strategy,</p>	<p>policy context for the development of place, activity and employment, Cherwell District Council can effect change. The quality of life local residents enjoy is positively impacted by a vibrant cultural sector and the range of recommendations will help support the sectors efforts to provide a range of opportunities for audiences and residents wanting to pursue a career in the creative industries.</p>	<p>achieved from existing funding over the next two years.</p>	

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<p>delivery of the action plan appended.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>the area oversight groups be asked to consider culture in their placemaking plans, ensuring the arts organisations of the district contribute to the cultural development of the district overall.</p>			
<p>Agenda Item 9 Bicester Market Square Project</p> <p>Report of Corporate Director of Communities</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the progress of the project to date, including the public engagement process and how the proposed concept design was developed, be noted.</p>	<p>The Bicester Market Square improvement project has been in the public domain for many years. A report to the Executive was presented on 4 September 2023: Bicester Garden Town Programme - Market Square Project Business Need & Next Stages.</p>	<p>Option one: To approve a previously available design from the one presented which does pedestrianise the Market Square. This is not an option for the local businesses and community of Bicester; during engagement this was a very clear message</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>1.1 To note the progress of the project to date, including the public engagement process and how the proposed concept design was developed.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the concept design presented for development to the next stage.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>(2) That the concept design presented for development to the next stage be approved.</p> <p>(3) That it be approved 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.</p> <p>(4) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Communities, in conjunction with the</p>	<p>This report follows the stages of the project over the last two years to date; specifically following an internal review in summer 2024 with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration in conjunction with the Corporate Director Communities, the project has progressed with a full public engagement process completing, as well as confirming project “why” and project priorities.</p> <p>The outcome of the public engagement process has been a preferred concept design, together with a draft programme which outlines next steps, together with estimated cost plans depending on choice of materials to deliver this</p>	<p>along with the request to retain some parking and if possible, at the current level.</p> <p>Option two: To approve one of the other presented designs. This would not be the preferred design from the public and business engagement, but it is possible to deliver one of the other concept designs at this stage.</p> <p>Option three: To pause or stop this project now and not continue to the next stage. This would save the project budget to be spent on other projects or Council priorities; however, this project has been discussed within the community for over 20 years and during the last</p>	

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<p>complete this project in full.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.5 To delegate to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration in conjunction with the</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration and the Assistant Director of Finance, to agree the tranches of budget for each stage of the project as required, into the capital programme to enable completion of this project.</p> <p>(5) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Communities, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration and Assistant Director of Law and Governance, to approve the appointment of the preferred Consultant &</p>	<p>project.</p> <p>The cost plans are estimating the preferred plan can be delivered within a total maximum project budget of £5,131,000, (dependent on material choices) with £180,000 spent to date.</p> <p>This report therefore sets out recommendations to take forward the next steps of this project onto successful delivery and completion.</p>	<p>year the team have been working very closely with our Portfolio Holder who has been supporting this project.</p>	

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<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Contractor and to work with the Councils project team to deliver this project following the required Council procurement processes.</p> <p>(6) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Communities, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration in conjunction with the 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</p>			

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<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.8 To delegate to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and</p>	<p>a two-stage contract process) (NEC 4E x22) following the Councils required procurement processes.</p> <p>(7) That 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 be noted.</p> <p>(8) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Communities, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration to confirm approval to</p>			

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<p>Regeneration in conjunction with the Corporate Director of Communities to confirm approval to submit the planning application of the detailed design.</p>	<p>submit the planning application of the detailed design.</p>			
<p>Agenda Item 10 Response to Motion: Government Review of Local Authority Funding</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer)</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive committee resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To note the Executive's response to the motion.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Executive's response to the motion be noted.</p>	<p>The Leader and officers have taken opportunities to maximise the amount of influence on the Government to ensure that it is aware of the financial challenges that Cherwell would face if anticipated changes were implemented without any financial safeguards being put in place.</p>	<p>No alternative options have been identified.</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Agenda Item 11 Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2025 - 2026</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer) and Assistant Director Customer Focus</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To consider and note the contents of the council's finance, performance and risk management report as at Quarter 1.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the reprofiling of projects in the capital programme as per Appendix 1.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the contents of the council's finance, performance and risk management report as at Quarter 1 2025/2026 be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the reprofiling of projects in the capital programme (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the release of £40k from Policy Contingency for pump priming The Hill be approved.</p>	<p>The report updates Executive on the projected year-end financial position of the council for 2025/26, Quarter 1 performance position and updated Leadership Risk Register. Regular reporting is key to good governance and demonstrates that the council is actively managing its financial resources sustainably.</p>	<p>Option 1: This report summarises the council's forecast financial position up to the end of End of Year 2026, and a snapshot of our Performance and Risk positions for Quarter 1 2025-26, therefore there are no alternative options to consider.</p>	<p>None</p>

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1.3 To approve £40k from Policy Contingency for pump priming The Hill.				
<p>Agenda Item 12 Budget Process 2026/2027</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer)</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the Budget Process for 2026/27.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the base assumptions to be used for the 2026/27 budget.</p> <p>1.3 To approve a five-year period for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Budget Process for 2026/27 be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the base assumptions to be used for the 2026/27 budget be approved.</p> <p>(3) That a five-year period for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2030/31 and five-year period for the Capital Programme to 2030/31 be approved.</p>	<p>The Council has a legal obligation to set a balanced budget and ensure it maintains a suitable level of reserves each year. The process laid out in this report will allow CDC to develop budget proposals that will allow it to meet these legal obligations.</p>	<p>The Council has a legal obligation to set a balanced budget and evaluate its level of reserves to ensure they are held at a suitable level. Therefore, there are no alternative options other than to carry out a budget process that reviews the levels of reserves and identifies a budget proposal that can be delivered within the overall level of resources available to the Council.</p>	<p>None</p>

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to 2030/31 and five-year period for the Capital Programme to 2030/31.				