



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting
of the Executive held on Tuesday 7 October 2025**

1. Date of publication of this summary: Wednesday 8 October 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
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 14 October 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 7 Notice of Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To note the reports and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>1.2 To agree that an Executive Response be prepared for each set of recommendations, for consideration and agreement, within two months of this notice.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the reports and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.</p> <p>(2) That it be agreed that an Executive Response be prepared for each set of recommendations, for consideration and agreement, within two months of this notice.</p>	<p>The recommendations ensure both Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive comply with requirements as detailed in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000.</p>	<p>Option 1: Not to provide an Executive response. This is rejected, as it would be contrary to Section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000. Regardless of Executive's decision relating to the various recommendations, a response must be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Agenda Item 8 Bicester Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Implementation Report</p> <p>Report of Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To renew the Public Spaces Protection Order for Bicester town centre taking into consideration the outcomes of the public consultation and the feedback received from stakeholders.</p> <p>1.2 The basis of the order will be items (a)-(e) as</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Public Spaces Protection Order for Bicester town centre, taking into consideration the outcomes of the public consultation and the feedback received from stakeholders, be renewed.</p> <p>(2) That the basis of the order will be the following items and the order will apply to the area set within the red border in the annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book).</p> <p>a) No person shall loiter in the restricted area</p>	<p>The results of the consultation show overwhelming support for the introduction of a PSPO in Bicester Town Centre from the public and stakeholder organisations. The responses support including all three prohibitions that were included in the consultation.</p> <p>Crime and incident data from the Police evidence supports the conclusion that prevalent and persistent problem of anti-social behaviour in and around Bicester town centre and that the legal requirements for the introduction of a PSPO are met. Therefore, the Executive is recommended to approve the renewal of the PSPO for Bicester town centre.</p>	<p>Option 1: Not renew the PSPO. This option is not recommended. The information gathered to support the renewal of the PSPO for Bicester town centre demonstrates that there is a persistent problem with ASB occurring in and around Bicester town centre. The consultation outcomes show very strong support for the renewal of the PSPO to continue to tackle this problem and stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, support the proposal.</p> <p>Option 2: Introduce a PSPO with a more limited scope. This option is not</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>set out in the consultation in section 4.14 and the order will apply to the area set within the red border in appendix 1.</p> <p>1.3 To agree the order can remain in place for up to 3 years.</p>	<p>either as an individual or in a group if they are causing or likely to cause anti-social behaviour. If asked to disperse by a Police Constable, PCSO, or an authorised officer of the Council that person must not return to the restricted area for a period of 24 hours.</p> <p>b) No person shall beg (using either active or passive methods of obtaining alms) or ask members of the public for money in the restricted area.</p>		<p>recommended. The consultation outcomes show support for all aspects of the proposed PSPO, and the information collected provides evidence that the prohibitions to be included are proportionate to the issues that the PSPO will look to address.</p>	

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	<p>c) No person shall consume alcohol in the restricted area (other than premises specified in Section 62(1) of the Act) in a manner which causes nuisance or annoyance to other persons in the locality.</p> <p>d) No person shall continue to consume alcohol when directed by an officer to stop in the restricted area.</p> <p>e) No person shall fail to surrender alcohol or a container for alcohol when</p>			

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	<p>requested to do so by an officer in the restricted area.</p> <p>(3) That it be agreed the Order can remain in place for up to 3 years.</p>			
<p>Agenda Item 9 Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p> <p>Report of Corporate Director Communities</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To endorse the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and approves its publication by Oxfordshire County</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy be endorsed and its publication by Oxfordshire County Council be approved.</p>	<p>The Environment Act 2021 establishes the requirement on Local Authorities to publish a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).</p> <p>Supporting Authorities are required to confirm in writing that they are content for the LNRS to be published within 28 days of the Responsible Authority providing them with the final draft of the LNRS. The council received the final draft of the LNRS on 22 July 2025 and the deadline for raising an objection or</p>	<p>Option 1: Object to the publication of the LNRS and submit a PAN (publication advisory notice). Regulation 15 of the LNRS regulations provides that a Supporting Authority may submit a publication advisory notice to the Responsible Authority. It may do this if it considers that, either parts of a final local nature recovery strategy cannot be justified based on the results of the consultation undertaken or that the</p>	<p>None</p>

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Council.		<p>endorsing the LNRS is 15 October 2025.</p> <p>The Council's Senior Ecologist has been closely involved in the preparation and drafting of the LNRS, and there has been a series of public and stakeholder engagement events and a full public consultation. Consultation comments have now been acted on and the final draft LNRS documents have now been prepared based on the feedback from the public consultation and input from a wide variety of biodiversity experts as well as the Supporting Authorities. Officers are satisfied that the document is fit for publication and should be endorsed.</p>	<p>strategy is materially defective.</p> <p>This option has been rejected because CDC Officers have been closely involved in all stages of the development, review and preparation of the LNRS and support the publication and endorsement of the LNRS.</p>	
Agenda Item 10	Resolved	The motion referred to	It is proposed to seek	None

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<p>Response to Motion: Primary Care Facilities in North Oxfordshire</p> <p>Report of Corporate Director Communities</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To affirm its clear commitment to supporting the ICB in meeting its responsibilities for the planning, commissioning and management of NHS services for the population of Cherwell.</p> <p>1.2 To request that officers offer regular, structured meetings with the ICB to support this</p>	<p>(1) That clear commitment to supporting the ICB in meeting its responsibilities for the planning, commissioning and management of NHS services for the population of Cherwell be affirmed.</p> <p>(2) That officers be requested to offer regular, structured meetings with the ICB to support this commitment.</p> <p>(3) That the important role the Council has in holding the ICB to account for the appropriate and timely provision of Primary Care and its</p>	<p>Executive seeks the expansion and improvement of Primary Care facilities across north Oxfordshire.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Executive affirms its clear commitment to supporting the ICB in meeting its responsibilities for the planning commissioning and management of NHS services for the population of Cherwell. Officers proposed that regular, structured meetings with the ICB are offered to support this commitment. The Executive is also invited to note the important role the Council has in holding the ICB to account for the appropriate and timely provision of Primary Care and its supporting infrastructure.</p>	<p>engagement with the ICB on a more regular basis. However, it is an option not to deploy officer resource in this way. A more structured approach to meeting with the ICB should be mutually informative and support the common aims with regard to the provision of primary care. It is therefore recommended.</p>	

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<p>commitment.</p> <p>1.3 To note the important role the Council has in holding the ICB to account for the appropriate and timely provision of Primary Care and its supporting infrastructure.</p>	<p>supporting infrastructure be noted.</p>			
<p>Agenda Item 11 Award of Grant to Banbury Museum Trust</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To award Banbury Museum Trust a grant for their continued operation until 31</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That Banbury Museum Trust be awarded a grant for their continued operation until 31 March 202</p>	<p>The continued funding of Banbury Museum and Gallery is in line with approved budget plans and maintains the Councils commitment to providing high quality opportunities to participate in cultural activity locally for residents.</p>	<p>Option 1: To fund the museum at the previous level and not achieve budget savings as approved Rejected; The Council must balance its budget and continue to drive efficiencies in its own and funded operations.</p> <p>Option 2: To not fund the Museum Rejected; This would result in immediate closure and</p>	<p>None</p>

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March 2027.			run counter to the Councils current agreed policies.	
<p>Agenda Item 12 Growth and Regeneration Funding 2025/26 - 2027/28</p> <p>Report of Corporate Director Communities</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To accept an award of £300k funding from MHCLG to be spent in 2025/26 on investment in capacity funding to support the acceleration of infrastructure and housing delivery in Bicester as part of the Bicester Garden Town</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That an award of £300k funding from MHCLG be accepted to be spent in 2025/26 on investment in capacity funding to support the acceleration of infrastructure and housing delivery in Bicester as part of the Bicester Garden Town Programme.</p> <p>(2) That £600k be transferred from the projects reserve to a new earmarked “Growth and</p>	<p>Investing in capacity to support sustainable growth is a priority for the council as set out in the plans and strategies outlined in the report. The allocation of grant funding to provide further capacity shows that this is a priority understood by government.</p>	<p>Option 1: Do nothing. This would severely limit the ability of the Growth and Regeneration Service to continue to support the Area Oversight Groups and to progress actions within the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2025 and the ADP. The £300k grant to MHCLG would be returned. S106 projects would not benefit from additional oversight or acceleration.</p> <p>It is not recommended to select this option. Without progress on the key infrastructure projects to support allocated growth</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Programme.</p> <p>1.2 To transfer £600k from the projects reserve to a new earmarked “Growth and Regeneration Projects Reserve” and to allocate £100k of this in 2025/26. This funding will add capacity to the other two Area Oversight Group areas of Banbury and Kidlington (and the 4 surrounding parish areas of the Local Plan Partial Review 2020) to accelerate housing and employment delivery through projects detailed in the report.</p> <p>1.3 To delegate to the Corporate Director Communities (post title</p>	<p>Regeneration Projects Reserve” and to allocate £100k of this in 2025/26. This funding will add capacity to the other two Area Oversight Group areas of Banbury and Kidlington (and the 4 surrounding parish areas of the Local Plan Partial Review 2020) to accelerate housing and employment delivery through projects detailed in the report.</p> <p>(3) That it be agreed to delegate to the Corporate Director Communities (post title will change to Executive Director Place and</p>		<p>sites, the councils housing supply figures could worsen and growth across unallocated sites would likely be forthcoming at an increased rate.</p> <p>Option 2: Only accept the MHCLG funding and await decision to invest council funding in continuation of the service for 2026/27 – 2027/28 until the Medium-Term Funding Strategy is set in February 2026.</p> <p>This option would restrict investment in year to the MHCLG grant for Bicester only and would prevent the service from making early progress in recruiting and deploying resources until a decision is reached in February 2026 at the earliest.</p>	

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<p>will change to Executive Director Place and Regeneration effective 15 October 2025), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration, the programme management and change control of funding to meet the identified projects, and subject to approval of the project business plans by Executive Committee as identified within the report.</p>	<p>Regeneration effective 15 October 2025), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration, the programme management and change control of funding to meet the identified projects, and subject to approval of the project business plans by Executive Committee as identified within the report.</p>		<p>This option is not recommended due to the urgency of the Housing Delivery Action Plan and the ongoing priorities associated with unlocking growth. With the government direction on Mayoral Strategic Authorities and strategic planning, it is anticipated that there will be a significant shortfall in resources to support priorities and waiting a further five months will compound this risk.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 13 Cherwell Futures Programme</p> <p>Report of Corporate Director</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Cherwell Futures Programme to prioritise the three key</p>	<p>The refined Cherwell Futures programme represents a strategic and forward-thinking approach to service excellence, efficiency, and</p>	<p>Option 1: Do Nothing This approach would involve taking no decisive action to address the council's financial and</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Resources and Transformation</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the Cherwell Futures Programme to prioritise the three key areas of Planning, Environmental Services, and Customer Engagement (Single Front Door), as the core focus for the next phase of work.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the allocation from the Projects Reserve of £0.4 million to fund initial support and preparatory work required for the three</p>	<p>areas of Planning, Environmental Services, and Customer Engagement (Single Front Door), as the core focus for the next phase of work be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the allocation from the Projects Reserve of £0.4 million to fund initial support and preparatory work required for the three prioritised areas noted in resolution (1) above, together with transferring £1.1 million from the Projects Reserve to a new Cherwell Futures Reserve for implementation and resource costs,</p>	<p>readiness for organisational change. The council has demonstrated its ability to deliver tangible results, with £1.8 million in savings already secured and approved. The proposed Phase Two represents a deliberate, low-risk pathway to build on this success and provides a credible roadmap to achieving between £3 million and £4 million in additional savings over the medium term.</p> <p>The proposed initial allocation of £400k plus an additional earmarked £1.1 million is a critical and prudent investment. It will enable the council to initiate and drive the delivery of three high-priority projects, each with a clear potential for significant savings and</p>	<p>operational challenges. Maintaining the status quo would result in a projected cumulative deficit of around £46 million by 2029/30. This would inevitably lead to greater service provision cuts and compromise service effectiveness, statutory compliance, and public trust, while failing to address underlying operational inefficiencies. Savings will need to be delivered through traditional budget methods, likely leading to greater service provision cuts. The risks of inaction far outweigh the required initial investment.</p> <p>Option 2: Minimal or 'In-House Only' Delivery This model proposes that</p>	

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<p>prioritised areas noted in recommendation 1.1 above, together with transferring £1.1 million from the Projects Reserve to a new Cherwell Futures Reserve for implementation and resource costs, subject to Executive approval, as required by the Council's Reserves Policy.</p> <p>1.3 To approve the proposed delivery model referenced in section 4. This model aims to bring more project management in-house to reduce risk and maximise cost-effectiveness, using external support only where necessary.</p>	<p>subject to Executive approval, as required by the Council's Reserves Policy, be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the proposed delivery model referenced in section 4 of the report, which aims to bring more project management in-house to reduce risk and maximise cost-effectiveness, using external support only where necessary, be approved.</p>	<p>service improvements. The robust governance structure and phased delivery model will ensure that public funds are managed responsibly and that the Executive retains control over the programme's direction, safeguarding service delivery through the need for a business case at each appropriate stage.</p> <p>By approving this report and funding the next phase of the Cherwell Futures Programme, the Executive will enable the council to proactively address its financial challenges, protect essential services for residents, and prepare for a sustainable future within the new unitary authority framework, as a result of Local Government Reorganisation.</p>	<p>the council's internal teams lead and deliver the transformation programme without any external support. While the proposed plan for Phase Two brings more delivery in-house, a purely in-house model is not considered feasible to deliver the required scale of change and pace of delivery. The current lean change capacity within the organisation is not sufficient to deliver the programme's ambitious objectives and realise the extent of savings identified. Given the urgent need to address the projected funding gap and meet government expectations for financial sustainability ahead of Local Government</p>	

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			<p>Reorganisation, a solely in-house approach would not be able to deliver the savings in the required timeframe.</p> <p>Option 3: Full Partner Model A single transformation partner model was initially considered to accelerate delivery and achieve “Speed to Value” across the Council’s savings proposals. While this approach offered potential for rapid impact, concerns were raised during the Executive in July regarding risk exposure and assurance of return on investment (ROI).</p> <p>Further refinements to the model were explored and presented in August, but</p>	

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			<p>feedback from the Executive indicated continued reservations. These discussions highlighted the need for a more prudent and targeted strategy.</p> <p>The revised approach now focuses on strengthening internal delivery capability and engaging external partners only where there is a clear, evidence-based need. This ensures a lower-risk, cost-effective model with stronger ROI assurance, supported by internal readiness assessments and robust business cases. Future partner engagement will be highly selective, designed to maximise value and align with organisational priorities.</p>	

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			<p>Option 4: Achieve Savings Through Service Cuts</p> <p>This option, which involves directly reducing or eliminating council services to achieve the required financial savings, is not recommended as the primary strategy for achieving savings. A strategy based on widespread service cuts would be detrimental to the community, directly impacting frontline service delivery, potentially compromising the council's ability to meet its statutory duties and significantly harming public satisfaction. While some service consolidation may be necessary in the future, the recommended approach of transformation</p>	

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			seeks to improve efficiency and generate new income, thereby protecting core services rather than cutting them.	
<p>Agenda Item 14 Finance Monitoring Report August 2025</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer)</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To consider and note the contents of the council's financial management report as at the end of August 2025.</p> <p>1.2 To approve the Use of</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the contents of the council's financial management report as at the end of August 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the Use of Reserve and Grant Funding Requests, Appendix 4 to the report, be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the amendments to the capital programme, Appendix 5 to the report, be approved.</p>	<p>The report updates Executive on the projected year-end financial position of the council for 2025/26. 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 revenue financial position up to the end of March 2026, therefore there are no alternative options to consider.</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Reserve and Grant Funding Requests in Appendix 4.</p> <p>1.3 To approve the amendments to the capital programme in Appendix 5.</p> <p>1.4 To approve the proposed, write offs set out in exempt Appendix 6.</p>	<p>(4) That the proposed write offs, exempt Appendix 6 to the report, be approved.</p>			
<p>Agenda Item 16 Finance Monitoring Report August 2025 - Exempt Appendix</p>	<p>As set out under item 14</p>	<p>As set out under item 14</p>	<p>As set out under item 14</p>	<p>None</p>