



**Cherwell**

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting  
of the Executive held on Tuesday 7 April 2026**

1. Date of publication of this summary: Wednesday 8 April 2024
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 April 2026
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](http://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><b>Agenda Item 7</b> <b>Climate Action Plan 2026-27</b></p> <p>Report of Head of Biodiversity and Climate Resilience</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To adopt the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the 2026-27 financial year.</p> <p>1.2 To note that following the adoption Climate Action Plan, Executive will receive an annual update on delivery progress.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the 2026-27 financial year be adopted.</p> <p>(2) That it be noted that following the adoption of the Climate Action Plan, Executive will receive an annual update on delivery progress.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan 2026-27 identifies actions and projects across a range of carbon emissions sources and enabling themes.</p> <p>For Cherwell District Council, each action identifies the emissions area, the goals they would contribute towards, carbon saving potential and key performance indicators to monitor delivery progress. Council actions focus on carbon emissions from fleet, property, staff activities, procurement and enabling areas including funding, governance and monitoring.</p> <p>For the district area, each action identifies the emissions area, the goals they would contribute</p>	<p>Option1: Do Nothing: This option is not recommended as the previous action plan covered up to the end of 2025-26 financial year only. A refreshed CAP enables stronger programme management and likelihood of realising new opportunities to deliver the Council’s net zero ambitions.</p> <p>Option 2: Delay Decision: This option is not recommended as this CAP covers the 2026-27 financial year only and a delay will reduce the potential impact and benefit of the plan.</p> <p>Option 3: Do Not Adopt: This option is not</p>	<p>None</p>

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		towards and key performance indicators to monitor delivery progress. District actions focus on carbon emissions from transport, households, business, community and enabling areas including planning, evidence bases, communications and engagement.	recommended as this CAP supports the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities and covers the 2026-27 financial year only, where a delay will reduce the potential impact and benefit of the plan.	
<p><b>Agenda Item 8 Response to the Planning Advisory Service's Planning Committee Review</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Planning</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To note the work in progress in responding</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the work in progress in responding to the PAS recommendations and advice be noted.</p>	<p>The PAS review of decision-making has put a constructive spotlight on the important work of the Planning Committee and the Development Management service. Significant changes have been made in response to the recommendations of PAS and work is continuing alongside corporate transformation and service improvement. The Council remains at risk of designation</p>	<p>There are no alternatives to the recommendations presented.</p>	<p>None</p>

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to the PAS recommendations and advice.		in significant part because of the legacy impact of the previous monitoring period. Close monitoring and management of decision making must continue in the interest of emerging from a position of risk and to avoid a similar position in the future. Very close working between officers and Members will be critical in supporting this.		
<p><b>Agenda Item 9 Corporate Performance and Insight Strategy 2026/27</b></p> <p>Report of Head of Chief Executive's Office</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To review and approve</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the new Corporate Performance &amp; Insight Strategy (Appendix 1 to the report) and the Key Performance Indicators (Appendix 2 to the report) be approved.</p>	<p>The proposed Corporate Performance and Insight Strategy 2026/27 offers a clear and proportionate framework that strengthens governance, transparency and informed decision-making across the Council, ensuring that performance activity is firmly aligned with corporate priorities and future</p>	<p>Option 1: To review and approve the proposed Corporate Performance and Insight Strategy 2026/27 with appendices.</p> <p>Option 2: To do nothing or delay the decision(s). This option is not recommended, as democracy deadlines need to be met and systems</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>the new Corporate Performance &amp; Insight Strategy presented in Appendix 1, Key Performance Indicators as proposed in Appendix 2.</p> <p>1.2 To note the Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) Milestones 2026/27 (as approved as part of the Budget) included in Appendix 3 for information.</p> <p>1.3 To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendation to incorporate additional performance measures for evaluating the Castle Quay investment, ensuring that social impact,</p>	<p>(2) That the Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) Milestones 2026/27 (as approved as part of the Budget) be noted.</p> <p>(3) That, having given due consideration, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendation to incorporate additional performance measures for evaluating the Castle Quay investment, ensuring that social impact, environmental outcomes and growth potential are monitored alongside the existing financial and treasury management indicators be noted.</p>	<p>requirements.</p> <p>Having addressed the recommendations from the internal audit, the strategy provides a robust foundation for delivering consistent, evidence-based insight in the year ahead.</p> <p>Endorsing the strategy and associated appendices is therefore recommended, as doing so will safeguard continuity, reinforce statutory and democratic accountability, and mitigate risks linked to delay, particularly in relation to planning cycles, system optimisation and preparation for potential Local Government Reorganisation.</p>	<p>need to be prepared with final approved Key Performance Indicators ahead of reporting cycle for the next financial year.</p>	

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<p>environmental outcomes and growth potential are monitored alongside the existing financial and treasury management indicators.</p>				
<p><b>Agenda Item 10 Updated Procurement Strategy</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director Law &amp; Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the new Procurement Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the new Procurement Strategy be approved.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Executive approves the development and adoption of a revised Procurement Strategy aligned with the Procurement Act 2023 and emerging priorities for the next two years. A shorter strategy period should be endorsed to allow for regular review and timely updates in response to legislative changes, market developments, and corporate priorities. The updated strategy should strengthen governance, support consistent practice across</p>	<p>Option 1: Remain with current procurement strategy - Without updated guidance, officers may interpret PA23 reforms differently, leading to inconsistent approaches, delays, or poor-quality procurement documentation, which can undermine effectiveness and accountability. The existing strategy may not capture new corporate priorities around Social Value, sustainability, climate action, and carbon reduction. This limits the</p>	<p>None</p>

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		<p>departments, and embed enhanced Social Value and environmental requirements, ensuring that procurement continues to deliver high-quality outcomes and value for money for our community.</p>	<p>Council's ability to maximise community benefits and deliver on its environmental responsibilities.</p> <p>Option 2: A longer-term Procurement Strategy would not be a viable option, as it would risk becoming outdated and misaligned with the rapidly changing procurement landscape, particularly in light of the new requirements introduced by the Procurement Act 2023 and the ongoing developments in Social Value, sustainability, and environmental obligations. Legislative, technological, and market conditions are evolving at pace, and a fixed five-year strategy would lack the flexibility</p>	

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			needed to respond to these changes effectively. A shorter strategy period ensures the Council can remain agile, regularly update its priorities, and maintain a governance framework that reflects modern best practice, emerging initiatives, and the Council's evolving corporate objectives.	
<p><b>Agenda Item 11</b>  <b>Acceptance of MHCLG Large-Scale Housing Development Grant Funding</b></p> <p>Report of Executive Director Place and Regeneration</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive resolves:</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That it be agreed to increase both the Regeneration and Economy income budget in recognition of the grant income and the expenditure budget for associated works.</p>	<p>The £500,000 MHCLG preparatory funding provides an important opportunity for the Council to lead the feasibility assessment of Heyford Park as a potential large-scale new settlement. The programme is fully externally funded with no call on Council resources, and the MoU provides a clear framework for delivery,</p>	<p>Option 1: Do not accept the MHCLG funding. This would mean the Council would not participate in the feasibility programme for Heyford Park as a potential new settlement. The £500,000 grant would not be drawn down. The Council would lose the opportunity to shape the evidence base</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>1.1 To agree to increase both the Regeneration and Economy income budget in recognition of the grant income and the expenditure budget for associated works.</p> <p>1.2 To delegate to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, the development of a programme in support of the grant objectives.</p> <p>1.3 To note that procurement of specialist consultancy support and other external resources required to deliver the programme will be</p>	<p>(2) That authority for the development of a programme in support of the grant objectives be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.</p> <p>(3) That it be noted that procurement of specialist consultancy support and other external resources required to deliver the programme will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's constitution and procurement procedures and that further authorisations may be required as</p>	<p>monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>The budget virement to recognise the grant income and associated expenditure requires Executive approval. Accepting the grant and establishing the delegation and governance arrangements sought in this report will enable the programme to be delivered efficiently within the required timescales, while ensuring that procurement and other internal governance requirements are met.</p>	<p>and strategic case for one of the largest development sites in the district. Given the scale of the planning application already submitted, there is a strong case for the Council to be actively engaged in understanding the infrastructure implications and delivery options. This option is not recommended.</p> <p>Option 2: Accept the funding but defer programme commencement until later in the financial year. This would delay the start of feasibility work, creating a risk of not meeting MHCLG's delivery timetable and the reasonable endeavours requirement to spend in a</p>	

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<p>undertaken in accordance with the Council's constitution and procurement procedures and that further authorisations may be required as individual commissions are scoped.</p>	<p>individual commissions are scoped.</p>		<p>timely manner. Given the MoU was only signed on 12-13 March 2026, the programme timeline is already compressed. This option is not recommended.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 13 Outline Business Case – Digital Planning Improvement Programme</b></p> <p>Exempt report of Executive Director Place and Regeneration</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(2) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(3) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(4) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(5) As set out in the</p>	<p>As set out in the exempt decisions</p>	<p>As set out in the exempt decisions</p>	<p>None</p>

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	exempt decisions.			
<p><b>Agenda Item 14</b>  <b>Environmental Services Operational Transformation and Improvement</b></p> <p>Exempt report of Executive Director Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(2) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(3) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(4) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p>	As set out in the exempt decisions	As set out in the exempt decisions	None
<p><b>Agenda Item 15</b>  <b>Outline Business Case: Customer Experience Strategy, Customer Front Door</b></p> <p>Exempt report of Executive</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(2) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p>	As set out in the exempt decisions.	As set out in the exempt decisions	None

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Director Resources	<p>(3) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(4) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p> <p>(5) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p>			
<p><b>Agenda Item 16</b>  <b>Approval to Appoint a Contract for the Provision of a Responsive Repairs and Maintenance Service</b></p> <p>Exempt report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) As set out in the exempt decisions.</p>	As set out in the exempt decisions.	As set out in the exempt decisions.	None
<p><b>Agenda Item 17</b>  <b>Property Management Contract, Castle Quay</b></p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) As set out in the</p>	As set out in the exempt decisions.	As set out in the exempt decisions.	None

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<b>Centre, Banbury</b>  Exempt report of Assistant Director Property	exempt decisions.  (2) As set out in the exempt decisions.			