

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD, on 30 June 2026 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves (Chair)
Councillor Gordon Blakeway
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Mark Gorman
Councillor David Hingley
Councillor Rob Pattenden
Councillor Chris Pruden
Councillor Dom Vaitkus
Councillor Bryonie Wells

Present Virtually (no voting rights):

Councillor Frank Ideh

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Tom Beckett
Councillor Ian Harwood

Officers:

Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer
Jacey Scott, Head of Revenues and Benefits
Matt Swinford, Democratic and Elections Officer

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 10 March 2026 and 20 May 2026 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

5 Chair's Announcements

There were no Chair's announcements.

6 Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no requests to address the meeting.

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

8 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2027/28

The Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report to enable members to consider the proposed banded scheme for Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme for 2027/28.

In introducing the report, as the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Hingley, advised the Committee that the scheme had been introduced in April 2020 following a period of consultation and engagement. In general, the scheme had been well received. The current scheme, uprated for inflation, was proposed for 2027/28.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance reported that the CDC Council Tax collection rate for 2025/26 was 97.81%, which was one of the highest collection rates across Oxfordshire authorities.

In response to a question regarding how Local Government Reorganisation would affect the scheme, the Portfolio Holder for Finance explained that the Government had not yet given its decision on the future unitary councils in Oxfordshire. Each new unitary would be responsible for setting its own scheme which would need to be fit for purpose and in accordance with relevant legislation.

It was proposed by Councillor Vaitkus and seconded by Councillor Cherry that, having given due consideration, Budget Planning Committee recommend to the Executive that the current scheme be retained for 2027/28.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report and any financial implications for the Council be noted.
- (2) That, having given due consideration, Executive be recommended to agree that the current scheme is retained for 2027/28.

9 End of Year 2025/2026 Finance Report

The Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report to report to the Committee the council's financial position at the end of the financial year 2025-2026.

In introducing the report, as the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Hingley, reported that the council's overall year-end position for 2025/26 was an overspend of £0.114m before contributions to / from reserves, after which the overall year end position was balanced.

In response to a question regarding the use of £2.1m reserves to fund a business rates shortfall in 2025/26, the Head of Finance advised that the shortfall was due to a higher levy on growth and lower pooling income than estimated.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.

10

Review of Committee Work Plan

The Committee considered its work plan. Councillor Cherry requested that the financial aspects regarding security at the council's former office, Bodicote House, be added to the work programme. With Councillor Cherry's agreement, officers undertook to provide a written response to the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

Chair:

Date: