

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held as a Virtual meeting, on 21 July 2020 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman)
Councillor Carmen Griffiths (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Nathan Bignell
Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor Conrad Copeland
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Fraser Webster
Councillor Lucinda Wing
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Also Present: Councillor Tony Ilott - Lead Member for Financial Management and Governance
Councillor Barry Wood – Leader of the Council

Apologies for absence: Councillor David Hughes

Officers: Steve Jordan, Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets & Investment & (Interim) Monitoring Officer
Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Michael Furness, Assistant Director Finance
Dominic Oakeshott, Assistant Director (Interim) - Finance
Belinda Green, Operations Director - CSN Resources
Tracey Holland, Team Leader - Systems, Performance and Subsidy (CSN)
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager
Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record, to be signed by the Chairman in due course.

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reminded the Committee of the all Member briefing taking place after the meeting.

4 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

5 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021-2022**

The Committee considered a report from the Operations Director CSN Resources regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2021-2022.

The Operations Director explained that the current scheme was based on a banding system, with support varying dependent on the level of household income. The Council could choose to retain the existing scheme, increase or decrease the level of support provided. If any changes were proposed, a consultation period would need to be held.

In response to questions from the Committee the Operations Director confirmed that a fund had been set up for the 2020-2021 financial year to help households who may need additional support following a reduction in benefit, but no applications for assistance had been made to date.

With regard to possible savings to the Council if the level of support the scheme provided was reduced, the Operations Director explained that the cost of officer time and carrying out a consultation exercise would need to be factored in against any savings.

It was proposed by Councillor Sean Woodcock and seconded by Councillor Barry Richards that Option 1 – Retain the current banded scheme with only minor changes to government uprating figures – be recommended to Executive as the Council Tax Scheme for 2021-2022.

Resolved

- (1) That the report and financial implications for the Council be noted
- (2) That Option 1 – Retain the current banded scheme with only minor changes to government uprating figures – be recommended to Executive as the Council Tax Scheme for 2021-2022
- (3) That no consultation take place, due to the recommendation to retain the current scheme

6 **Review of Committee Work Plan**

The Chairman advised the Committee that an additional meeting was required, and following discussion with officers it had been scheduled for 18 August 2020.

Resolved

- (1) That an additional meeting be scheduled for 18 August 2020

The meeting ended at 6.25 pm

Chairman:

Date: