

Council

Monday 21 July 2025

Motions

Topic	Proposer	Seconders
Cherwell Affordable Housing Emergency	Cllr Dr Isabel Creed	TBC
Primary Care Facilities in North Oxfordshire	Cllr David Rogers	Cllr Eddie Reeves
Government Review of Local Authority Funding	Cllr Eddie Reeves	Cllr David Rogers

Motion Proposer: Councillor Dr Isabel Creed

Motion Seconders: TBC

Topic: Cherwell Affordable Housing Emergency

Motion

“The Office for National Statistics data suggests that the average house price in Cherwell is £362,000 in December 2024, a 9% rise in cost since December 2023.

The cost of housing means that for many young people the costs are too high to realistically get on the housing ladder. Rents in the District are also extremely high, in December 2024 the average cost was £1215 up from £1121 in December 2023, making even renting in the district unaffordable for many residents

Cherwell District Council has an ever-increasing housing waiting list, which has increased by 10% in the last year alone. The waiting times are significant ranging from 243 days for 1-bedroom properties to 991 days for 4-bedroom properties, leaving many families waiting up to several years for appropriate accommodation.

In the last financial year alone, the council has spent £332,800 on housing residents in temporary accommodation. The need for housing in Cherwell is greater than ever.

This Council resolves that Cherwell District Council declares it has an affordable housing emergency and recognizes that the only way forward is to focus on housing delivery.”

Motion Proposer: Councillor David Rogers

Motion Seconder: Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves

Topic: Primary Care Facilities in North Oxfordshire

Motion

“This Council considers that more needs to be done to expand and improve Primary Care facilities across North Oxfordshire.

Following a productive cross-party meeting between members and representatives of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), together with a careful review of representations from local stakeholders in recent weeks, this Council resolves to request that the Executive facilitates the expansion of Primary Care provision via any reasonable means, which may include, where appropriate and reasonable, the following:

- i. issuing standing advice on planning matters to the ICB to assist it in its place and facilities planning;
- ii. producing evidence to the ICB to support the well understood assertion that Primary Care is now at capacity across this district;
- iii. supporting the ICB to create a plan for the delivery of new and expanded primary care facilities across North Oxfordshire;
- iv. requesting that the ICB estates team better supports its ‘drive to digital’ by encouraging developer contributions into, inter alia, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects; and
- v. review, in conjunction with the ICB, why the proposed facilities at Longford Park, Hanwell Fields and Graven Hill have proven unsuccessful in recent years to avoid failures in new developments elsewhere.
- vi. consider Primary Care needs as widely as reasonably possible in future supplementary planning documents to encourage a greater number of capital projects coming forward and encouraging the ICB to request developer contributions on all applications of 10+ homes without limiting such bids to bricks-and-mortar projects alone.”

Motion Proposer: Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves

Motion Seconder: Councillor David Rogers

Topic: Government Review of Local Authority Funding

Motion

This Council regrets the consequences of the government's plans to:

- (i) end the Business Rates Retention scheme that has contributed to the strength of local public finances since its introduction in 2013/14; and
- (ii) institute a Fair Funding model for local government that redistributes wealth from districts like Cherwell to other parts of the country.

This Council notes that the government's consultation on its Business Rates Reset policy has now ended and further notes that the government's Fair Funding consultation ends soon on 15 August 2025.

Moreover, a report to this Council's Budget Planning Committee meeting on 8 July 2025 concluded that:

"The impact of these changes is expected to reduce the council's funding by up to 40%."

Such a cumulative impact would reduce this Council's expenditure to such an extent that it could be forced to end all discretionary funding and revert to providing statutory services only.

Given the disastrous impact of such cuts, this Council requests as a matter of urgency that the Leader:

- (i) writes to our Members of Parliament with a view to their raising these concerns with Ministers;
- (ii) works through the District Councils Network, the Local Government Association and/or other relevant organisations to ensure that there is the strongest possible lobbying of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, highlighting the plight of a high-growth district like Cherwell;
- (iii) issue as strong an individual submission to the government's Fair Funding consultation as possible with a view to mitigating the effects of these cuts."