

Council

Monday 15 December 2025

Motions

	Topic	Proposer	Seconder
1	Free Parking on Remembrance Sunday	Cllr Donna Ford	Cllr Ian Harwood
2	Supporting our High Streets	Cllr Eddie Reeves	TBC
3	Fire Services in Cherwell	Cllr Andrew Crichton	Cllr Rebecca Biegel

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.18, as the detail of motions 1 and 2 falls within the remit of Executive, there will be no Council debate on these motions. The proposer of the motion will propose the motion, the seconder will confirm, the Leader of the Council response and the motions will stand referred to Executive for consideration.

Motion 3 is for debate by Council. The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12noon on Thursday 11 December.

MOTION ONE (referral to Executive)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Donna Ford

Motion Secunder: Councillor Ian Harwood

Topic: Free Parking on Remembrance Sunday

Motion

“This Council notes that Remembrance Sunday is a solemn national occasion when communities come together to honour the memory of all who have served and sacrificed to protect our freedoms and way of life.

Many residents depend on Council-operated car parks to attend such commemorations. At present, standard parking charges apply, meaning serving personnel, veterans, bereaved families, and other attendees may face unnecessary financial barriers when paying their respects.

This Council recognises the profound sacrifice made by our Armed Forces and considers that providing free parking on this day is a practical and meaningful gesture of support for the Armed Forces community.

The financial impact of suspending charges for one day is minimal, while the benefit to residents and veterans is significant.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Suspend parking charges in all Cherwell District Council-operated car parks on Remembrance Sunday each year, beginning from the next Remembrance Sunday following this motion.
2. Publicise this measure in advance through the Council's communications channels to ensure residents are aware of the free-parking provision.
3. Work with local Royal British Legion branches, Armed Forces organisations, and town and parish councils to support attendance and ensure the policy benefits those it is intended to help."

MOTION TWO (referral to Executive)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Supporting our High Streets

Motion

"Local hospitality businesses across North Oxfordshire — from family-run restaurants, pubs and cafés to small independent venues — face substantial and growing financial pressures due to rising operating costs, higher taxes and a stagnating economy.

There is now a growing political consensus about the need to provide meaningful help to small independent retailers and hospitality businesses on our high streets.

This Council notes that District councils also have certain discretionary powers to support vulnerable local businesses where urgent relief is justified.

This Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Executive reviews any policies that are already in effect surrounding discretionary business rates relief, involving local independent business groups, together with the Overview & Scrutiny and/or Budget Planning committees (as appropriate) about any changes.
2. Ensure that any such changes focus on local independent businesses facing genuine financial hardship, rather than national chains and/or large retailers.
3. Further ensure that its discretionary policies surrounding business rates relief are better advertised to ensure that local businesses can benefit from Council support, where it is financially viable.
4. Ask the Leader to urgently write to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, copied to North Oxfordshire MPs, urging him to review the national

business rates system as regards its impacts on local hospitality and high street businesses as a matter of urgency.

5. Report back to members on progress surrounding the above steps without delay.”

MOTION THREE (Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Andrew Crichton

Motion Seconder: Councillor Rebecca Biegel

Topic: Fire Services in Cherwell

Motion

“Council notes

1. That Oxfordshire County Council is currently considering proposals that merge Rewley Fire Station with Kidlington Fire Station into a single Fire Station.
2. The proposals also include the loss of four full time Firefighters at Banbury Fire Station, and the implementation of 12 hour day shifts for firefighters at Bicester Fire Station.
3. Cherwell is a growing district which places greater demand on local emergency response capacity.
4. The proposals could affect response times and lead to diminished fire cover for incidents across Cherwell and Oxfordshire. The FBU has said the implementation of 12 hour shifts is unsafe.

Council believes

1. Closing and merging stations could increase average response times, when Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's response times are already significantly longer than the national average.
2. The loss of four full time Firefighter positions in Banbury and implementation of 12 hour shifts at Bicester could have a detrimental impact on public safety in Cherwell.
3. That decisions on fire service changes must prioritise public safety above financial or administrative considerations.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support residents and Firefighters in Oxfordshire by making clear our opposition to the reduction in Firefighter numbers, implementation of 12 hour shifts, and the merger of Kidlington and Rewley Fire Stations.”

