

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 26 November 2013 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman)
Councillor Douglas Webb (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Margaret Cullip
Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor Russell Hurle
Councillor Neil Prestidge
Councillor Nigel Randall
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Barry Wood

Substitute Members: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence: Councillor Andrew Beere

Officers: Tim Madden, Interim Head of Finance and Procurement
Nicola Jackson, Corporate Finance Manager
Dave Parry, Democratic and Elections Officer

29 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

30 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

31 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements.

33 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

34 **Capital Programme: Capital Bids 2014-15**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Resources detailing the scoring totals and rankings of the various capital bids given initial consideration at the informal Budget Planning Committee meetings held on 5 and 20 November 2013.

The Committee agreed that the informal meetings had been extremely useful. It had been very helpful and this practice should be retained in future years. The scoring method however needed to be further refined, for example, to include information regarding any matched funding. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement to review the process.

The Committee considered Bid 27 (Hyper V Environment - IT Hardware), which had been deferred from the informal meeting on 20 November, the Committee reviewed the ranking order. In response to advice from the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement regarding the potential to fund some schemes from revenue, the Committee agreed that alternative methods for funding needed to be investigated.

Resolved

- (1) That, all schemes scoring 21 points or more be recommended to Executive for approval (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) with the following two exceptions:
 - (a) Bid 24 is to be subject to a review of the funding options to determine the most efficient means of addressing the replacement of the vehicles.
 - (b) Bid 39 is to be subject to consideration of funding through the revenue budget.
- (2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting advising on the suitability of alternative funding methods such as loans and rural grants.

- (3) That the Budget Planning Committee considers establishing a Working Review group to understand how the IT bids link to the priorities within the Council's IT Strategy.
- (4) That the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement be requested to liaise with the Chairman of the Budget Planning Committee to identify further improvements to the bid scoring process.

35

Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Latest Position

The Director of Resources submitted a report which provided Members with the latest position for the 2014-15 budget and beyond.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item to their next meeting.

Resolved

- (1) That this item be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.46 pm

Chairman:

Date: