



## Summary of the Decisions taken at the meeting of Council held on 19 December 2022

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item and Recommendations	Decision
8	<p><b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24</b></p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To enable Council to approve the banded scheme for Council Tax Reduction for the financial year 2023/24.</p> <p>To note potential changes to Council Tax discounts and reliefs which are currently subject to consultation as part of the Council's budget consultation</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the contents of this report and the financial implications for the Council.</p> <p>1.2 To approve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The option of no change to the Council Tax Reduction Income Banded Scheme for Working Age Customers for 2023 -24</li><li>• To amend Working Age Regulations in line with annual uprating; and to amend the Council Tax Regulations for pensioners in line with uprating</li></ul>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the contents of the report and the financial implications for the Council be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the following be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The option of no change to the Council Tax Reduction Income Banded Scheme for Working Age Customers for 2023 -24</li><li>• To amend Working Age Regulations in line with annual uprating; and to amend the Council Tax Regulations for pensioners in line with uprating announced by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</li></ul> <p>(3) That it be agreed that the levels of Council Tax discounts and premiums for 2023-24 remain the same as previous years and remain as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retain the discount for second homes at zero</li><li>• Retain the discount for empty homes (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) at 25% for 6 months and thereafter zero.</li><li>• Retain the empty homes premium of an additional 100% for properties that have remained empty for more than 2 years (total</li></ul>

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	<p>announced by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>1.3 To approve that the following levels of Council Tax discounts and premiums remain the same as previous years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain the discount for second homes at zero</li> <li>• Retain the discount for empty homes (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) at 25% for 6 months and thereafter zero.</li> <li>• Retain the empty homes premium of an additional 100% for properties that have remained empty for more than 2 years (total Council Tax payable 200%).</li> </ul> <p>1.4 To note that the following Council Tax discounts and premiums are currently proposed to change as part of the Council's 2023/24 budget consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce an empty homes premium of an additional 200% for properties that have remained empty for more than 5 years (total Council Tax payable 300%)</li> <li>• Introduce an empty homes premium of an additional 300% for properties that have remained empty for more than 10 years (total Council Tax payable 400%)</li> <li>• Removal of the 25% discount for 12 months (zero thereafter) for dwellings which are vacant</li> </ul>	<p>Council Tax payable 200%).</p> <p>(4) That it be noted that the following Council Tax discounts and premiums are currently proposed to change as part of the Council's 2023/24 budget consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce an empty homes premium of an additional 200% for properties that have remained empty for more than 5 years (total Council Tax payable 300%)</li> <li>• Introduce an empty homes premium of an additional 300% for properties that have remained empty for more than 10 years (total Council Tax payable 400%)</li> <li>• Removal of the 25% discount for 12 months (zero thereafter) for dwellings which are vacant and undergoing major repair work to render them habitable.</li> </ul>

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	and undergoing major repair work to render them habitable.	
9	<p><b>Amendments to Proportionality Calculations and Committee Membership and Outside Body Representative</b></p> <p>Report of Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Purpose of report</b></p> <p>To note the amendments to the constitution of political groups and amendments to the proportionality calculations and committee membership arising from a change to political Group membership.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note the amended constitution of Political Groups.</p> <p>1.2 To note the amended allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements as set out in Table 1.</p> <p>1.3 To note the amendments to committee membership, as advised by the respective Leaders of the Progressive Oxfordshire Group and Labour Group (addendum to report to follow).</p> <p>1.4 To appoint a representative to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the amended constitution of Political Groups be noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservative Group – 25 members (all Conservative councillors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Leader: Councillor Barry Wood</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Progressive Oxfordshire Group – 12 members (comprising 7 Liberal Democrat, 2 Green and 3 Independent (Cllrs Broad, Cotter and Banfield) councillors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Leader: Councillor Katherine Tyson</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Labour Group – 9 members (comprising all Labour / Labour &amp; Co-operative councillors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Leader: Councillor Sean Woodcock</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Independent Group – 2 members (comprising 2 Independent councillors, Cllrs Sibley and Webster) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Leader: Councillor Les Sibley</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(2) That the amended allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements be noted</p> <p>(3) That the amendments to committee membership, as advised by the respective Leaders of the Progressive Oxfordshire Group and Labour Group be noted:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Labour Group</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Appeals Panel</b> Remove – Councillor Hannah Banfield (as no longer Labour Group member) Add – Councillor Sean Woodcock</p> <p><b>Licensing Committee</b> Remove – Councillor Hannah Banfield (as no longer Labour Group member)</p> <p><b>Planning Committee</b> Remove permanent member – Councillor Amanda Watkins Remove named substitute – Councillor Dr Chukwudi Okeke</p> <p><b>Standards Committee</b> Remove – Councillor Hannah Banfield (as no longer Labour Group member) Add – Councillor Sean Woodcock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progressive Oxfordshire</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Licensing Committee</b> Add – Councillor Hannah Banfield (as Progressive Oxfordshire Group member)</p> <p><b>Planning Committee</b> Add permanent member – Councillor David Hingley (previously named substitute) Add named substitute – Councillor Nick Cotter (to replace Councillor David Hingley) Add named substitute – Councillor Angus Patrick (new named substitute)</p> <p>(4) That Councillor Sandy Dallimore be appointed as Cherwell District Council's</p>

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		representative to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.												
10	<p><b>Motions</b></p> <p>To debate the following motions which have been submitted with advance notice, in accordance with the Constitution (to be debated in the order submitted).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 685 879 1155"> <thead> <tr> <th>Topic</th> <th>Proposer</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>One Planet Living</td> <td>Councillor Dan Sames</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenants Charter</td> <td>Councillor Sean Woodcock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>“Get Home Safely”</td> <td>Councillor Mark Cherry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair</td> <td>Councillor Ian Middleton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investment</td> <td>Councillor Dorothy Walker</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please note that the deadline to submit motions has passed. The deadline for Members to submit amendments to motions is noon on Thursday 15 December 2022. No amendments will be permitted after this deadline.</p> <p>Any amendments submitted will be published as a supplement to the agenda on the afternoon of Friday 16 December 2022. Amendments for motions will be dealt with in the order submitted.</p>	Topic	Proposer	One Planet Living	Councillor Dan Sames	Tenants Charter	Councillor Sean Woodcock	“Get Home Safely”	Councillor Mark Cherry	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair	Councillor Ian Middleton	Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investment	Councillor Dorothy Walker	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the following motion be adopted:</p> <p>“In 2019 CDC declared a climate a climate emergency committing to ensure our operations and activities are net zero by 2030 and to do our part to achieve a net zero district by 2030 through leading by example. CDC’s Climate Action Framework sets out the detail of how this will be achieved and emissions have reduced by 51% between 2008/09 to 2020/21.</p> <p>However, responding to the climate emergency requires more than simply reducing carbon emissions. Currently our lifestyles consume the resources of 3 planets, we must do better to live within our means and the resources of one planet.</p> <p>One Planet Oxfordshire is a collaboration of councils, businesses, schools and community groups that have a vision of a world in which people enjoy happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the earth’s resources, whilst leaving space for wildlife and wilderness. It’s about living and growing sustainably to minimise impacts on the environment and maximise benefits to people.</p> <p>At August’s Overview and Scrutiny committee the ten One</p>
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		<p>Planet principles that contribute to planning, delivering and committing to a more sustainable future were presented to offer a framework within which the council could operate.</p> <p>These principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and happiness</li> <li>• Equity and local economy</li> <li>• Culture and community</li> <li>• Land and nature</li> <li>• Sustainable water</li> <li>• Local and sustainable food</li> <li>• Travel and transport</li> <li>• Materials and product</li> <li>• Zero waste</li> <li>• Zero carbon energy</li> </ul> <p>This council resolves to support the One Planet Oxfordshire shared vision and commits to review operations and activities using the One Planet Living Framework.”</p> <p>(2) That it be agreed that the following motion, as amended, be referred to Executive:</p> <p>“The coroner's inquest into the death of Awaab Ishak in Rochdale should, like the Grenfell Tower Fire, be a watershed moment in the relationship between tenants and landlords.</p> <p>Yet with 50% of properties in Cherwell not meeting basics energy efficiency standards and an energy bill crisis, tenants risk being left in cold, damp and mouldy properties.</p> <p>This council recognises its key role in protecting tenants in</p>

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		<p>both the private and social rented sectors</p> <p>And this council calls on the Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To establish a Tenants Charter setting out minimum standards that the council and that all Council tenants expect.</li> <li>2. To ask officers to engage with registered social landlords and private landlords to seek improvements in standards, in line with those this Council will adopt.</li> <li>3. To call on the government to bring forward the Private Renters Reform Bill, the promised ban on 'no fault' evictions and to commit to a national campaign of insulating poor homes."</li> </ol> <p>(3) That it be agreed that the following motion be referred to Licensing Committee:</p> <p>"This Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift work is widespread in many industries, particularly hospitality, among others in health, cleaning and security work.</li> <li>• Many workers, especially women, are increasingly worried about their safety travelling to and from work at night</li> </ul> <p>This Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While employers may feel their duty of care to</li> </ul>

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		<p>staff ends when an employee finishes a shift, they also need to take into consideration journeys home, especially during unsocial hours;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employers should take reasonable steps to ensure workers can get home safely at night.</li> </ul> <p>This Council will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to the Licensing Committee to consider how it might be able to use its powers to adopt a policy whereby our licensing committee will ensure the process for approving late night licences will be linked to the provision of employee transport home, in balance with the size, type, and location of the premises concerned.</li> <li>• The Licensing Committee to report back.”</li> </ul> <p>(4) That the following motion be agreed:</p> <p>“It’s not best practice for a council to ‘mark their own homework’ and in many other local authorities it is common practice for scrutiny committees to be chaired by members of the opposition group.</p> <p>Such a practice was affirmed during discussions with Local Government Authority representatives during the recent Local Peer Review process. It’s also common</p>



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		<p>practice in other authorities throughout Oxfordshire. This convention helps to build trust and increase accountability.</p> <p>The Council requests that the Monitoring Officer considers, as part of his Constitution Review Programme, that the appointment of the Chairman of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee be from the opposition group as part of the normal annual appointments process.”</p> <p>(5) That it be agreed that the following motion be referred to Executive:</p> <p>“Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles have become ever more important in recent years due to the focus of organisations such as ours on issues surrounding climate change and ethical values.</p> <p>ESG audits are commonplace in many organisations and apply a set of standards measuring their impact on society and the environment as well as how transparent and accountable they are.</p> <p>This council holds significant sums on deposit with numerous investment bodies, including banks, other local authorities and the Oxfordshire pension fund. We also have some internal investments, particularly associated with commercial property and property investment.</p> <p>This Council therefore requests that the Executive consider the</p>

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		<p>following proposals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1102 300 1493 555">1. holding transparent annual audits of all our investments to be measured against ESG principles which will be published alongside the annual accounts.</li> <li data-bbox="1102 595 1493 1025">2. To divest as soon as practicable from any investment that runs contrary to ESG principles and any other standards set by the council, particularly with respect to any funds connected with fossil fuels, unfair labour practices or exploitation of workers.</li> <li data-bbox="1102 1066 1493 1393">3. To urge the Oxfordshire Pension Fund to further divest from fossil fuel investments at the earliest opportunity with a firm timetable for complete divestment from such funds by 2030.”</li> </ol>