



Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting
of the Executive held on Monday 5 December 2022**

1. Date of publication of this summary: 6 December 2022
2. Decisions (if any) taken as a matter of urgency under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in the Constitution (and not therefore subject to the call-in procedure): None
3. Date by which notice of call-in of any of the following decisions must be received in writing by the Chief Executive (see notes below):- Noon on Friday 9 December 2022
4. Notes:-
 - (a) For background documentation to the following decisions, please refer to the agenda and supporting papers (copies of which are available on the Council's website (www.cherwell.gov.uk) or from Democratic Services);
 - (b) Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text to the Chief Executive by the deadline specified above, and must state the reason or reasons why "call-in" has been requested;
 - (c) Call-in can be requested by any six non-executive members of the Council.
However, if at any point during a municipal year the total number of opposition councillors is six or less the total number of non-executive members required to call-in a decision shall be the total number of opposition councillors less two.
 - (d) Decisions not called-in by the deadline specified above will become effective immediately the deadline has expired (unless they are recommendations to the Council).
 - (e) The Council has stipulated that the call-in procedure should not be used to challenge decisions as a matter of course and should be used only when fully justified.

**Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive**

Agenda Item and Recommendation	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options	Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service
<p>Agenda Item 7 Monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report October 2022</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance and Assistant Director – Customer Focus</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended to:</p> <p>1.1 Note the Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report for October 2022.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report for October 2022 be noted.</p>	<p>This report provides an update on the Council’s progress during October 2022, to deliver its priorities, manage its budget and identify and mitigate any risks that could impact on their delivery.</p>	<p>This report illustrates the Council’s performance, risk and budget positions for the month of October. These monthly reports ensure the council stays on track to deliver its priorities for the year by taking any corrective action at the earliest opportunity to address any issues. Therefore there is no alternative option. However members can ask officers to provide additional information they would consider helpful for including into these standard reports.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023-2024</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the contents of this report and the</p>	<p>The current scheme is understood by customers and has enabled them to budget for their council tax</p>	<p>The alternative option is to undertake a review of the current CTRS. This option is rejected as the current</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Report of Assistant Director of Finance</p> <p>Recommendations</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 recommend to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option of no change to the Council Tax Reduction Income Banded Scheme for Working Age Customers for 2023 -24. • To amend Working Age Regulations in 	<p>financial implications for the Council be noted.</p> <p>(2) That Council be recommended to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option of no change to the Council Tax Reduction Income Banded Scheme for Working Age Customers for 2023 -24. • 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 	<p>payments. One of the main advantages of the banded scheme is that it reduces the number of changes that the customer will experience enabling more effective personal budgeting.</p> <p>There is still a lot of financial uncertainty for many customers and in the current financial climate with the ongoing cost of living crisis it is therefore recommended that the existing scheme should be retained for 2023/24</p>	<p>scheme is understood by customers and has enabled them to budget for their council tax payments. One of the main advantages of the banded scheme is that it reduces the number of changes that the customer will experience enabling more effective personal budgeting.</p>	

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<p>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.</p> <p>1.3 To recommend to Council the levels of Council Tax discounts and premiums remain the same as previous years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the discount for second homes at zero . • Retain the discount for empty homes (unoccupied and 	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>(3) That Council be recommended to agree that the levels of Council Tax discounts and premiums remain the same as previous years as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the discount for second homes at zero. • Retain the discount for empty homes (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) at 25% for 6 months and thereafter zero. 			

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<p>substantially unfurnished) at 25% for 6 months and thereafter zero.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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%). <p>1.4 To note and to highlight to Council 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"> Introduce an empty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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%). <p>(4) That it be noted and Council be recommended to note that the following Council Tax discounts and premiums were currently proposed to change as part of the Council's 2023/24 budget consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce an empty homes premium of an additional 200% for properties that have remained 			

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<p>homes premium of an additional 200% for properties that have remained empty for more than 5 years (total Council Tax payable 300%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%). • Removal of the 25% discount for 12 months (zero thereafter) for dwellings which are vacant and undergoing major 	<p>empty for more than 5 years (total Council Tax payable 300%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%). • Removal of the 25% discount for 12 months (zero thereafter) for dwellings which are vacant and undergoing major repair work to render them habitable. 			

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<p>repair work to render them habitable.</p>				
<p>Agenda Item 9 Infrastructure Funding Statement 2021/22</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director – Planning and Development</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To approve the Infrastructure Funding Statement 21/22 at Appendix 1 for publication by 31 December 2022, subject to any final changes considered to be necessary by the</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2021/22 be approved for publication by 31 December 2022, subject to any final changes considered to be necessary by the Assistant Director – Planning and Development to secure accuracy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.</p> <p>(2) That the Assistant Director – Planning</p>	<p>The publication of an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) is a statutory requirement that provides transparency and accessibility of information about s.106 developer contributions required for the grant of planning permission. The proposed IFS encapsulates the data that officers propose to publish and submit for 2021/22 to DLUHC to meet that requirement. The information is considered to be the most robust available at this time. Officers will prepare a statement annually and continue to develop</p>	<p>Option 1: Not to bring forward an Infrastructure Funding Statement. This is not a lawful option as it would mean that the Council would be in breach of its statutory duty</p> <p>Option 2: Seek review of the key statistics and proposed Infrastructure Funding Statement. Officers consider that this is not required as the information is the most robust available at this time.</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Assistant Director – Planning and Development to secure accuracy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.</p> <p>1.2 To authorise the Assistant Director – Planning and Development to publish and submit the associated Infrastructure Funding Statement data as required by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p>	<p>and Development be authorised to publish and submit the associated Infrastructure Funding Statement data as required by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p>	<p>monitoring systems on an on-going basis.</p>		
<p>Agenda Item 10 Update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That progress made on unlocking Cherwell’s £1.255m</p>	<p>This report is the first of a series which will update Executive on UKSPF and REPF progress to March 2025, and likely beyond.</p>	<p>Option 1: Not engage with process and don’t submit an investment plan and addendum within the required timescales. This</p>	

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<p>Report of the Assistant Director - Growth and Economy</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To note progress made on unlocking Cherwell's £1.255m allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) through the submission of an investment plan on 1 August 2022.</p> <p>1.2 To note the launch of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and delegate authority to the Corporate Director - Communities, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio</p>	<p>allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) through the submission of an investment plan on 1 August 2022 be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the launch of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) be noted and authority be delegated to the Corporate Director - Communities, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to endorse an investment plan 'Addendum' to unlock Cherwell's £526,831 allocation.</p> <p>(3) That the approach in relation to external and</p>	<p>To make this programme work, there remain a number of things that need to be put in place. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External governance structure – The UKSPF and REPF guidance requires that each Authority establishes a Local Partnership Group Internal governance structure – Officers are working on a model which is simple but effective, probably based on existing corporate best practice. This will incorporate a mechanism to authorise change requests. <p>Reason for first Recommendation (1.1) to note progress made on unlocking Cherwell's</p>	<p>was rejected because it would have meant the LA would have forfeited c£1.8m funding for the district.</p>	

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<p>Holder, to endorse an investment plan 'Addendum' to unlock Cherwell's £526,831 allocation.</p> <p>1.3 To endorse the approach set out in paragraph 4.2, in relation to external and internal governance structures, to manage the delivery of UKSPF and REPF projects, including the delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Communities to agree change requests.</p>	<p>internal governance structures, to manage the delivery of UKSPF and REPF projects, including the delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Communities to agree change requests.</p>	<p>£1.255m allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) through the submission of an investment plan on 1st August 2022 is to enable Members to be aware that officers have taken the necessary action to access the UKSPF.</p> <p>Reason for second recommendation (1.2) to note the launch of Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and delegate authority to the Corporate Director - Communities, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to endorse an investment plan 'Addendum' to unlock Cherwell's £526,000 allocation is to ensure that the necessary delegations are in place to submit the Addendum.</p>		

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		Reason for third recommendation (1.3) to endorse the approach in relation to external and internal governance structures, to manage the delivery of UKSPF and REPF projects, including the delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Communities to agree change requests is to ensure that when the monies arrive, officers are able to progress the projects.		
<p>Agenda Item 11 Digital Infrastructure - East West Rail</p> <p>Report of Assistant Director - Growth and Economy</p> <p>Recommendations</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That investment of £133,000 in digital infrastructure along the East West Rail line be authorised.</p> <p>(2) That authority be</p>	By Summer 2024, East West Rail Phase 2 will provide the first direct rail link in more than 50 years between Oxford and Bletchley/Milton Keynes, transforming connectivity and journey times for people and businesses to, from and	Option 1: Not to proceed with investing £133,000 in digital infrastructure as part of the East West Rail project. This is not recommended as it would mean that the Council is not meeting its earlier agreement in principle to	None

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<p>The meeting is recommended:</p> <p>1.1 To authorise investment of £133,000 in digital infrastructure along the East West Rail line.</p> <p>1.2 To delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economy, the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to progress this workstream and to enter into any necessary agreement with partners to enable the works to proceed.</p>	<p>delegated to the Corporate Director – Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economy, the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to progress this workstream and to enter into any necessary agreement with partners to enable the works to proceed.</p>	<p>through Cherwell district and across the heart of the country. It is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost economic growth and create opportunities for new housing and jobs • Encourage people out of cars and onto public transport • Provide a greener low carbon transport system <p>The Council has committed to assist the East West Rail project. Funding is, alongside partner local authorities, now being requested to enable digital fibre infrastructure to be installed. To expedite delivery, it is recommended that delegation of authority for officers to progress work streams and to enter into legal agreement with partners is granted.</p>	<p>join with other Councils to contribute towards and to benefits from the investment in the related digital infrastructure.</p> <p>Option 2: Not to delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Communities but to require the Council or its nominated committee to participate in negotiations and formation of the legal agreement. This is not recommended as it would cause delay, placing at risk the delivery of the East West Rail project. Furthermore, the Council has already committed to supporting the project in principle.</p>	

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