



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting
of the Executive held on Monday 5 October 2026**

1. Date of publication of this summary: 6 October 2026
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. Item 7, Wroxton Motocross Article 4 Direction, is not subject to call-in, as the report seeks extensions to the delegated authority and decisions made under that delegated authority can be called in.
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 Monday 12 October 2026
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 five non-executive members of the Council.
 - (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.

**Shiraz Sheikh
Monitoring Officer**

Agenda Item and Recommendation	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options	Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service
Agenda Item 7 Wroxton Motocross Article 4 Direction Report of Assistant Director Planning Recommendations The Executive resolves to: 1.1. Note the extent of the delegated powers in respect of the proposed non-immediate Article 4 Direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. 1.2. Agree to extend the delegated powers in	Resolved (1) That the extent of the delegated powers in respect of the proposed non-immediate Article 4 Direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 be noted. (2) That it be agreed to extend the delegated powers in order to facilitate the process of securing the making of the non-immediate Article 4 Direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General	It is proposed that the Executive resolves to extend the delegated powers in the interests of expediency, to extend and confirm powers of delegation to ensure officers have the necessary powers to enable the Article 4 process to progress effectively.	Option 1: Not to grant the extended delegated authority to officer's as recommended in this report. This option would not be advisable because it would mean that each time there is a representation which has implications it will need to be brought to the executive and that would not be in the interests of expediency.	None

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order to facilitate the process of securing the making of the non-immediate Article 4 Direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. 1.3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement and the Monitoring Officer:- (a) to finalise the wording of the Article 4 Direction, including by amending the	Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. (3) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement and the Monitoring Officer:- (a) to finalise the wording of the Article 4 Direction, including by amending the terms of the direction which has previously resolved upon by the Council Executive, following further legal review and/or			

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terms of the direction which has previously resolved upon by the Council Executive, following further legal review and/or following a review of representations which have or may in future be received and/or in light of additional or new evidence. (b) to give effect to and to undertake all necessary procedural steps to give effect to the Direction (including following	following a review of representations which have or may in future be received and/or in light of additional or new evidence. (b) to give effect to and to undertake all necessary procedural steps to give effect to the Direction (including following amendments made in accordance with resolution (3) above), including by issuing the Direction, undertaking statutory consultation and notifying the Secretary of State.			

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amendments made in accordance with recommendation 1.3 above), including by issuing the Direction, undertaking statutory consultation and notifying the Secretary of State.				
Agenda Item 8 Making (Adoption) of the Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan Report of Assistant Director Planning Recommendations	Resolved (1) That the referendum result of 27 August 2026, where 85% of those who voted were in favour of the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan which is above the	A referendum was held on the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan on 27 August 2026. Of those eligible to vote, 753 voted in favour of the Plan with 125 against. The vote of 85% in favour meets the requisite majority, and the Plan is now part of the statutory	Where a referendum poll results in more than half of those eligible to vote voting in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, the local planning authority must 'make' the Plan. The Council is not subject to this duty if the making of the plan would breach, or	None

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The Executive resolves: 1.1 To note the referendum result of 27 August 2026 where 85% of those who voted were in favour of the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan which is above the required 50%. 1.2 To recommend to Full Council that it 'makes' the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan so that it continues to have effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the District. 1.3 To recommend to Full Council that it authorises the Assistant Director Planning, in consultation with the	required 50%, be noted. (2) That Full Council be recommended to 'make' the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan so that it continues to have effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the District. (3) That Full Council be recommended to authorise the Assistant Director Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement, to issue and publicise a decision statement.	Development Plan. The Council is still required to formally 'make' the Plan and there is no known breach or incompatibility with EU or human rights obligations which prevents this. The Executive is therefore requested to recommend the 'making' of the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan to the Council on 19 October 2026 which would be within the prescribed eight-week period for making the decision following the referendum.	would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations. There is no known breach of incompatibility. Consequently, there are no other options.	

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Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement to issue and publicise a decision statement.				
Agenda Item 9 Implementation of the Building Safety Levy Report of Assistant Director Planning Recommendations The Executive resolves: 1.1 To approve the proposed implementation in accordance with the summary contained within this report of the Building Safety Levy, which comes into force	Resolved (1) That the proposed implementation of the Building Safety Levy, which comes into force on 1 October 2026 be approved.	The statutory requirement for the Council to undertake its duties as a Building Safety Levy collecting authority commenced on 1 October 2026. The Council's system is now live. There will be on-going monitoring by the Building Control and Finance teams. The Council is obliged to accurately and reliably collect the levies owing and ensure the timely transfer of funds to MHCLG. An indication the levy that could be generated in a year is the estimate that housing delivery of 1,000 homes per year could generate in the	It is mandatory for the Council to undertake its Building Safety Levy duties as a collecting authority, the only alternative or reason for rejection of this recommendation would be to the details of the proposed implementation if the considered unsatisfactory.	None

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on 1 October 2026.		order of £3,000,000. However, due to the absence of affected high rise buildings, none of the funds raised would utilised for improvements to developments within Cherwell.		
Agenda Item 10 Oxfordshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-28 Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing Recommendations The Executive resolves: 1.1 To approve the reviewed Oxfordshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	Resolved (1) That the reviewed Oxfordshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-28 be approved.	Approving the strategy and the continuation of the principles of the current service delivery approach will ensure continuity for service users and ensure that services continue through the period of change brought about by Local Government Reorganisation.	Option 1: Not bring forward a reviewed strategy. As it not statutory document, this could be considered. However, Cherwell is located in the area covered by the existing strategy and accesses services within the wider partnership. This enables essential support for vulnerable people. To exit this arrangement without an alternative in place would put services at vulnerable people	None

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Strategy 2026-28.			potentially at risk or harm. This is rejected.	
Agenda Item 11 Cherwell Futures Reserve Draw Down 2026/2027 Report of Cherwell Futures Director Recommendations The Executive resolves to: 1.1 Approve the draw down and allocation of £1.1million of Reserves to be used as set out within this paper. 1.2 Approve the use of in year savings of £0.330million from the Customer Front Door Programme to fund	Resolved (1) That the draw down and allocation of £1.1million of Reserves to support the Cherwell Futures project from an earmarked transformation reserve be approved. (2) That the use of in year savings of £0.330million from the Customer Front Door Programme to fund additional investment required in new systems and capacity building be approved.	Option 3: Proposed Model is recommended for approval by the Executive. The Model proposed provides the Cherwell Futures Programme with the required skills and expertise to deliver the programmes of work set out within the respective Full Business Cases. The utilisation of interim resource allows for targeted support when it is required and appropriate knowledge handover to the respective services to embed as 'business as usual' beyond the life of the Programme. In proposing this model,	<u>Option 1: Do Nothing</u> The Full Business Cases for the Cherwell Futures Programme cannot be delivered in house with existing capabilities and the outcomes set in terms of benefits and savings could therefore not be realised without the allocation of Reserves funding. This option is therefore not recommended. <u>Option 2: Alternative Resourcing Model</u> Alternative resourcing options through the use of internal capability through secondment, fixed term contracts and outsourcing	None

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additional investment required in new systems and capacity building as set out within this paper.		internal capability has been explored with secondment opportunities being offered where possible. In most cases, the skills and expertise required is not available in house which has informed the model/ approach proposed. This will need to be considered for the longer term whereby capability in web design and Power BI reporting for example will be an ongoing requirement for the Council.	to consultancies have been considered. Internal secondments in particular for project management have been advertised within the Council with only one successful appointment. Equally the use of fixed term contracts has been explored but discounted due to the appetite in the market for short term contracts for high demand expertise. The potential lead time associated with this model was also considered to be an issue. The longer-term adoption of the transformation being delivered is a critical success factor for the Programme and	

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			outsourcing packages of work to consultancies limits the opportunity for integrating with the impacted services teams to take ownership of the changes longer term. Note that the options appraisal for IT solutions to be adopted have been documented within the respective Full Business Cases which included consideration of alternative options and the rationale for the approach to be taken. For the reasons above, this option is not recommended to be taken forward. <u>Option 3: Proposed Model</u> The use of interim	

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			resource provides the: • Required skills and expertise that is not currently available within the Council. • Flexibility to bring in when it is required within the Programme and drop off when no longer needed. • Ability to integrate delivery teams within the respective services on a day-to-day basis to aid ownership, adoption and knowledge transfer. The options appraisal and justification for non-resource related investment have been provided within the respective Full Business Cases.	

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			<u>Option 4: Rescope Programme</u> In the event that the request for additional Reserves cannot be approved, a number of scenarios have been modelled to be able to deliver as much as the Cherwell Futures programme as possible within the available budget. These scenarios all relate to resource as non-resource related spend has been committed: Reducing the level of interim resource, sharing wherever possible across the Programmes with the likely impact of a delay in delivery as available time will need to be prioritised.	

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			• Accelerating the recruitment of in-house capability in areas that it is required noting that there would be no interim resource to begin this and upskill. This would have a likely impact on the time to deliver some elements of the Programme particularly in Environmental Services. • Descoping entire elements of the Programme which would enable delivery of part of the Programme in line with the respective Full Business Cases rather than trying to deliver all three in part.	

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Agenda Item 12 Council Tax Empty Home and Second Home Premium Policy 2026/2027 Report of Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) Recommendations The Executive resolves: 1.1 To note the contents of the reviewed policy for Council Tax Empty Home and Second Home Premium Policy 2026/27. 1.2 To approve the Council Tax Empty Home and Second Home Premium Policy 2026/27.	Resolved (1) That the contents of the reviewed policy for Council Tax Empty Home and Second Home Premium Policy 2026/27 be noted. (2) That the Council Tax Empty Home and Second Home Premium Policy 2026/27 be approved.	It is important that the Council has up to date policies and procedures for its statutory and key service areas and it is important that they are legislatively and operationally sound. The Policy is recommended to comply with the council's objective of reducing the number of long-term empty homes and second homes.	Option 1: Not bring forward a reviewed and amended policy. However, this will reduce the incentive to bring long term empty and second homes back into use and result in reduced income to the authority.	None

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Agenda Item 13 Finance Monitoring Report August 2026 Report of Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) Recommendations The Executive resolves: 1.1 To consider and note the contents of the council's financial management report as at the end of August 2026. 1.2 To note the S151 approval, as permitted under the Reserves Policy, of £0.005m use of the Community Initiatives Grant reserve for Hanwell Fields Community Centre	Resolved (1) That the council's financial management report as at the end of August 2026 be noted. (2) That the S151 approval, as permitted under the Reserves Policy, of £0.005m use of the Community Initiatives Grant reserve for Hanwell Fields Community Centre works be noted. (3) That it be approved that the proposed landlord capital works at Castle Quay are added to the capital programme.	The report updates the Committee on the projected year-end financial position of the council for 2026/27. Regular reporting is key to good governance and demonstrates that the council is actively managing its financial resources sustainably.	Option 1: This report summarises the council's forecast revenue financial position up to the end of March 2027, therefore there are no alternative options to consider.	

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works (Appendix 4). 1.3 To note and approve the proposed landlord capital works at Castle Quay, as detailed in exempt Appendix 5, are added to the capital programme.				
Agenda Item 15 Finance Monitoring Report August 2026 - Exempt Appendix	As set out under agenda item 13.	As set out under agenda item 13.	As set out under agenda item 13.	None
Agenda Item 16 Website Contract Renewal and Funding Exempt report of Head of Digital and Innovation	Resolved (1) As set out in the exempt decisions. (2) As set out in the exempt decisions,	As set out in the exempt decisions.	As set out in the exempt decisions.	None

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	(3) As set out in the exempt decisions.			