

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 29 July 2014 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman)
Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor Melanie Magee
Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor Nigel Randall
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Barry Wood

Substitute Members: Councillor Andrew Beere (In place of Councillor Sean Woodcock)
Councillor Lawrie Stratford (In place of Councillor Douglas Webb)

Apologies for absence: Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Sean Woodcock

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

13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

15 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 June 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

17

Capital Programme 2014-15 - Progress on 2013-14 Slippage

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement which detailed progress on capital schemes which had slipped from the 2013-14 financial year.

In response to concerns raised by the Committee, it was agreed that the sequencing of financial update items to Budget Planning and Executive be looked at by officers to make sure they were considered in a logical order.

The Committee also requested that further information be included in future slippage reports, such as the date the slippage was first requested, in order for them to be able to monitor more accurately the length of time and reasoning for the slippage.

It was agreed that inviting relevant budget holders to future meetings to answer project specific questions would also be useful.

In response to a request from the Committee the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement agreed to draft an outline for a potential central contingency budget, to include how it may be administered, as there was concern that some of the slippage was in fact contingency.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That relevant budget holders be invited to future meetings of the Committee to address concerns when budgets are not being spent
- (3) That the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement be requested to draft an outline for a possible central contingency budget, including how any such system would be administered, for consideration at a future meeting

18

Proposed Refinements to the Capital Budget Process 2015-16

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Head of Finance and Procurement which detailed suggested refinements to the Capital budget process for 2015-16.

With regard to the proposed revisions to the Capital Project Appraisal Form, the Committee requested that the 'Highly Recommended' box in section 5 be renamed 'Essential', and that the 'other' box in section 15 be expanded to include reference to any conditions or restrictions attached to funding.

With regard to the revised Capital Scoring Matrix, the Committee requested that the 'Highly Recommended' column be renamed 'Essential', and the section of the matrix referring to 'Efficiency – net revenue implications' be expanded to include a reference to 'per first full year' or similar wording, to make it clear the level of savings and time frame they relate to.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the amendments requested by the Committee, the Capital Scoring Matrix for 2015-16 be approved
- (2) That, subject to the amendments requested by the Committee, the Capital Bid pro-forma for 2015-16 be approved
- (3) That the proposed budget timetable for 2015-16 be noted

19 **Work Programme 2014-15**

The Committee considered the draft Work Programme for 2014/15.

The Committee requested that relevant officers be invited to attend the September 2014 meeting of the Committee, to answer questions relating to the IT Strategy.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the inclusion of an IT strategy update by Officers at the September 2014 meeting and the addition of an informal meeting on 11 November 2014, the work programme be noted.

20 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

21 **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Interim Head of Finance and Procurement gave an exempt presentation detailing the latest position for the 2015-16 budget. The presentation utilised the 'alternative options' spread sheet which had been put together, which allowed Members to input various figures to measure the impact on the five year budget position.

Resolved

- (1) That the update be noted

Chairman:

Date: