

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 8 September 2015 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman)
Councillor Nigel Randall (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Substitute Members: Councillor Mark Cherry (In place of Councillor Barry Richards)

Apologies for absence: Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Russell Hurle
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Barry Wood

Officers: Paul Sutton, Head of Finance and Procurement
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections
Sharon Hickson, Assistant Democratic and Elections Officer

11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest.

12 Urgent Business

There were no items or Urgent Business.

13 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

15 **Review of Capital Slippage 2015/16**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Finance and Procurement reviewing the capital budgets slipped into 2015/16 and compare against spend at Quarter 1.

In response to concerns raised by the Committee, the Head of Finance and Procurement confirmed that in future reports each capital scheme would contain more detailed information providing a clear record of the status of each scheme

The Committee also requested that further information, 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 be included in future slippage reports,.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That it be noted that going forward the monitoring and management of the capital programme would be undertaken in more detail and more detailed information would be presented to the Committee in future capital slippage monitoring reports.

16 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016-2017**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Finance and Procurement which detailed the implications of the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme and provided options for 2016-2017.

The Committee discussed the implications of each of the individual options and unanimously agreed that Option 1, no change, was the fairest and most cost effective and should be recommended to Executive for consultation to be undertaken.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report and any financial implications for Cherwell District Council be noted.
- (2) That it be recommended to Executive that Option 1 - No change to the current local Council Tax Reduction scheme, be considered for the

Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016-17 in order for consultation to be undertaken.

17 **Council Tax - Empty Homes Premium**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Finance and Procurement detailing the proposal from Executive that a council tax empty homes premium of 50% be applied for properties that have remained empty for over two years.

In response to member questions the Head of Finance and Procurement confirmed that legislation did not allow for a premium of more than 150% to be applied.

At the request of Members, the Head of Finance and Procurement agreed to provide a breakdown of the locations of empty properties within the district.

Resolved

- (1) That the Executive recommendation to Full Council that an Empty Homes Premium of 50% be introduced from 1 April 2016 for properties that have been empty for over two years be supported.

18 **Budget Planning Committee Work Programme 2015/16**

The Committee considered the draft Work Programme for 2015/16.

The Head of Finance and Procurement reported Budget Guidelines 2016/17 would be changed from the 6 October meeting to the 3 November meeting and that items on Revenue & Capital and Capital Slippage would be added to the 6 October meeting

Resolved

- (1) That the work programme be noted.

19 **Exclusion of the 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.

Medium Term Revenue Plan

The Committee considered an exempt report of Head of Finance and Procurement which presented an update on the Councils Medium Term Revenue Plan position.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

Chairman:

Date: