

## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Budget Planning Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 6 October 2015 at 6.30 pm

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

Councillor Ken Atack  
Councillor Colin Clarke  
Councillor Ian Corkin  
Councillor Carmen Griffiths  
Councillor Russell Hurle  
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes  
Councillor Barry Richards  
Councillor Douglas Webb  
Councillor Barry Wood

Substitute Members: Councillor Mark Cherry

Apologies for absence: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Officers: Paul Sutton, Head of Finance and Procurement  
George Hill, Corporate Accountant  
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections  
Lesley Farrell, Assistant Democratic and Elections Officer

#### 21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 22 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business

#### 23 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

25 **Business Rates Pooling Decision 2016-2017**

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the Business Rates Pooling Decision 2016-2017 which provided members of the Committee with an update with regard to participation or otherwise in a business rates pool for 2016-2017.

The Head of Finance and Procurement explained that the pooling intentions would be sent to the Government by 31 October 2015 although they had not yet been requested.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the report be noted.

26 **Budget Strategy 2015 to 2016 and beyond**

The Head of Finance and Procurement introduced a report on the Budget Strategy 2015/2016 and beyond which informed the committee of the service and financial planning process for 2016/17, the 2016/17 budget strategy and the budget guidelines for service managers to enable the production of the 2016/17 budget.

The Head of Finance and Procurement gave a presentation on Finance and the Medium Term Revenue Plan update which outlined items which may be included in the Chancellors' Autumn Statement.

During the presentation the Head of Finance and Procurement answered questions from the Committee on Formula Grant Reductions, New Homes Bonus, Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates.

The Committee were informed that a review of Capital Slippage was currently taking place and that a thorough review of reserves was also necessary. These reviews would be presented to the Committee when completed.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the following resolutions of the Executive on 5 October 2015 be noted.
  - That the updated Medium Term Revenue Plan for the Council's revenue budget 2016/17 to 2020-21 be noted.
  - That the overall 2016/17 budget strategy and service and financial planning process set out in the report be endorsed.

- That the proposed budget guidelines and timetable for 2016/17 be agreed.
- That agreement be given to consult on the retention of the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17 and authority be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management to make the final decision on the scheme

27 **Review of Committee Work Plan**

The Committee considered the work programme for 2015/16.

The Head of Finance and Procurement informed the committee that a fundamental review of Fees and Charges was being undertaken and would be brought to the November meeting.

**Resolved**

That, subject to the addition of Review of Fees and Charges to November, the work plan be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

Chairman:

Date: