

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 November 2018 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman)

Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Tony Mepham
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Alaric Rose
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Sean Woodcock
Councillor Barry Wood

Substitute Members: Councillor Barry Wood (For Councillor Lucinda Wing)

Apologies for absence: Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Lucinda Wing

Officers: Adele Taylor, Interim Executive Director: Finance and Governance
Kelly Watson, Assistant Director: Finance and Procurement
Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer
Richard Woods, Assistant Democratic and Elections Officer

27 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

28 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

29 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

31 **Finance Monitoring Report - August 2018**

The Committee considered a report from the Assistant Director – Finance and Procurement, which summarised the Council's Finance Monitoring position at the end of August 2018.

In introducing the report, the Assistant Director – Finance and Procurement advised the committee that a total overspend of £481k to the end of August was forecast. No additional financial risks had been identified in September or October.

In response to questions from the Committee regarding the current underspend in Disabled Facilities Grants, the Assistant Director – Finance and Procurement advised that work on internal Cherwell District Council processes was being undertaken to ensure that Disabled Facilities Grants were better utilised, however reiterated that the process was reliant on referrals for such grants from Oxfordshire County Council.

Resolved

(1) That the contents of the report be noted.

32 **2019/20 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy Update**

The Committee considered a report and presentation from the Interim Executive Director – Finance and Governance, which provided an update on the current financial position and progress being made towards setting the budget for 2019/20 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Interim Executive Director – Finance and Governance advised the Committee that details of the financial settlement from central Government were expected around 6 December 2018.

In response to Members' questions, the Interim Executive Director – Finance and Governance confirmed that due to the volatility of some areas of income, such as planning application fees, the actual position regarding income was taken into account when setting the new budget.

Resolved

(1) That the contents of the report be noted.

33 **Response to the Value for Money Judgement in 2017/18 accounts**

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Executive Director – Finance and Governance, which detailed Cherwell District Council's response to the Value for Money Judgement on the 2017/18 accounts.

In introducing the report, the Interim Executive Director – Finance and Governance advised the Committee that the report would also be presented to the Board of Crown House Banbury Ltd, as agreed with the external auditors.

The Interim Executive Director – Finance and Governance assured the Committee that there was no indication in the judgement that the acquisition of Crown House should not have happened.

As a result of the Value for Money judgement, other transactions had been reviewed and no issues had been found. In response to the report, the Committee commented that the report had given Members and officers a number of learning points for future transactions.

Resolved

- (1) That the actions taken to date in relation to address any concerns within the value for money judgement in our 2017/18 accounts in relation to the acquisition of assets be noted.

34 **Review of Committee Work Plan**

The Committee considered its Work Plan.

Resolved

- (1) That the Committee Work Plan be noted, subject to the inclusion of an additional item relating to Business Rates Overview and the removal of the item relating to S106 Monitoring from the 27 November 2018 meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.11 pm

Chairman:

Date: