

Cherwell District Council business plan 2022 - 2023



Appendix 6



As we come to refresh our business priorities for the next financial year, I am proud to be the leader of a council that listens to its residents and is willing to adapt to deliver the services that residents value most.

Like other local authorities up and down the country, we must chart a careful and responsible path through the challenges presented by uncertainties around government funding, COVID-19 and a growing and ageing population, all of which have presented significant financial pressures in setting our budget for 2022/23.

But that doesn't mean we should lose sight of our vision for the district – we remain an ambitious authority and will continue to find new ways to deliver services differently and more efficiently, prioritising our resources to where they will have the biggest impact.

In our recent consultation on our 2022/23 budget proposals, local people told us that healthy and resilient communities was their top priority. That means using our influence on the built environment and within the leisure sector to make it easier to lead a healthy lifestyle. It also means making the most of our links to partners in the health system and community and voluntary sectors.

We have been creating new active travel routes, supporting people to ride their bikes and enhancing our green spaces. These examples of action will not only aid our recovery from the pandemic but will secure changes that residents can enjoy well into the future, making north Oxfordshire somewhere where people can truly thrive and enjoy their lives.

Both the budget survey and our annual residents' survey showed that supporting vibrant local centres and a dynamic economy are also top priorities. It has been a pleasure to see the first elements of our investment in Castle Quay Waterfront come to fruition over recent months.

With a much needed town centre supermarket, multi-screen cinema and restaurants coming to Banbury canal side, we've taken a big stride towards securing the town's regional status for years to come and creating new jobs too.

While we have had to take some difficult decisions to ensure a balanced budget for this financial year, where the government has offered funding streams for specific purposes, we have been proactive in securing it. For example, funding to enhance the support that's offered to help prevent homelessness and to help small and medium size businesses navigate change throughout the pandemic.

Our work to become a zero carbon council by 2030 is continuing too, with improvements to reduce emissions at leisure centres and investment to install solar panels at more of our council owned properties.

I am confident that our renewed focus on delivering residents' priorities will help make sure Cherwell remains a great place to live and work for years to come.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Wood'.

Councillor Barry Wood
Leader of Cherwell District Council



Our priorities:

Housing that meets your needs

- Support the delivery of affordable and green housing.
- Ensure minimum standards in rented housing.
- Work with partners supporting new ways to prevent homelessness.
- Support our most vulnerable residents.
- Deliver the Local Plan.



Supporting environmental sustainability

- Work towards our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Promote the green economy.
- Support waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Work with partners to improve air quality.



An enterprising economy with strong and vibrant local centres

- Support business retention and growth.
- Work with partners to support skills development and innovation.
- Work with others to support growth.
- Work with partners to promote the district as a visitor destination and attract investment in our town centres.
- Work with businesses to ensure compliance and promote best practice.



Healthy, resilient and engaged communities

- Support and encourage active lifestyles and health and wellbeing.
- Support development of leisure services and facilities meeting the needs of residents.
- Support community and cultural development.
- Work towards our commitment to equalities, diversity and inclusion.
- Work with partners to address the causes of health inequality and deprivation.
- Work with partners to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.



Delivery themes:

Customers

Deliver high quality, accessible and convenient services that are right first time.



Healthy places

Work collaboratively to create sustainable, thriving communities that support good lifestyle choices connecting us to each other and the natural environment.



Partnerships

Work with partners across all sectors to deliver and improve services for our residents and communities.



Continuous improvement

Make the best use of our resources and focus on improvement, innovation and staff development to maintain and enhance services.



Climate action

Support residents and local businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. Continue to transform our own estate to deliver our carbon neutral commitments.



COVID-19 recovery and renewal

Work with partners in the health and voluntary sectors to help our local business and residents respond, and ensure together, we are in a stronger position to meet the health, economic and social challenges of the future.



Including everyone

Our equalities, diversity and inclusion framework outlines how we plan to create an inclusive community and workplace in Cherwell, through fair and equitable services.



Performance management framework

Cherwell District Council's performance management framework sets out the key actions, projects and programmes of work that contribute to the delivery of the 2022 business plan and the priorities of the council. The supporting measures and key performance indicators are reported on a monthly basis to highlight progress, identify areas of good performance and actions that have been taken to address underperformance or delay.

To measure performance a 'traffic light' system is used. Where performance is on or ahead of target, it is rated green. Where performance is slightly behind the target it is rated amber. A red rating indicates performance is off target.

The monthly performance cycle also includes the management and reporting of leadership risk and financial information. This provides an overview of the council's progress against its strategic priorities and delivery themes as set out earlier in this business plan.



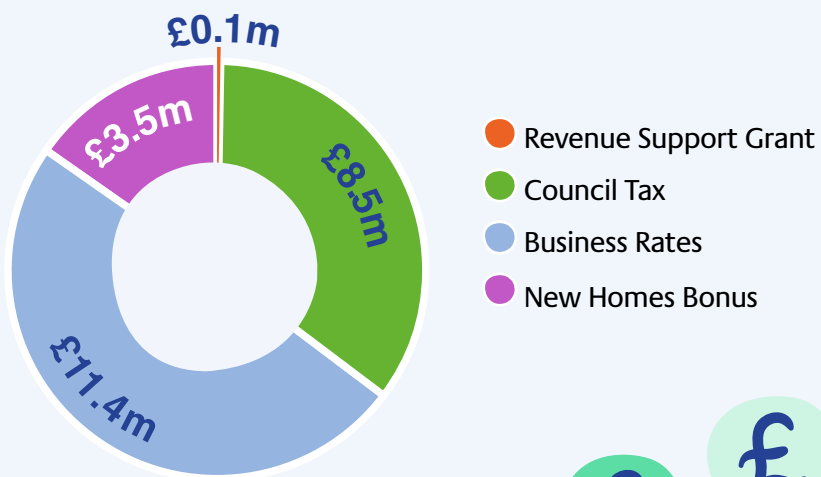
Council funding



Where our money comes from

Thirty six per cent of our funding for services comes directly from Council Tax, with the rest coming from the New Homes Bonus Scheme, Business Rates and Government Revenue Support Grant.

2022/23 funding sources



How we generate income

We generate income by asking people and organisations to pay fees and charges for some of our services such as for planning, car parking and for licences. We also receive rental income from properties the council owns such as Castle Quay and Pioneer Square.



Contact us

Get in touch

Did you know you can access council information and services around the clock at www.cherwell.gov.uk

Email: customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Phone: 01295 227001

Find and email your ward councillor here:

www.cherwell.gov.uk/find-member

Write:

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Cherwell

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