

Cherwell District Council

Budget Planning Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 26 September 2023 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Patrick Clarke (Chairman)
Councillor Douglas Webb (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Tom Beckett
Councillor Becky Clarke MBE
Councillor Donna Ford
Councillor Matt Hodgson
Councillor Simon Lytton
Councillor Adam Nell
Councillor Dorothy Walker
Councillor Barry Wood
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Substitute Members:

Councillor Rob Pattenden (In place of Councillor David Hingley)

Apologies for absence:

Councillor David Hingley

Officers:

Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer
Leanne Lock, Strategic Business Partner - Business Partnering & Controls
Matt Swinford, Democratic and Elections Officer

11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12 Minutes

Following a comment from Councillor Hodgson regarding Minute 8, Budget Process 2024-25, in relation to the discussion on government funding, it was agreed that this would be discussed at agenda item 8, Review of Committee Work Plan.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2023 were agreed record and signed by the Chairman.

13 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

14 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

15 **Monthly Finance Performance Report**

The Assistant Director of Finance submitted a report that summarised the council's forecast revenue and capital outturn for 2023/2024 as of 31 July 2023.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding if officers had prepared or were putting plans in place to address a potential loss of income if the government changed the law to replace glass bottle bank recycling with kerbside collection, Councillor Nell, Portfolio Holder for Finance, advised that there were regular discussions on the price of recycled glass and that officers would provide a written response to the Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee asking for the background to why the property area was showing the greatest change for the worse in the report, the Strategic Business Partner advised the Committee that the main reason is that there was currently a dependency on the use of agency staff in certain areas however recruitment is currently on going in this area.

Following a question from the Committee regarding the use of grants in how the capital programme would be financed and what grants specifically these were, the Portfolio Holder for Finance advised that there were many grants. Officer would provide a written response to the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.

16 **Upcoming Consultations**

The Head of Finance gave a verbal update to the committee on upcoming consultations from central government regarding budgetary matters and advised that there were none to report at this time.

Resolved

- (1) That the verbal update be noted.

17

Review of Committee Work Plan

The Strategic Business Partner – Business Partnering & Controls presented the Budget Planning Committee Work Plan. At the next scheduled meeting on 31 October 2023, the Committee would consider the monitoring report for Q2. The 2024/25 Budget Proposals - Revenue and Capital and Fees & Charges would be submitted to the 5 December 2023 meeting.

In the course of discussion at the earlier agenda item 3 regarding government funding to the Council, the Leader, Councillor Wood, had suggested that officers give a presentation at a future committee meeting giving an overview on council funding, including central funding, council tax receipts and other income.

Members endorsed the suggestion and highlighted other areas the Committee could include on its work programme at the appropriate time: innovation in relation to the budget and financial affairs of the council and possible future ideas that the Committee could contribute to; housing; car parking, and refuse.

Resolved

- (1) That the update on the Committee Work plan be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.31 pm

Chairman:

Date: