

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 17 September 2024 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves (Chairman)
Councillor Tom Beckett
Councillor Gordon Blakeway
Councillor Andrew Crichton
Councillor Rob Parkinson
Councillor Rob Pattenden
Councillor David Rogers
Councillor Les Sibley
Councillor Dom Vaitkus

Substitute Members:

Councillor Barry Wood (In place of Councillor Kieron Mallon)
Councillor Dr Chukwudi Okeke (In place of Councillor Matt Hodgson)
Councillor Gemma Coton (In place of Councillor Frank Ideh)

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Matt Hodgson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Frank Ideh
Councillor Kieron Mallon

Also Present:

Councillor Lesley McLean, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Regeneration and Property

Officers:

Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer
Leanne Lock, Strategic Business Partner - Business Partnering & Controls
Matt Swinford, Democratic and Elections Officer

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

13 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

14 **Budget and Business Planning Process 2025-26**

The Assistant Director of Finance submitted a report to inform the Budget Planning Committee of the proposed approach to the 2025/26 Budget and Business Planning Process and provides context and background information on the existing Medium-Term Financial Strategy and information on latest government announcements relevant to the Strategy.

In response to questions from the Committee regarding the Reserves Policy and the flexible use capital receipts, the Head of Finance advised that there is currently no intention to apply to use capital receipts to fund revenue costs.

In response to Members' questions to the Council adopting a transformational approach to service delivery to shape the thinking for the future design of the Council, the Head of Finance advised that the transformational approach had been looking at the shape and design of the organisation in anticipation of the significant pressures that the Council will face in the future with impact of the change of Business Rates on the net budget.

Resolved

(1) That the Budget and Business Planning Process 2025-26 be noted.

15 **Monthly Performance Report**

The Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report that's summarised Cherwell District Council's (CDC's) forecast revenue and capital outturn for 2024/2025 as at 30 June 2024 and gave the Committee the opportunity to consider the finance aspects of the report.

In response to Members' questions on the reported overspend on planning appeals and the contingency in place, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Resources advised that officers are happy with the contingency in place however the situation is being monitored by officers as additional planning appeals are being received.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.

16

Review of Committee Work Plan

The Chairman asked the Committee if any Members had any queries or additional items for the Committee Work Plan to which no response was received.

Resolved

- (1) That the work plan be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.53 pm

Chairman:

Date: