

Tuesday, 8 February 2022

Tel: 01993 861522
e-mail - democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk

CABINET

You are summoned to a meeting of the Cabinet which will be held in the Council Chamber, Woodgreen, Witney, OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 16 February 2022 at 2.00 pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet

Councillors: Michele Mead (Leader), David Harvey (Deputy Leader), Suzi Coul, Marilyn Davies, Jane Doughty, Jeff Haine and Norman MacRae MBE.

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted. By participating in this meeting, you are consenting to be filmed.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Democratic Services officers know prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Notice of Decisions** (Pages 5 - 10)
To receive notice of the decisions taken at the meeting held on 19 January 2022.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations from Members of the Committee on any items to be considered at the meeting
4. **Participation of the Public**
To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.
5. **Receipt of Announcements**
Purpose:
To receive any announcements from the Leader of the Council or Members of the Cabinet.
6. **Budget 2022/23** (Pages 11 - 144)
Purpose
The purpose of this report is to consider the following:
 - (1) The revenue budget proposals for 2022/23;
 - (2) The Council's Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2030/31;
 - (3) The level of Council Tax for 2022/23

This report also fulfils the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 relating to the Council's Treasury Management function and implementation of the Prudential Code Capital Finance System arrangements. Cabinet will recommend the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital Programme, Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy to Council for approval.

The report also includes the Chief Finance Officer's report on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves.

Recommendation

a) Cabinet recommends the following to Council for approval:

- (i) The updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in Annex A
- (ii) General Fund revenue budgets as summarised in Annex B
- (iii) The Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2030/31 set out in Annex E
- (iv) Fees and Charges for 2022/23 as set out in Annex D
- (v) The Council's Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex F
- (vi) The Council's Capital Strategy 2022/23 as set out in Annex G
- (vii) The Council's Investment Strategy 2022/23 as set out in Annex H
- (viii) The Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 as set out in Annex I
- (ix) The level of District Council Tax for 2022/23 for a Band D property of £114.38.

- b) That the estimate of Business Rates income for 2022/23, as set out in the excerpt from the government return NNDRI, in Annex L, and the Parish Precepts and Tax Levels set out in Annex M be noted.

7. **Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) (Pages 145 - 152)**

Purpose

To seek approval for the Council's Covid19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) Discretionary Relief to local business ratepayers guidelines.

Recommendation

That Cabinet approve a scheme that awards 15% relief to all eligible businesses in respect of Covid 19 Additional Relief Funding.

8. **Discretionary Rate Relief - Business Rates (Expanded Retail Discount)**
(Pages 153 - 160)

Purpose

To consider a scheme of rate relief for retail premises as outlined in by Government in the Autumn Statement 2021.

Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the :-

- a) Expanded Retail Discount scheme granting 50% relief to eligible businesses as set out in Annex A (up to a £110,000 cap); and
- b) Requests that the Group Manager for Resident Services implements the scheme as part of the annual billing processes.

9. **Planned Expenditure of the Homelessness Prevention Grant 2022/23**
(Pages 161 - 182)

Purpose

To consider the planned expenditure of the Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2022/23.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Approves the expenditure detailed within paragraphs 2.1 to 2.10 of this report;
- b) Approves the delegation of any amendments to these allocations to the Housing Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness and the Chief Finance Officer subject to compliance with the ring fenced grant conditions; and
- c) Approves the delegation of any other uplifts or grants that may be given over the financial year to contain Covid outbreaks or address increased demands on the Housing Service be given to the Housing Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness and Chief Finance Officer subject to compliance with the ring fenced grant conditions as set out in 3.1 to 3.5.