

Tuesday, 31 January 2023

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## EXECUTIVE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Executive which will be held in the Council Chamber, Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 2.00 pm.**



Giles Hughes  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Executive

Councillors: Andy Graham (Leader), Duncan Enright (Deputy Leader), Joy Aitman, Lidia Arciszewska, Dan Levy, Mathew Parkinson, Andrew Prosser, Carl Rylett and Geoff Saul

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. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023.
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**  
Members of the public may ask a question at a meeting of the Executive for up to three minutes on any item of business for decision at the meeting or on any issue that affects the district or its people. Members of the public wishing to speak at an Executive meeting must notify [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk), including their name and the agenda item or topic they wish to speak on, by 2.00pm two clear working days before the meeting (e.g. for a Wednesday meeting, the deadline would be 2.00pm on the Friday before). If the topic of the question is not within the remit of the Council, advice will be provided on where best to direct the question. The relevant Executive Member will either respond verbally at the meeting or provide a written response which will be included in the minutes of the meeting.
5. **Receipt of Announcements**  
Purpose:  
To receive any announcements from the Leader of the Council or Members of the Executive.
6. **Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan** (Pages 13 - 96)  
Purpose:  
This report provides an update on the developing budget for 2023/24. To consider:
  - 1) The draft base budgets for 2023/24
  - 2) The Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2031/32
  - 3) The level of Council Tax for 2023/24
  - 4) The Medium Term Financial Strategy
  - 5) The response from the statutory budget consultation

## Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to:

Recommend the following to Council for approval:

- i) The General Fund revenue budgets as summarised in Annex B
- ii) The updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in Annex E
- iii) The Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2031/32 as set out in Annex D
- iv) Fees and Charges, as previously circulated and set out in Annex H
- v) The Council's Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex J
- vi) The level of District Council Tax for 2023/24 for a Band D property of £119.38 as shown in Annex G

And recommend the following to Council for noting:

- vii) The Parish Precepts and Tax Levels set out in Annex G.

7. **Planned Expenditure of the Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023-2025 (Pages 97 - 114)**

Purpose:

To consider the planned expenditure of the Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2023 – 2025 (incorporating the Domestic Abuse New Burden’s allocations for 2023- 2025)

Recommendation:

That the Executive resolves to:

- a) Approve the expenditure detailed within section 2 of this report
- b) Approve expenditure for the Fixed Term Contract posts until 2025, as detailed in paragraph 2.7
- c) Approve the delegation of any amendments to these allocations to the Business Manager - Housing in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and the Chief Finance Officer subject to compliance with the ring fenced grant conditions
- d) Delegate authority to the Business Manager – Housing, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Chief Finance Officer, decisions on any other uplifts or grants that may be given over the financial years 2023-24 to 2024-25 to address increased demands on the Housing Service, subject to compliance with the ring fenced grant conditions.

8. **Renewal or non-Renewal of LoyalFree (Pages 115 - 130)**

Purpose:

A decision is sought as to whether the council should continue to fund the LoyalFree app.

Recommendation:

That the Executive resolves to agree not to renew the contract with LoyalFree.

9. **Consideration of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy (Pages 131 - 160)**

Purpose:

To consider and agree a response to the Government’s proposed changes to national planning policy.

Recommendation:

That the Executive resolves to:

- a) Note the content of the report including the summary overview of proposed changes attached at Annex A; and
- b) Agree that the draft response attached at Annex B be submitted as the District Council’s formal response to the consultation.

10. **Consideration of Local Authority Housing Fund (Pages 161 - 204)**

Purposes:

To consider whether to support an application to the Local Authority Housing Fund and sign the associated Memorandum of Understanding.

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to:

- a) Approve that an application to the Housing Support Fund be made;
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive to sign the Memorandum of Understanding

(attached at Annex B);

- c) Agree that further due diligence be conducted to determine the most appropriate delivery mechanism for the Council and a further report be brought back to the Executive to consider this;
- d) Recommend to Council to allocate Capital Funding of £2m to match fund the capital grant payable by Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government in the event of a direct acquisition approach;
- e) Recommend to Council to allocate Section 106 funding to support the business case up to a maximum of £40,000 per unit to gap fund the scheme to deliver affordable rents in the event of a direct acquisition approach.

(END)