

Tuesday 20 January 2024

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COUNCIL

You are summoned to a meeting of Council, which will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, OX28 1NB, on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024** at **2.00 pm**.



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council:

Councillors: Andrew Coles (Chair), Elizabeth Poskitt (Vice-Chair), Joy Aitman, Alaa Al-Yousuf, Lidia Arciszewska, Thomas Ashby, Hugo Ashton, Andrew Beaney, Michael Brooker, David Cooper, Julian Cooper, Rachel Crouch, Colin Dingwall, Jane Doughty, Duncan Enright, Phil Godfrey, Andy Goodwin, Andy Graham, Jeff Haine, David Jackson, Edward James, Mark Johnson, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon, Charlie Maynard, Martin McBride, Michele Mead, David Melvin, Lysette Nicholls, Mathew Parkinson, Rosie Pearson, Rizvana Poole, Andrew Prosser, Carl Rylett, Geoff Saul, Sandra Simpson, Alaric Smith, Ruth Smith, Harry St John, Tim Sumner, Dean Temple, Liam Walker, Mark Walker, Adrian Walsh, Alex Wilson and Alistair Wray.

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Executive, 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. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive any apologies for absence from Members of the Council.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Council on any items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 24)**
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 31 January 2024.
4. **Receipt of Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader of the Council, Members of the Executive, the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Governance and the Director of Finance.
5. **Participation of the Public**
No requests for public participation were received by the deadline of 12.00pm on Monday 19 February 2024.
6. **Questions by Members**
The following questions have been submitted by Members of Council to Members of the Executive, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules (Constitution Part 5A, Rule 12). Oral responses will be provided at the meeting. Following receipt of the answer to their question, Members are entitled to ask one supplementary question at the meeting. The Questions and Answers will be detailed in the minutes of the meeting.

Question 1 from Councillor Michele Mead to Councillor Joy Aitman, Executive Member for Stronger Healthy Communities:
Can you tell us how many local organisations have been successful in reaching their fundraising goals through Westhive and how much has WODC given so far (not including current pledges)?

Question 2 from Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Alaric Smith, Executive Member for Finance:
Can the Executive Member provide a breakdown of costings for the refurbishment of Committee Rooms 1 and 2?

Question 3 from Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Tim Sumner, Executive Member for Leisure and Major Projects:
There is a significant sum of £106 money which is designated for an Adventure Play Area in West Witney. Can the Executive Member provide me with an update on the progress on this please?
7. **Recommendations from the Executive (Pages 25 - 56)**
Purpose:
To agree recommendations made to Council by the Executive from its meetings since 31 January 2024, other than recommendations relating to the budget which are included at agenda item 9.

Recommendation:

The Executive resolved to recommend to Council to:

1. Adopt the Nature Recovery Plan as part of the Council's compliance with the new biodiversity duty.

8. **Report of the Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the budget estimates, adequacy of the Council's reserves and risk 2024/25** (Pages 57 - 64)

Purpose

Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 places a duty on the Chief Financial Officer to make a report to the Council on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

1. Note the report and have regard to it when making its decisions about budget and Council Tax for 2024/25.

9. **Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy** (Pages 65 - 192)

Purpose

To provide the proposed budget for 2024/25, whilst also considering approval for:

- 1) The draft base budgets for 2024/25
- 2) The Council's Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2032/33
- 3) The level of Council Tax for 2024/25
- 4) The Medium Term Financial Strategy
- 5) The Council's Financial Strategies
- 6) Fees and Charges
- 7) The Council's Pay Policy Statement

Recommendation

The Executive resolved to recommend the following to Council for approval:

1. The General Fund revenue budgets as summarised in Annex B.
2. The updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in Annex C.
3. The Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2032/33 as set out in Annex E.
4. Fees and charges for 2024/25, as detailed in Annex J and K.
5. The Council's Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex M.
6. The Council's Capital Strategy as set out in Annex N
7. The Council's Investment Strategy as set out in Annex O
8. The Council's Treasury Strategy as set out In Annex P

10. **Council Tax 2024/2025** (Pages 193 - 196)

Purpose

To enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2024/25.

Recommendation

That Council passes the resolution set out in Annex A to the report.

11. **Motions on notice**

No motions were received by the deadline of 12.00pm on Monday 19 February 2024.

(END)