

Tuesday 6 February 2024

Tel: 01993 861000

email: democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Executive, which will be held in The Upper Hall, Chipping Norton Town Hall, High Street, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 5NA on **Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 2.00pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Executive:

Councillors: Andy Graham, Duncan Enright, Alaric Smith, Joy Aitman, Charlie Maynard, Andrew Prosser, Geoff Saul, Lidia Arciszewska and Tim Sumner.

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 Executive.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members of the Executive on any items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 12)**
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 17 January 2024.
4. **Receipt of Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Leader of the Council, Members of the Executive or the Chief Executive.
5. **Participation of the Public**
Any member of the public, who is a registered elector in the District, is eligible to ask one question at the meeting, for up to three minutes, of the Leader of the Council, or any Member of the Executive on any issue that affects the district or its people.

Notice, together with a written copy of the question, must be provided to Democratic Services, either by email to:
democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk

or by post to:
Democratic Services, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1NB.

Questions are to be received no later than 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).

A response may be provided at the meeting, or within three clear working days of the meeting. 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 appropriate Executive Member will either respond verbally at the meeting or provide a written response which will be included in the minutes of the meeting.
6. **Reports from Overview and Scrutiny**
7. **Matters raised by Audit and Governance Committee**
8. **West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041 Update (Pages 13 - 122)**
Purpose:
To provide an update on the progress of the new West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041 including the outcome of recent public consultation and the revised timetable for taking the plan through to adoption.

Recommendations:

That the Executive Resolves to:

1. Note the content of the consultation summary report attached at Annex A, in particular the key themes arising which will be reflected in the next stage of Local Plan consultation;
2. Agree to approve the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) attached at Annex B.

9. **Nature Recovery Plan and Nature Recovery Officer (Pages 123 - 186)**

Purpose:

To present the West Oxfordshire District Council Nature Recovery Plan, which is proposed to be adopted and resourced by the Council from April 2024, and to set out the business case to appoint a new Nature Recovery Officer.

Recommendations:

That the Executive Resolves to:

1. Approve the West Oxfordshire District Council Nature Recovery Plan and recommend to Council that it is adopted as part of the Council's compliance with the new biodiversity duty;
2. Agree to part-fund a Nature Recovery Officer at a cost to the Council of £39,039.00 over 24 months.

10. **Climate Change Officer (Pages 187 - 190)**

Purpose:

To set out the business case to make the Climate Change Officer post permanent.

Recommendation:

That the Executive Resolves to:

1. Agree to make the Climate Change Officer post permanent at a total cost of £50,155 per annum.

11. **Improving Youth Participation and Development (Pages 191 - 198)**

Purpose:

To set out the Council's approach to supporting young people and building on the results and findings of the recent Youth Needs Assessment.

Recommendations:

That the Executive Resolves to:

1. Agree to the recruitment of a dedicated Youth Development Officer on a full time, 2-year fixed term contract;
2. To note that £60,000 external funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) will be used to support the post;
3. Approve up to £28,000 from the Council Priority fund to meet the balance needed for the post;

4. Approve the use of the £20,000 COMF budget allocated to youth activities to enable test and learn opportunities as developed by the postholder, which tackle the barriers faced by young people, to access activities, services and opportunities.

12. Waste Fleet Purchase Strategy (Pages 199 - 206)

Purpose:

To update the Executive on progress on the review of the West Oxfordshire waste fleet, and to seek approval to purchase 4 standard fuel general waste refuse collection vehicles, and when necessary, hire 2 standard fuel general waste refuse collection vehicles, whilst research is undertaken into options to use more environmentally sustainable vehicles such as electric vehicles.

Recommendations:

That the Executive Resolves to:

1. Agree to purchase 4 x 28 tonne standard fuel general waste refuse collection vehicles (RCV's) for use on frontline collections; and
2. Agree to hire 2 x 28tonne standard fuel general waste refuse collection vehicles when needed whilst research is undertaken during the next financial year into options to use more environmentally sustainable vehicles such as electric vehicles.

13. Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Pages 207 - 286)

Purpose:

To provide an update on the budget for 2024/25, following the government funding settlements of 18 December 2023 and 24 January 2024, and to consider:

- 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 responses from the statutory budget consultation.

Recommendations:

That the Executive Resolves to:

- 1) Note the Parish Precepts and Tax Levels set out in Annex I;

And Resolves to Recommend to Council to:

- 2) Approve the General Fund revenue budgets as summarised in Annex B;
- 3) Approve the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in Annex C;
- 4) Approve the Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2032/33 as set out in Annex E;
- 5) Approve the Fees and charges for 2024/25, as detailed in Annex J and K;
- 6) Approve the Council's Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex M;
- 7) Approve the level of District Council Tax for 2024/25 for a Band D property of £124.38 as shown in Annexes F-H.

14. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

If the Executive wishes to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for the Executive to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of the Paragraph 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

15. **Exempt Annex K - Trade Waste Fees & Charges - Budget 2024/25 (Pages 287 - 288)**

(END)