

Tuesday 1 October 2024

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EXECUTIVE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Executive, which will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday 9 October 2024 at 2.00pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Executive

Councillors: Andy Graham (Leader), Duncan Enright (Deputy Leader), Lidia Arciszewska, Hugo Ashton, Rachel Crouch, Andrew Prosser, Geoff Saul, Alaric Smith 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.
The quorum for the Executive is 3 Members.
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 5 – 14)**
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 11 September 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 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
To consider any reports or recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which meets on Wednesday 2 October 2024.
7. **Matters raised by Audit and Governance Committee**
No recommendations were made by the Audit and Governance Committee, which met on Thursday 26 September 2024.

8. **Waste Fleet Purchase (Pages 15 – 28)**

Purpose:

To seek approval to procure ten new waste fleet vehicles and the associated infrastructure for any electric vehicles.

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Agree to the purchase of 3 fully electric supervisor vehicles;
2. Agree to the purchase 1 standard fuel ultra-narrow access vehicle;
3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Commercial Development, in consultation with the Executive Members for Environment and Finance, and the Director of Finance, to purchase or lease up to 2 x full size HGV's and up to 4 food waste vehicles and necessary charging infrastructure up to an estimated cost of £2.8M, (including a procurement contingency and estimated cost of borrowing).

9. **Long Term Empty Property Strategy 2024-2029 (Pages 29 – 52)**

Purpose:

To present an updated Long Term Empty Property Strategy to support the management of long-term empty properties within West Oxfordshire district.

Recommendation:

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Approve the implementation of the Long-Term Empty Property Strategy for 2024 – 2029.

10. **Council Tax Premiums – Second Homes and Long Term Empty Properties (Pages 53 – 64)**

Purpose:

To consider the proposals to introduce a Council Tax Premium on second homes and apply a premium to long term empty properties after one year.

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to recommend to Council to:

1. Agree from 01 April 2025 to levy the maximum level of premium for Empty Homes as set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023:
 - a) Premium of 100% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) after 1 year up to 5 years of becoming empty;
 - b) Premium of 200% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) between 5 years and 10 years;
 - c) Premium of 300% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) for 10 years or more;
2. Agree from 1 April 2025 to the implementation of a premium (Second Homes Premium) of 100% for dwellings that are no one's sole or main residence and which are substantially furnished;
3. Note that where premiums are to be applied, the Council is mindful of the outcome of the government consultation which recommends exceptions in certain circumstances outlined within the report may be amended, and as such guidance may change;

4. Agree that any amendments to the guidance which may change the criteria for Premiums be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance.

11. **Public Health Funeral Policy (Pages 65 – 76)**

Purpose:

To consider and approve a new policy in respect of Public Health Funerals.

Recommendation:

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Approve the Public Health Funeral Policy, attached at Annex A.

(END)