

Tuesday, 4 February 2025

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## EXECUTIVE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Executive which will be held in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 12 February 2025 at 2.00 pm.**



Giles Hughes  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Executive

Councillors: Andy Graham, Duncan Enright, 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 15 January 2025.
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 5 February 2025.
7. **Matters raised by Audit and Governance Committee**  
To consider any matters arising from the Audit and Governance meeting on 30 January 2025.

8. **Budget 2025 – 2026 (Pages 15 - 88)**

Purpose

This report provides an update on the budget for 2025/26 following the provisional government funding settlement on 18 December 2024.

To consider:

1. The Draft Base Budget for 2025/26
2. The Council's Capital Programme for 2025/26 to 2031/32
3. The level of Council Tax for 2025/26
4. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
5. The Responses from the Statutory Budget Consultation

Recommendation

That the Executive resolves to note:

1. The Parish Precepts and Tax Levels set out in Annex H.

And Resolves to Recommend the following to Council for approval:

2. The General Fund Revenue Budget as Summarised in Annex A.
3. The Updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in Annex B.
4. The Capital Programme for 2025/26 to 2031/32 as set out in Annex D.
5. The Council's Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex J.
6. The Level of District Council Tax for 2025/26 for a Band D property of £129.38 as shown in Annexes E-G.

9. **Statement of Community Involvement (Pages 89 - 132)**

Purpose

To agree an update of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in accordance with legislative requirements.

Recommendations

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Note the content of the report;
2. Approve the updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) attached at Annex A;
3. Delegate responsibility to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, to make any minor changes to the SCI before it is finalised and published.

10. **West Oxfordshire District Council response to the Regulation 19 pre-submission draft Cherwell Local Plan (Pages 133 - 158)**

Purpose

To agree the District Council's response to the proposed submission draft Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042

Recommendations

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Note the content of the report;
2. Approve the draft response attached at Annex A;
3. Delegate responsibility to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, to make any minor changes to the Council's

draft response before it is formally submitted

11. **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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

12. **Delegation on Purchase of Emergency Accommodation (Pages 159 - 162)**

Purpose

To approve delegated powers in relation to the purchase of Emergency Accommodation.

Recommendations

That the Executive Resolves to:

1. Delegate authority to utilise funds of up to £3,000,000, for the purposes of purchasing emergency accommodation, to the Council's Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Social Care and the Executive Member for Finance.
2. Approve the use of Cottsway Clawback receipts of £500,000 to increase the total funds available to £3,500,000.
3. Agree that any necessary extension of this delegation will be sought following the purchase of three properties or upon reaching a total expenditure of £3,500.000.

(END)