

Re-issued 29 January 2025

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will be held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 5 February 2025 at 5.30 pm.**



Giles Hughes  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors: Andrew Beaney (Chair), Joy Aitman (Vice-Chair), Thomas Ashby, Adam Clements, Julian Cooper, Steve Cosier, Genny Early, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon, Paul Marsh, Stuart McCarroll, Michele Mead, Elizabeth Poskitt, Carl Rylett, Sandra Simpson, Ruth Smith, Alistair Wray, Liam Walker, Mark Walker and Alex Wilson

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 and Temporary Appointments**  
To receive any apologies for absence and temporary appointments.  
  
The quorum for the Committee is 6 members.
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
To receive any declarations from Members of the Committee on any items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2025.
4. **Report back on recommendations (Pages 11 - 12)**  
For the Committee to note the Executive's response to any recommendations arising from the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
5. **Chair's announcements**  
To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
6. **Participation of the Public**  
To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure, anyone who lives in the district or who pays council tax or business rates to the Council is eligible to read a statement or express an opinion at this meeting. You can register to speak by sending your written submission of no more than 750 words to [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk) by no later than 10.00am on the working day before the meeting.
7. **Update on Budget 2025 – 2026 (Pages 13 - 110)**  
Purpose:  
This report provides an update on the budget for 2025/26 following the provisional government funding settlement on 18<sup>th</sup> 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

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to recommend the following to Council for approval:

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

as shown in Annexes E-G.

And the following for noting:

- 1) Fees and charges for 2025/26, as detailed in Annex I and J.
- 2) The Parish Precepts and Tax Levels set out in Annex H.

8. **Committee Work Programme (Pages 111 - 114)**

Purpose:

To provide the Committee with an updated Work Programme for 2024/25.

Recommendation:

That the Committee notes and comments on the work programme.

9. **Executive Work Programme (Pages 115 - 124)**

Purpose:

To give the Committee the opportunity to comment on the Executive Work Programme.

Recommendation:

That the Committee agrees which items on the Executive Work Programme should be subject to pre-decision scrutiny and the priority order of those items.

10. **Matters Exempt from Publication**

If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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 Overview and Scrutiny to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 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.

The Overview and Scrutiny may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

11. **Annex J - Proposed Fees and Charges for Trade Waste (Exempt Annex) (Pages 125 - 126)**

(END)