

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

Tel: 01993 861000

e-mail: [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk)

## 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 **Thursday, 13 November 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 - 20)**  
To approve the minutes of the previous meetings, held on 15 October 2025 and 22 October 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**  
Anyone who lives, works, or studies in West Oxfordshire is eligible to ask one question at the meeting, for up to three minutes, directed at the Leader of the Council or any Executive Member on any agenda item or on any issue that affects the district or its people.  
  
All questions must be no longer than three minutes long.  
  
Members of the public wishing to speak at a meeting must notify [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk), or call Customer Services on 01993 861000 including their name and the agenda item or topic they wish to speak on, by 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).  
  
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 Leader or relevant Executive Member will either respond to a question 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 (Pages 21 - 22)**  
To consider recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
7. **Matters raised by Audit and Governance Committee**  
There has been no meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee since the last meeting of the Executive.

8. **Westhive update and consideration of future options** (Pages 23 - 32)

Purpose:

To provide an update on the progress of the Westhive scheme to date and to set out the options for future delivery.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Consider as part of the 2026/2027 budget setting process, the inclusion of a budget for 'one off' community grant funding, at £120k per year for a three year period from 2026-2029.
2. Request officers consider all feedback and platform hosting options, reporting back to Executive in December 2025.
3. Delegate the responsibility of working through the procurement of a new multi-year contract to the Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member for Stronger Healthy Communities.

9. **Council tax support 2026/27** (Pages 33 - 46)

Purpose:

To consider and recommend to Full Council the revised Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2026/2027.

Recommendation(s):

That Executive recommends to Full Council to:

1. Agree the increase to income bands from 1 April 2026 of 3.5% or the inflationary increase in welfare benefits, whichever is greater.
2. Agree that any surplus in the Hardship Fund is transferred over to 2026/2027.

10. **Private Sector Housing and Caravan Sites policy review and update.** (Pages 47 - 92)

Purpose:

To Renew the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy and Caravan Sites Policy.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Approve the Private Sector Housing Strategy as set out in Annex A and the Mobile Homes Policy as set out in Annex B.
2. Recommend to Council to approve a new Stock Conditions Survey.
3. Instruct / authorise officers to schedule the next Stock Conditions Survey once budgetary provision has been made.

11. **Local Government Reorganisation (Pages 93 - 508)**

Purpose:

To provide the full proposals for the three unitary models covering the entire existing boundary of all Oxfordshire Councils and West Berkshire Council in response to the Government's formal invitation on the 5 February 2025.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Note that since the statutory invitation to all councils in two tier areas, significant work has been undertaken by all Oxfordshire Councils and that West Oxfordshire and Cherwell District Councils' officers have engaged with officers across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.
2. Note that two other proposals will be submitted, one proposed by Oxfordshire County Council covering the Oxfordshire area and one from Oxford City Council covering the Oxfordshire and West Berkshire area.
3. Considers the views of Council at their meeting on the 12 November 2025 regarding the three unitary models.
4. Considers approving the submission of a full proposal for a two unitary model based on one new unitary council covering the entire existing boundaries of West Oxfordshire and Cherwell District Councils and Oxford City Council, with a working title of 'Oxford & Shires' and a second new unitary covering the entire existing boundaries of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils and West Berkshire Council, with the working title of 'Ridgeway'
5. Subject to approval, notes that Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council will jointly submit the full proposal directly to Government in line with the Oxfordshire invitation letter.
6. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any final amendments to the full proposal and associated documents for the 2 unitary model prior to submission to Government.

(END)