

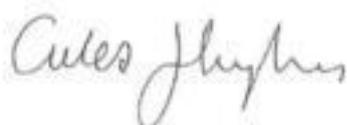
Tuesday, 17 February 2026

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COUNCIL

You are summoned to a meeting of the Council which will be held in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 25 February 2026 at 2.00 pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

Councillors: Andrew Coles (Chair), Carl Rylett (Vice-Chair), Joy Aitman, Lidia Arciszewska, Thomas Ashby, Hugo Ashton, Mike Baggaley, Andrew Beaney, Michael Brooker, Adam Clements, David Cooper, Julian Cooper, Sandra Cosier, Steve Cosier, Rachel Crouch, Jane Doughty, Genny Early, Duncan Enright, Roger Faulkner, Phil Godfrey, Andy Goodwin, Andy Graham, David Jackson, Edward James, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon, Paul Marsh, Martin McBride, Stuart McCarroll, Michele Mead, David Melvin, Rosie Pearson, Elizabeth Poskitt, Andrew Prosser, Nigel Ridpath, Geoff Saul, Sandra Simpson, Alaric Smith, Ruth Smith, Tim Sumner, Sarah Veasey, Liam Walker, Mark Walker, Adrian Walsh, Alex Wilson and Alistair Wray

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.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations from Members of Council on any items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 20)**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2026.
4. **Receipt of Announcements**
To receive any announcements from The Chair, Leader, Members of the Executive, Head of Paid Service, Director of Finance or Director of Governance.
5. **Participation of the Public**
To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's [Public Participation Rules](#).

The deadline for submission is 2.00pm, two clear working days before the meeting.

6. **Questions by Members**
The following questions have been submitted by Members of Council to Members of the Executive, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules (Constitution Part 5A, Rule 12).

Written responses will be circulated to Members and published on the Council's website at least one working day prior to the meeting. A Member submitting a question is entitled to ask one supplementary question at the meeting which must arise directly from the question or the response to it.

The supplementary questions and answers will be detailed in the minutes of the meeting.

Question 1: From Councillor Roger Faulkner to Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for Environment

I posed a question at the Council Meeting on 29th January 2025 asking, "What extra financial provision is included in the budget to meet the increased cost of rubbish collection for the inevitable increase in fly tipping following the proposed introduction of a booking system at our household disposal sites?". The response from Cllr Arciszewska was "There have been no changes to budget or potential operating costs as there is no established causal link between introduction of a booking scheme at household disposal sites and changes to fly tipping".

At the Council Meeting on 3rd December 2025 my colleague, Cllr Liam Walker asked, "There is concern amongst residents that these changes (the introduction of a booking system) could increase fly tipping.....Will there be extra resources for enforcement?"

We now have a statement issued on 4th February 2026 stating that WODC is investing in

new resources to tackle fly tipping – what has brought about this change of heart a year after it was raised? The statement confirms that environmental crime remains a growing challenge in West Oxfordshire and states, “Between January and December 2025, the Council received 1754 reports of offences, including fly tipping. It further states, “The Council is proposing to create a new post to support its Environmental Crime Officerto strengthen

These statements are extremely vague and so there are two questions that need specific answers:

1. What extra financial provision is included in the budget to meet the increased cost of rubbish collection for the inevitable increase in fly tipping following the proposed introduction of a booking system at our household disposal sites? (A repeat of the question posed on 29th January 2025.)
2. As it has been confirmed that environmental crime is a growing challenge will the Cabinet Member for the Environment provide Members with quarterly updates on the number of incidents of reported fly tipping?

7. Report of the Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the budget estimates, adequacy of the Council's reserves and risk 2026/27 (Pages 21 - 28)

Purpose

Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 places a duty on the Chief Financial Officer to make a report to the Council on the robustness of the budget estimates, the adequacy of the Council's reserves and risk.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes this report and has regard to it when making its decisions about budget and Council Tax for 2026/27.

8. Budget 2026/27 & medium term financial strategy (Pages 29 - 154)

Purpose:

To provide the proposed budget for 2026/27, whilst also seeking approval for:

1. The Draft Base Budget for 2026/27
2. The Council's Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31
3. The level of Council Tax for 2026/27
4. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026/27 to 2030/31
5. The Capital Strategy 2026/27
6. The Investment Strategy 2026/27
7. The Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27
8. The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

Recommendations:

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

1. The General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 as Summarised in Annex A.
2. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 to 2030/31 in Annex B.
3. The Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in Annex C.
4. The Council's Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex I.
5. The Council's Capital Strategy as set out in Annex J.
6. The Council's Investment Strategy as set out in Annex K.
7. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Annex L.

9. **Council tax 2026/27** (Pages 155 - 158)

Purpose

To enable West Oxfordshire District Council ('the Council') to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2026/27.

Recommendation

1. That the Council passes the resolution set out in Annex A to the report.

10. **Salt Cross Area Action Plan** (Pages 159 - 298)

Purpose

To consider the formal adoption of the Salt Cross Area Action Plan (AAP).

Recommendations

The Executive recommends that Council resolves to:

1. Accept the Inspectors' recommendations regarding the Main Modifications required to make the AAP sound as set out at Annex A and Annex B;
2. Agree the incorporation of the additional modifications as set out at Annex C;
3. Adopt the Salt Cross Area Action Plan (AAP) attached at Annex D as a development plan document, incorporating all of the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspectors at Annex A and Annex B, together with the additional modifications at Annex C, in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012;
4. Authorise the Head of Planning in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, prior to the publication of the adopted Salt Cross AAP, to correct any minor spelling, grammatical or typographical errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective including paragraph and policy numbering;
5. Note that the adoption of the Salt Cross AAP will supersede certain aspects of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 insofar as they relate to Salt Cross with immediate effect, specifically; Figure 3.2 of the AAP updates Figure 9.5e of the Local Plan, AAP Policy 16 supersedes Local Plan Policy T4 in respect of car parking standards and AAP Policy 25 supersedes Local Plan Policy H5 in respect of custom and self-build housing.

11. **Chief Executive Recruitment**

Chief Executive Recruitment – report to follow.

12. **Motions on Notice**

No motions were received by the deadline of 12pm on 16 February 2026.

(END)