

Tuesday, 3 February 2026

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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, 11 February 2026 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 7 - 14)**
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 January 2026.
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, 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**
To consider any reports or recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 February 2026.
7. **Matters raised by Audit and Governance Committee**
To consider any matters arising from the Audit and Governance Meeting on 22 January 2026.

8. **Budget 2026/27 & medium term financial strategy** (Pages 15 - 134)

Purpose:

This report provides an update on the budget for 2026/27 following the provisional government funding settlement on 17 December 2025.

To consider:

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)
5. The Capital Strategy 2026/27
6. The Investment Strategy 2026/27
7. The Treasury management Strategy 2026/27
8. The Responses from the Statutory Budget Consultation 2026/27
9. The Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Note the Parish Precepts and Tax Levels set out in Annexes G.

And resolves to recommend to Council to:

1. Approve the General Fund Revenue Budget as Summarised in Annex A.
2. Approve the Updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in Annex B.
3. Approve the Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in Annex C.
4. Approve the Council's Pay Policy Statement as set out in Annex I
5. Approve the Level of District Council Tax for 2026/27 for a Band D property of £134.38 as shown in Annexes D-G.

9. **Salt Cross Area Action Plan (AAP)** (Pages 135 - 274)

Purpose:

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

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to recommend to Council 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.

10. **Street Cleansing Vehicle Procurement (Pages 275 - 284)**

Purpose:

To seek approval to procure vehicles for the Street Cleansing service

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Approve the use of capital funding of £260,000 to procure one small (~3.5t) electric-powered vehicle-mounted road sweeper on a like-for-like basis.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environmental Services, the Executive Member for Finance, and the Director of Finance, to:
 - a. Review the sweeping re-scheduling report and assess depot capacity following a further electric vehicle trial.
 - b. Approve the use of capital funding of £235,000 - £435,000 to procure one large (~16t) vehicle-mounted road sweeper, based on the outcome of the review and trial.
 - c. Approve the use of capital funding of £15,000 to procure any necessary charging infrastructure if an electric option is selected for the larger sweeper.

11. **Investment in Public Conveniences (Pages 285 - 300)**

Purpose:

To seek funding for the renovation, redesign and repair of the Public Conveniences to be retained within the district to ensure a high-quality service for the customer.

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Allocate funding of £532,140 within the capital programme for 2026/27 to enable the delivery of Option 2 - redesign, renovation and repair of public conveniences at Langdale Gate in Witney, Guildenford and High Street in Burford, Bampton Town Hall, New Street in Chipping Norton, Hensington Road in Woodstock and Kilkenny Country Park, and to introduce cashless payment at these sites.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director – Corporate Services in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Executive Members for Finance and for Environment, to agree the detailed design and improvements and to award the contract.

12. **Long Term Council Tax Empty Property Premium Exemption of Proposed Demolition Properties (Pages 301 - 306)**

Purpose:

To consider the removal of the Long-Term Empty Property Premium for Cottsway owned properties that are due to be demolished.

Recommendations:

That the Executive resolves to:

1. Delegate responsibility to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Executive Member for Housing and Social Care to remove, where it can be shown this will expedite the delivery of new social and affordable rent homes, the Long Term Empty Property Premiums for the properties set out in the report and other properties for registered providers that meet the same criteria; and,

2. Note that any removal of the Empty Property Premium is reviewed at least every twelve months to ensure that progress on redevelopment is being made.

(END)