



WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and Date of Committee	EXECUTIVE – 11 JUNE 2025
Subject	PUBLICA BUSINESS PLAN
Wards Affected	All
Accountable Member	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council. Email: andy.graham@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable Officer	Giles Hughes – Chief Executive Officer. Email: giles.hughes@westoxon.gov.uk
Report Author	Bill Oddy – Assistant Director, Commercial Development. Email: bill.oddy@publicagroup.uk
Purpose	To consider the Draft Publica Business Plan 2025-26, produced by the Publica Board in consultation with Directors and Shareholders, and to recommend that the Leader (as Shareholder Representative) approves the plan.
Annexes	Annex A – Publica Business Plan 2025-2026
Recommendations	That the Executive resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the 2025/26 Publica Business Plan; and 2. Note that the Leader of the Council, as shareholder representative, will approve the Publica Business Plan 2025-2026 in due course.
Corporate Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting Residents First • A Better Environment for People and Wildlife • Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I.1 Publica's [Articles of Association](#) has twelve reserved matters for Shareholder Council approval, these ensure they retain the necessary control over their teckal company.
- I.2 Adopting or amending the Business Plan is one of the reserved matters. The Shareholder Councils adopted the current [2024/25 Business Plan](#) in July 2024.
- I.3 This Business Plan reflects the changes made as part of phases 1 and 2 of the Publica transition and the Government's publication of the English Devolution White Paper and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The main purpose of the revised business plan is to:
 - Continue to focus on delivering the shareholder councils' priorities and their legacies
 - Continue to deliver great, value for money services to residents and businesses on behalf of the councils
 - Provide clear messaging to our people on the priorities over the next year – post phase 2 of the Publica transition
 - Acknowledge Publica and the shareholder councils are in a 'transition period' as a result of the English Devolution White Paper (Local Government Reorganisation)
 - Make sure there is a laser-like focus on planning for the future
 - Continue to support our people and prepare them for change
 - Remain flexible to ensure that we are responsive to opportunities
- 2.2 The four priorities in the current business plan (Place, People, Planet, and Transition) have been replaced with two. This will ensure Publica is focused on delivering the councils' priorities as well as supporting the councils and our employees through the Publica transition and preparing for local authority reorganisation (LGR). The priorities in the refreshed plan are:
 - Delivering council priorities and effective core services
 - Preparing for the future
- 2.3 As part of the development of the Business Plan, the Shareholder Councils Chief Executives and the Interim Transition Programme Director have been consulted and their feedback has been incorporated.
- 2.4 Once the business plan is approved by the Shareholder Councils it will be published on the Publica website.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no additional financial implications associated with the Business Plan as the budget has already been approved.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Business Plan has to be adopted in accordance with the Shareholder Agreement for Publica.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no specific risks in adopting the Publica Business Plan.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1 Not Applicable.

7. CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY, AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Publica values will continue to help and guide us through the transition and these include being thoughtful and “Caring about the planet and the environment.”

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

(END)