

To: **Members of the Cabinet**

## ***Notice of a Meeting of the Cabinet***

**Tuesday, 28 January 2025 at 10.00 am**

**Room 2&3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND**

If you wish to view proceedings online, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).



Martin Reeves  
Chief Executive

January 2025

Committee Officer: **Chris Reynolds**

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### **Membership**

#### *Councillors*

Liz Leffman	Leader of the Council
Dr Pete Sudbury	Deputy Leader of the Council with responsibility for Climate Change, Environment & Future Generations
Tim Bearder	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Neil Fawcett	Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services
Andrew Gant	Cabinet Member for Transport Management
Kate Gregory	Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement
John Howson	Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services
Dan Levy	Cabinet Member for Finance
Dr Nathan Ley	Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety
Judy Roberts	Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Development Strategy

*The Agenda is attached. Decisions taken at the meeting  
will become effective at the end of the working day on  
unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.*

*Copies of this Notice, Agenda and supporting papers are circulated  
to all Members of the County Council.*

*Date of next meeting: 25 February 2025*

## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies for Absence

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- guidance note below

### 3. Petitions and Public Address

*Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.*

*To facilitate 'hybrid' meetings we are asking that requests to speak or present a petition are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting. Requests to speak should be sent to [committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

*If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that your views are taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.*

### 4. Report from Scrutiny Committee on the Budget and Business Planning Report (TO FOLLOW)

Cabinet will receive the Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report on Budget and Business Planning 2025/26 – 2027/28

### 5. Budget and Business Planning 2025/26 - 2027/28 (Pages 1 - 388)

*Cabinet Member: Finance*

*Forward Plan Ref: 2024/220*

*Contact: Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy*

*Kathy.wilcox@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

Report by Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

1. In relation to the Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Section 4);

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**

- a) approve the Review of Charges for 2025/26 and in relation to the Registration Service, charges for 2026/27 (Annex A);

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- b) approve the changes to High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding and the deficit for 2025/26 (paragraph 152 and Table 15);
- c) receive any recommendations and observations from Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- d) approve the Financial Strategy for 2025/26 (Section 4.5);
- e) approve the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2025/26 (Section 4.6); and the creation of a new reserve to hold grant funding related to Extended Producer Responsibilities;
- f) approve the use of retained business rates from EZ1 Science Vale Growth Accelerator and EZ2 Didcot Growth Accelerator as set out in paragraph 159 and Annex B;
- g) note that following any funding changes as a result of the final Local Government Finance Settlement and information from the district and city councils in relation to business rates or council tax will be managed as set out in Paragraph 9; and
- h) delegate to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance, the authority to make any appropriate changes to the proposed budget not covered by Paragraph 9.

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to RECOMMEND Council:**

- i) approve a Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2027/28 as set out in Section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Section 4.2);
- j) agree the council tax and precept calculations for 2025/26 set out in Section 4.3 and in particular:
  - (i) a precept of £533,328,633;
  - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,911.40.
- k) approve a revenue budget for 2025/26 as set out in Section 4.4

2. In relation to the Capital and Investment Strategy and Capital Programme (Section 5);

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to recommend Council to:**

- l) approve the Capital and Investment Strategy for 2025/26 - 2035/36 (Section 4.1) including;
  - (i) the Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement (Section 5.1 Annex 1);
  - (ii) the Prudential Indicators (Section 5.1 Annex 2) and
- m) approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/26 (Section 5.2); and
  - (i) continue to delegate the authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer;
  - (ii) approve that any further changes required to the 2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer in

- consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;
- (iii) approve the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators; and
  - (iv) approve the Specified Investment and Non - Specified Investment instruments as set out in Section 5.2.
- n) approve the new capital proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme and proposed pipeline schemes (Section 5.3)
- o) approve the capital programme (Section 5.4).

## **Councillors declaring interests**

### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

### **Members Code – Other registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships

- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

### **Members Code – Non-registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.