



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Friday, 27 August 2021

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## **CABINET**

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester on **Monday, 6 September 2021 at 6.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet  
(Councillor Joe Harris (Leader), Rachel Coxcoon, Tony Dale, Andrew Doherty, Mike Evemy, Jenny Forde, Joe Harris, Juliet Layton and Lisa Spivey)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 12)**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 July 2021.
4. **Chair's Announcements (if any)**
5. **Council, Priority and Service Performance Report - 2021/22 - Quarter One (Pages 13 - 98)**  
Purpose  
To provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance.  
To provide information on the Council's financial position  
  
Recommendations
  - a) review overall progress on the Council priorities, service delivery and financial performance for 2021-22 Q1; and
  - b) approve the proposed changes to the performance indicator set.
6. **Ombudsman Decision - Reference 20 008 553 & Council Tax Section 13A Policy (Pages 99 - 124)**  
Purpose  
This report updates Cabinet of the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) report in compliance with the Council's statutory duties under Section 31(2) of the Local Government Act 1974 and outlines proposals to introduce a Council Tax Section 13A Policy to support the Council in making decisions when considering such applications from Council Tax payers in the District.  
  
Recommendations  
That Cabinet:
  1. Notes and acknowledges the important role of the Ombudsman in scrutinising and reviewing the actions of local authorities, together with the legally binding nature of the findings made against the Council;
  2. Endorses the actions already taken, namely:
    - a) a written apology to the complainant sent on 23 August 2021 with payment on 26 August 2021 as recompense of £300 for "distress and uncertainty";
    - b) reconsideration of the complainant's request to write-off his arrears in line with the Council's Revenues and Housing Support Services Recovery Policy (2019);
    - c) training and guidance provided to the relevant Revenues & Benefits staff ensuring they provide residents of any opportunities to apply for benefits, discounts or

relief in line with the relevant policies; and;

- d) guidance to staff reiterating the need to provide clear information to Council Tax payers regarding payment plans from the outset, including how or when they will end, details of any review and warning of any further recovery action.
3. Approve the Draft Council Tax Section 13A Policy
  4. Endorses a written invitation to the complainant to apply for discretionary relief, subject to approval of the Section 13A Policy at annex B.

The recommendations in paragraphs 2 a) to d), 3 and 4 form the Council's formal response to the Ombudsman's recommendations under section 31 of the Local Government Act 1974, and that the ombudsman be notified of the actions that the Council has taken.