



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Friday, 28 October 2022
Reissued Tuesday, 1 November 2022

Tel: 01285 623181/623208
e-mail - democratic@cotswold.gov.uk

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held at CDC Trinity Road, Cirencester GL7 1PX on
Monday, 7 November 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet
(Councillors: Rachel Coxcoon, Tony Dale, Andrew Doherty, Mike Every, 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 7 - 10)**
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 October 2022.
4. **Chair's Announcements**
5. **Public Questions**
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than two minutes each and relate issues within the Cabinet's remit.
6. **Member Questions**
To deal with written questions by Members, relating to issues within the Cabinet's remit, with the maximum length of oral supplementary questions at Cabinet being no longer than one minute. Responses to any supplementary questions will be dealt with in writing if they cannot be dealt with at the meeting.
7. **Council Tax Support Scheme (Pages 11 - 22)**
Purpose
To present the results of the public consultation on proposals for revising the current Council Tax Support scheme with effect from 1 April 2023

Recommendation
That Cabinet resolves to:
 - a) Recommend to Council to approve the increase to income bands as detailed within paragraph 2.8 and Annex B of this report from 1 April 2023.
8. **Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy approval (Pages 23 - 42)**
Purpose
To present Cabinet with an updated Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy for approval.

The Policy has been reviewed to ensure the content reflects current legislation and the Council's Policies and Procedures. The Policy will replace the existing Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy.

Recommendations
That Cabinet resolves to:
 - a) Approve and adopt the Policy attached to this report and;
 - b) Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to approve future minor amendments to the Policy in consultation with the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit, Legal Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance

9. **Long Term Council Tax Empty Premium Exemption on Proposed Demolition Properties**
(Pages 43 - 48)

Purpose

For Cabinet to consider the removal of the Long Term Empty Premium on individual Bromford properties that have been or are pending demolition.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

- a) Approve the removal of the four Long Term Empty Premiums on properties in Cross Tree Crescent, Kempsford until 1 April 2023;
- b) Approve the removal of the four Long Term Empty Premiums on properties in Stockwells, Moreton in Marsh;
- c) Approve the removal of the three Long Term Empty Premiums on properties in Berkeley Close, South Cerney for a 12 month period; and,
- d) Delegate authority to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the suspension of further Long Term Empty Premiums being applied on the sites as detailed in paragraph 2.9 of this report.

10a **Recovery Investment Strategy**

49 - 54

Purpose

To rescind the Recovery Investment Strategy.

Recommendation

That Cabinet recommends to Council to:

- a) *Rescind the Recovery Investment Strategy for the reasons as set out in this report.*

10b **Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

55 - 80

Purpose

To present to Cabinet for approval the Council's draft budget proposals for 2023/24 together with a refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) forecasts. These proposals will form the basis of public consultation starting in November 2022.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

- (a) Approve the draft 2023/24 revenue budget for consultation.
- (b) Note the potential use of general fund and earmarked reserves to balance the budget for 2023/24

11. **Rural England Prosperity Fund (Pages 81 - 86)**

Purpose

To inform Cabinet of the Council's indicative allocation of funding under the Rural England Prosperity Fund, to seek in principle approval of the overall approach to use of that funding and to seek delegated authority to finalise the submission to Government which is due by 30th November.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

- a) Note the Council's indicative allocation of £764,292 from the Government's Rural

- Prosperity Fund;
- b) Approve the proposed approach to the use of the fund set out in Section 4 of this report;
- c) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the submission to Government in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation.

12. **Response to warm places motion and funding to support cost of living crisis (Pages 87 - 94)**

Purpose:

To set out how the Council is responding to the Cost of Living and Warm Places Motions and to make recommendations for funding allocations for specific initiatives.

Council on 21 September 2022 resolved to refer the following motion to the November Cabinet to feed into the key objectives and requirements of the wider Cost Of Living Working Group that will report to the November Council meeting:

Motion on providing warm places for people struggling to heat their homes during the day. Proposed by Cllr Blomefield; seconded by Cllr Jepson:

We are all keenly aware that many people and especially those who are elderly pensioners, disabled or in some way vulnerable will find it challenging to keep their homes sufficiently warm during the day as well as at night this winter due to the soaring costs of energy.

Some of the councils around the country are already making contingency plans to open 'public warm spaces' where those in most need can go during the day safe in the knowledge that they will be warm and cared for.

Many of the parish halls, church rooms and other community buildings such as libraries, leisure centres and museums in the Cotswolds including CDC's offices could be used in the same way by enlisting the support of parish and town councils, faith organisations, community and the voluntary sector to organise this. They would also be able to offer warm drinks or soup as well as advice on how to obtain help with energy related problems.

We suggest this would provide wonderful humanitarian support for some of the most vulnerable in our communities and recommend a simple process is agreed to fund this vitally needed help by identifying available grants to enable financial assistance to organisations prepared to get involved.

We ask that the agreement at the last Full Council for a cross party working group to be set up should be done urgently to implement 'public warm places' and also to look at other ways to help our Cotswold residents most negatively impacted by unaffordable heating and living costs.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet resolves to:

- a) Note the response to the Cost of Living and Warm Places Motion detailed in this report and,
- b) Recommend to Council to agree to allocate match funding of £20,000 for the Council Tax Hardship Fund from the balance of the Covid-19 Hardship Fund earmarked reserve, and,
- c) Recommend to Council to agree to allocate £40,000 from the Council Priorities Fund towards establishing a Food Network.

13. **Schedule of Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or Individual Cabinet Members (Pages 95 - 96)**

Purpose:

To note the decisions taken by Individual Cabinet Members.

14. **Issue(s) Arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit**

Purpose:

To consider any issues or recommendations arising from meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or the Audit Committee.

15. **Delivery of carbon zero affordable homes through a collaboration agreement with Bromford Housing Association and the transfer of land at Broadleaze, Down Ampney (Pages 97 - 104)**

Purpose

To seek agreement to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Bromford Housing Association to facilitate the delivery of carbon zero affordable homes on land at Broadleaze, Down Ampney and other future sites and to agree to the transfer of the above land for development within the terms of the Collaboration Agreement.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

- (a) Enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Bromford Housing Association to deliver carbon zero affordable homes, based on the delivery, management and ownership terms set out in the Agreement.
- (b) Delegate authority for the final negotiation on the terms of the Collaboration Agreement and any subsequent variations to it, to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.
- (c) Agree to proceed, subject to planning permission being granted, with the development of the site at Broadleaze, Down Ampney in partnership with Bromford Housing Association to deliver carbon zero affordable homes.
- (d) Agree, based on indicative costs, to fund the gap in funding and to delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to agree the final contribution, based on funding within the MTFS and capital receipt from the Sale of the Cotswold Club.
- (e) Enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Bromford Housing Association to enable them to submit a planning application including land at this site that is in both the Council's ownership (vacant plot) and Bromford's ownership (adjacent garages).
- (f) Allocate a further £10,000 for legal costs in the completion of the legal agreements.
- (g) Agree to transfer the land at Broadleaze, Down Ampney to Bromford Housing Association once planning permission has been granted, a Collaboration Agreement signed and financial terms for the development agreed.

16. **Matters exempt from publication**

If Cabinet wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for Cabinet to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

17. **Exempt Annexes for Item 15: Delivery of carbon zero affordable homes through a collaboration agreement with Bromford Housing Association and the transfer of land at Broadleaze, Down Ampney (Pages 105 - 132)**

(END)