



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tuesday, 12 July 2022

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held at Council Chamber - Trinity Road on **Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 6.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

(Councillors Stephen Andrews, Tony Berry, Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Rachel Coxcoon, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Andrew Doherty, Mike Evemy, Jenny Forde, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Stephen Hirst, Robin Hughes, Roly Hughes, Nikki Ind, Sue Jepson, Julia Judd, Richard Keeling, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Nick Maunder, Richard Morgan, Dilys Neill, Richard Norris, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Ray Theodoulou, Steve Trotter and Clive Webster)

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 - 28)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 25th May 2022 and the minutes of the Annual Council held on 25th May 2022.
4. **Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive (if any)**
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 to issues under the Council's or Committee's remit. Any member of the public wishing to ask a public question is requested to contact Democratic Services by no later than 5.00pm the working day before the meeting.
6. **Member Questions**
The following questions have been submitted:

Question from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling:

Regular exposure to even small amounts of pesticides has the potential to harm human health, with children and pregnant people being particularly at risk. These chemicals can also have negative impacts on the wellbeing of our pets, and on biodiversity, affecting plants and wildlife. Can the Cabinet Member confirm the level and scope of the use of pesticides by CDC and its contractors?

Question from Councillor David Cunningham to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

At the last Council meeting, members were told that this administration was 'somewhat involved' in the delivery of 114 affordable homes in the District in 2020/21. Can the Cabinet member please clarify what that phrase means in practical terms and confirm what percentage of overall homes built or approved in the same period across the District, does that number of 114 represent?

Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

CDC have plans to borrow £75million and invest it to cover a possible shortfall in Government funding and yet this wasn't in the budget consultation and there is little

information available regarding what this is to be used for or how it is to be paid for.

Given your principle of 'openness and transparency', please could you give me that information and tell me when you will be publishing these details?

From Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

When and why was the decision made to reserve specific parking places for Cabinet Members and how does this fit into the egalitarian principles vaunted by this administration?

From Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

Questions and initial answers from members are currently invisible to members of the public following Council Meetings on social media. Why do we not briefly summarise these before asking the supplementary question (if required)?

From Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:

The Council's Recovery Investment Strategy is to borrow over £75m for projects to include £1.8m on housing, £49.7m on Green Energy Investments and £25m on Economic Development and Asset Utilisation. These projects align with and arguably mirror the ambitions of the Government's Levelling-Up Fund. We are only a small District Council, surely officer's time would be better spent preparing quality bids for the Levelling-up fund and using that money, rather than borrowing huge amounts which will place extra burdens on the residents of the Cotswolds and place this council at financial risk?

From Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services:

At the December 2021 meeting, Council voted unanimously to install an e-Petition link to be activated on the Council's website front page. Five months have now passed, why has this not yet happened?

7. **Recovery Investment Strategy (Pages 29 - 76)**

Purpose

To refresh the Recovery Investment Strategy framework within which the Council can invest in the infrastructure of the Cotswold District that delivers on the Council's Priorities.

Recommendation(s)

That Council approves the Strategy attached at Annex B.

8. **Additions to the Constitution: a) Budget Council Protocol and b) Social Media Guidance for Members (Pages 77 - 98)**

Purpose

To update Council on the work and recommendations of the Constitution Working Group who have been modernising the Constitution.

Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Adopts the Budget Council Protocol for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.
2. Adopts the Members' Social Media Policy, as an annex to the existing Elected Members' Code of Conduct, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

9. **Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer (Pages 99 - 102)**

Purpose

To recommend to Council, the appointment of David Stanley as the permanent Deputy Chief Executive Officer (s151) for Cotswold District Council

To recommend to Council, the appointment of Jo Moore as the Interim Deputy Chief Executive Officer (s151) for Cotswold District Council pending David Stanley commencing employment.

Recommendation(s)

The Appointment Panel **RECOMMEND** that Council:

1. Approves the appointment of David Stanley as Deputy Chief Executive Officer (s151) for Cotswold District Council.
2. Notes that the provisional offer of employment has been made, subject to two references, medical clearance and eligibility check in accordance with the Council's policies.
3. Agrees that the appointment commences on a date to be mutually agreed.
4. Agrees that the salary to be offered is £86,275 per annum.
5. Confirms that the appointment will be subject to a 6 month probation period.
6. Agrees to appoint Jo Moore as Interim DCE & Section 151 Officer until David Stanley commences employment.
7. Agrees that £35,000 is earmarked from the Council Priorities Fund to meet the costs associated with the Interim Deputy Chief Executive post.

10. **Notice of Motions**

Motion proposed by Councillor Gina Blomefield, Seconded by Councillor Tony Berry:

Debate not Hate

An LGA survey revealed that seven out of ten councillors at all levels have experienced abuse over the last year. These attitudes, having started on social media, have now become normalised and morphed into the real world - it needs calling out.

Most Councillors, at any level of operation do it in order to make a positive contribution to their local society and 'make a difference' – regardless of any political affiliation they believe what they might be suggesting will be of benefit to the residents. It is therefore totally wrong to be either rude or abusive in response to such proposals.

By setting an example to ensure all councillors get better recognition and appreciation as well as protecting them from personal attacks will encourage more people to play their part in local government including at Town and Parish Council level. It is important to have polite yet robust debate, ideally with a free vote at the conclusion.

I would like to introduce a Motion of Debate not Hate at CDC and throughout the Town and Parish Councils in the Cotswold District to remind everyone that whilst democracy thrives on good, frank discussions these should never turn into personal abuse.

Motion proposed by Councillor Joe Harris Seconded by Councillor Nikki Ind:

Cost of Living

This Council notes that:

Inflation is predicted to top 10% this year, the highest in 40 years.

The tax burden is the highest today since World War Two and that the Government has consistently increased the direct and indirect tax burden on families.

The increased energy price cap will see the average standard tariff energy bill increase by £693 per year and the average prepay meter energy bill increase by £708 per year.

The Government's suspension of the pensions triple lock for 22/23 will cost the pensioners in the Cotswolds on the full new state pension an average of £487 and those on the full basic state pension an average of £373.

This Government ended the uplift in Universal Credit and that changes to the taper will not compensate for the reduction in income of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society.

This Council also notes that:

An estimated 11 million people in the UK live in food poverty, with the cost of living crisis predicted to greatly exacerbate this problem. Those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit by inflation, the lifting of the energy price cap and increased taxation.

This Council believes that:

No one should go hungry in the Cotswolds.

The cost of living crisis will increase the levels of food poverty and malnutrition in the Cotswolds.

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:

Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household a further £600 this year.

Immediately use revenue from the windfall tax on energy companies to help Gloucestershire families with their energy bills.

Enshrine the right to food in law.

Council resolves to:

Set up a cross party working group which will report back to full council, in advance of the budget setting process, with steps the council could take to help address the cost of living crisis.

11. **Next meeting**

The next meeting of Full Council will be Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 6pm.

(END)