

# Public Document Pack

Council  
22/November2023



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023

### Councillors present:

Nikki Ind - Chair	Mark Harris – Vice Chair	
Gina Blomefield	Dilys Neill	Paul Hodgkinson
Claire Bloomer	Nigel Robbins	Jeremy Theyer
Ray Brassington	Gary Selwyn	Clare Turner
Patrick Coleman	Lisa Spivey	Chris Twells
Tony Dale	Tom Stowe	Michael Vann
Mike Evemy	David Fowles	Jon Wareing
Joe Harris	Mike McKeown	Ian Watson
Roly Hughes	Angus Jenkinson	Len Wilkins
Julia Judd	Daryl Corps	David Cunningham
Juliet Layton	Tony Slater	

### Officers present:

Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Ana Prelici, Democratic Services Officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive

## **69** Apologies

There were apologies received from Councillor Helene Mansilla.

## **70** Declarations of Interest

The Chair announced that a number of officers present employed by the Publica Group had a discloseable pecuniary interest and would leave the room before the start of Agenda Item 9.

There were no other declarations from Members or Officers present.

## **71** Minutes

The minutes of Full Council on 20 September 2023 were considered as presented in the pack.

The Chair opened this item by highlighting that there were some errors with the voting records which had been subsequently corrected by Democratic Services in the online version of the minutes before the meeting.

Councillor Stowe tabled the following correction:

Minute Item 60 (Page 11): It was highlighted that the figure of 2000 electors per Member should read 2600 electors per Member.

Councillor Fowles proposed to confirm the minutes and Councillor Neill seconded.

RESOLVED: That subject to the corrections being made, the minutes of the meeting on 20 September 2023 be approved as a true record

**Voting Record – 30 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote**

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson		Jon Wareing	Helene Mansilla
Chris Twells			Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evely			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

\*As there was a vacancy in the Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South Ward, the total number of Councillors was 33.

## **72      Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive**

The Chair began by noting the number of events represented such as the Cotswold Active Mr Motivator Live Event, and thanked officers for their work in delivering this important work for improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

The Chair also noted the important community engagements attended in the capacity as Chair of Council which included the Cirencester Community Awards and the Service of Remembrance in Tetbury.

The Chair also noted upcoming events such as the Cotswold Network Community Christmas event in the Bingham Hall in Cirencester which brought a number of local organisations together to offer support to residents.

The Chair took the opportunity to wish all Councillors and residents a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year as this was the last Full Council of 2023.

The Chair then invited Councillor Joe Harris as Leader of the Council to make any announcements.

The Leader firstly wished to pay tribute to Councillor Clare Muir who had stood down from the Council on 7 November for personal reasons. The Leader wished to recognise the work that they had done which included being the Armed Forces Champion for the Council.

The Leader also wished to put on record thanks to Jan Britton as the Managing Director of Publica, who was leaving his role at Christmas. The Leader noted the work in delivering steady leadership of Publica and his work with Council leadership during a challenging period.

It was also announced that the Council had been offered a portrait of King Charles III which had been accepted by the Chief Executive which would be placed in the Chamber along with the three winners of the Council's recent photo competition. The Leader also took the opportunity to wish King a happy 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Leader also wished to pay tribute to Corinne Lamus from the Cirencester Community Development Trust who had passed away and for the legacy of their work in the community and the surrounding areas.

There was also an announcement on the Autumn Statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that this would be monitored particularly in relation to planning regulations around second homes which was highlighted as a problem in the District.

The Chief Executive was then invited to make any announcements.

The Chief Executive wished to highlight the importance of Councillors engaging with residents to encourage participation in the Council's online Budget Consultation which would help to shape the Council's decisions ahead of the Budget in February 2024.

There was also an announcement regarding the submission of the Stow-on-the-Wold and the Swells Neighbourhood Development Plan being subject to consultation until 5 January 2024 before being reviewed by the Independent Examiner.

### **73 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

### **74 Member Questions**

Member Questions and supplementary responses can be found within the attached document.

### **75 Amendments to the Constitution**

The purpose of the report was to consider proposals from the Constitution Working Group for amendments to the Constitution to:

1. Update the Council Budget Protocol
2. Remove references to the now rescinded Recovery Investment Strategy from the constitution.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris was then invited to introduce this report as the Accountable Member.

In proposing the recommendations, it was noted that the changes were largely administrative in order to reflect the new political composition and the effect of the decisions of Cabinet and Full Council to rescind the Recovery Investment Strategy in 2022.

Councillor David Fowles then seconded the recommendations as a member of the Constitution Working Group and noted the important work the group continues to provide in updating the Constitution of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Council AGREED to:

1. AUTHORISE the Deputy Chief Executive to update the Council Budget Protocol [Part G, Appendix D] to reflect the change in political composition following the District Council elections in May 2023.
2. AUTHORISE the Deputy Chief Executive to remove references to the now rescinded Recovery Investment Strategy from the Council's constitution.

**Voting Record – 31 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote**

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson			Helene Mansilla
Chris Twells			Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			

Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evely			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

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## **76 Programme of Meetings 2024/25**

The purpose of the report was to set a programme of Council and Committee meetings for 2024/25.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris introduced this item to Full Council as the proposer of the recommendations.

It was outlined that the Programme of Meetings would never be ideal for all councillor preferences, but that the programme would be a compromise for all.

The Leader noted that previously the Council like Gloucestershire County Council had held morning meetings but that this was not seen as best practice.

It was noted that many Members have employment and childcare commitments which evening meetings suit better.

The Leader in proposing this item also proposed the following amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group to the recommendations:

*5. Agree that, subject to any alternative proposals Council considers and agrees, meeting start times will be rolled forwards from 2023/24, meeting start times as shown in Section 4.1 of the report except for meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees which will start at 4pm.*

*6. Change the start time for meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee to 4pm with effect from their meetings in January 2024*

Upon doing so, Councillor Twells raised a Point of Order in regards to the proposing of the original recommendations and the amended recommendations at the same time. The Director of Governance ruled that the original recommendations of the report should be proposed and then followed by amendments in the order as received. It was also confirmed that the Conservative amendment to this item had been received first, and would need to be considered first.

The Deputy Leader in seconding the original recommendations, welcomed the efforts by officers to avoid meetings falling on Gloucestershire school holiday dates where possible for those with families who wish to be on holiday.

Councillor Stowe then proposed an amendment to the motion which struck out recommendation 1 and 5 of the report and inserted the following replacement recommendation:

- 1. Instruct Officers to revise Annex A and B with new meeting times so that no meeting time agreed by Full Council starts after 3pm and request that this revised programme of meetings be returned to January Full Council for approval.*

The following points were then raised by Councillor Stowe:

- It was outlined that some Members with employment and family commitments may not be able to make meetings starting later in the day. It was also noted that there were concerns with evening meetings in being able to attend Town and Parish Councils.
- It was outlined that the proceedings of meetings were webcasted which means that residents could tune into meetings later in the day.
- It was also noted that the work of officers to attend meetings outside of normal working hours needed to be considered.

Councillor Twells formally seconded the amendment and reserved his right to speak.

There were various comments around the organisation of meetings in the day, and the impact on participation opportunities for residents.

It was outlined by Members that compromise was important and that individuals would have different needs depending on their circumstances.

There were various points made about the attendance at Town and Parish Council meetings as well as District meetings.

It was noted that the travel required for meetings from some parts of the District needed to be taken into consideration.

There were comments made around officers using flexible working where needed in order to meet out-of-hours commitments to serve the Council.

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Councillor Twells in seconding the amendment felt that a 3pm start would be reasonable compromise for Members and Officers, and hoped that the debate would avoid any debates between different groups of people.

The amendment from Councillor Stowe and seconded by Councillor Twells was then put to a vote.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

1. Instruct Officers to revise Annex A and B with new meeting times so that no meeting time agreed by Full Council starts after 3pm and request that this revised programme of meetings be returned to January Full Council for approval.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Leaders, to make changes to the programme of meetings in the event that there is any future decision of Council to change the committee structure or committee remits that impacts the programme of meetings.
3. Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Business Manager to set the meeting dates for the Performance and Appointments Committee.
4. Delegate Authority to the Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) to set dates for member training and briefing sessions, any working groups established by the Council and any meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Matters) and the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee (if required).

**Voting Record: 10 For, 19 Against, 2 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote**

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Chris Twells	Angus Jenkinson	Dilys Neill	Helene Mansilla
Daryl Corps	Claire Bloomer	Nigel Robbins	Andrew Maclean
David Cunningham	Clare Turner		
David Fowles	Gary Selwyn		
Gina Blomefield	Ian Watson		
Jeremy Theyer	Joe Harris		
Julia Judd	Jon Wareing		
Len Wilkins	Juliet Layton		
Tom Stowe	Lisa Spivey		
Tony Slater	Mark Harris		
	Michael Vann		
	Mike Every		
	Mike McKeown		
	Nikki Ind		
	Patrick Coleman		
	Paul Hodgkinson		
	Ray Brassington		
	Roly Hughes		
	Tony Dale		

\*As there was a vacancy in the Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South Ward, the total number of Councillors was 33.

The amendment was lost.

Before the Liberal Democrat Group amendment was put to a vote, Councillor Every as the seconder noted in addition that the proposed amendment to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee timings from January onwards would be a good compromise for those Members with other commitments.

The revised amended motion from the Liberal Democrat Group proposed by Councillor Joe Harris and seconded by Councillor Mike Every was then put to a vote.

**Voting Record: 28 For, 3 Against, 0 Abstentions, 2 Absent/Did not vote**

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	Chris Twells		Helene Mansilla
Claire Bloomer	David Cunningham		Andrew Maclean
Clare Turner	Len Wilkins		
Daryl Corps			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Every			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

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## **77 Publica Review Report**

The purpose of the report was to consider the Human Engine Consultants report and to approve the recommendations therein.

The Chair then asked those Publica officers who felt that they should leave the room to do so before Members discussed the item.

The Leader introduced the report and outlined the following points:

- It was highlighted that this report has been seen by Cabinet, an private all-member briefing, a Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- It was highlighted that in 2017, Publica as a company was set up by Cotswold District Council alongside Cheltenham Borough Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and the Forest of Dean District Council to share services and staff.
- It was outlined that savings were made with staff rationalisation, and future pension liabilities regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
- It was highlighted that a Peer Review was undertaken in 2022 and provided recommendations regarding how the problems identified with the Publica service delivery model.
- It was highlighted that following the commissioning of a review conducted by Human Engine, it was recommended that the majority of services should be returned to the Council.
- It was outlined that the present structure made changes to services difficult because of the shared ownership model and the governance structures within Publica.
- The financial challenges for the Council were highlighted as a point to re-think how to deliver services efficiently and with less resources.
- It was outlined that that the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee around the detail of the transition plan, whilst not fully detailed at this point, would be finalised in due course. It was also noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be involved in the process.
- The Leader made it clear that the welfare of staff needed to be at the forefront of the work, and also stated that the proposal was not a commentary on the performance of staff. However, it was felt that the staff were being let down by the structures of Publica.

Councillor Blomefield then proposed the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations outlined in the supplementary document pack.

Recommend to Council that recommendation I in the report is amended to read:

*‘Approve the recommendations set out in the Human Engine report (that the majority of services are returned to the Council as per the detail provided on page 12 of the Human Engine report), subject to the completion of due diligence and the agreement of the detailed transition plan’.*

Councillor Blomefield then made it clear that the proposal did come with some risks, and would need a thorough and proper process for implementation.

Councillor Slater in seconding the amendment noted that the costs could be substantial and that a checkpoint in the transition process was required in order to ensure it was not a blank cheque.

There were comments made regarding how this review was likely as the contracts for services were due to expire in 2024.

There was a question in regards to how coordinated the process was with the other councils in respect of decisions made. The Leader explained that the Council was sovereign over its own decisions, although the shared model would mean that the decisions of other councils would need to be accounted for. It was affirmed that the majority of the partners involved comfortable with the overall direction proposed.

There were comments made around the level detail within the Human Engine report, and how any swift reaction could have significant implications.

Councillor Every in seconding the original motion made the following points:

- It was explained that the period was uncertain for all staff involved and any delay as proposed may exacerbate this point.
- It was noted that the decisions being taken in the public sector were different to that of the private sector and would need to open and transparent as a local authority.
- It was outlined that the financial implications are being examined, but that the notion of a blank cheque was incorrect.
- It was noted that no other council operates or has bought into a shared service model like Publica for the majority of services.
- It was outlined that the savings proposed of £2 million over 3 years by Publica across all of the partners would be needed but would not be sufficient.

It was noted by a number of Members that there would be a degree of uncertainty with this process, but it was felt by some Members that this change would be for the benefit of the Council.

Councillor Judd wished to ask on the record the terms which Human Engine have been employed upon and if there were any guarantees given to use them for the next stages as this would affect the decision on this item. The Chief Executive confirmed that any transition process decisions would be for the partner councils to decide, and there was no undertaking given for Human Engine to be employed. Councillor Judd also wished to note for the record that any future employment of Human Engine for work would need to be examined carefully for any conflict of interests.

It was noted by some Members against the amendment that the decision needed to be taken sooner to provide certainty against a difficult financial situation.

There were comments made that the recommendations without the amendment would commit the Council to the process without a firm commitment to oversight by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was highlighted that the process for transitioning services would be complex and would require careful management with the expertise of officers.

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Councillor Joe Harris as the Cabinet Member with the right to reply made the following points;

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recognised as an important part of the process, and had a through debate during its Special Meeting on 16 November 2023. However, it was noted that there was a difference of opinion at the meeting.
- It was recognised that the process would take time but that the information would become clear when the transition work is commenced as this decisions relates to individual circumstances.
- It was outlined that the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a delay to the decision could cause uncertainty for those affected.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Blomefield and seconded by Councillor Slater was then put to a vote.

### Voting Record

**11 For, 17 Against, 2 Abstentions, 3 Absent/Did Not Vote**

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Chris Twells	Claire Bloomer	Angus Jenkinson	Helene Mansilla
Daryl Corps	Dilys Neill	Clare Turner	Andrew Maclean
David Cunningham	Gary Selwyn		Ray Brassington
David Fowles	Ian Watson		
Gina Blomefield	Joe Harris		
Jeremy Theyer	Jon Wareing		
Julia Judd	Juliet Layton		
Len Wilkins	Lisa Spivey		
Nikki Ind	Mark Harris		
Tom Stowe	Michael Vann		
Tony Slater	Mike Every		
	Mike McKeown		
	Nigel Robbins		
	Patrick Coleman		
	Paul Hodgkinson		
	Roly Hughes		
	Tony Dale		

\*As there was a vacancy in the Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South Ward, the total number of Councillors was 33.

The amendment to the motion had therefore fallen and the Chair then returned the debate to the original motion.

It was noted by some Members present during Publica's creation that staff levels had been reduced at that time, and there were concerns with the governance arrangements.

It was highlighted that there was an opportunity in returning staff to Council direct employment to recognise the hard work of staff and to explore improvements to the workplace environment and moral.

There was a question to the Chief Executive around the proposals and the view that there was no opportunity to change direction if new facts emerged. It was also asked if it could be confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Council would be consulted at strategic points. The Chief Executive confirmed a commitment to work with Members of all parties, and that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be involved in this process. It was outlined that this was an important process and needed to be right.

It was noted that transition support would be needed across the partner councils with a total cost of £236,000 and the individual share to the Council would be £78,000 over an 18 month period.

It was noted that the Financial Performance Reports on a quarterly basis would be an important opportunity for monitoring the implications of the process.

There was a question around the share of the costs of the transition support arrangements across all four Publica partner councils. Councillor Every noted that Cheltenham Borough Council only had a few select services within the Publica partnership and was not undergoing as transformative a change as the other three partner councils. The Chief Executive noted that Cheltenham Borough Council would be supporting the transition arrangements such as Legal and HR support, but the other transitions are not relevant to their councils and they were not bearing these costs.

It was noted by Members that the focus should be on providing the best services to residents.

**RESOLVED:** That Full Council:

1. **APPROVED** the recommendations set out in the Human Engine report (that the majority of services are returned to the Council as per the detail provided on page 12 of the Human Engine report)
2. **AGREED** to instruct the Chief Executive to oversee the creation of a detailed transition plan for subsequent agreement by Cabinet and Council
3. **ENDORSED** the approach to the further due diligence outlined in the financial implications of the report including analysis of the detailed payroll data required, which will be essential to calculate the short and long-term costs associated with the recommendations set out in the Human Engine report.

### **Voting Record**

**24 For, 4 Against, 3 Abstentions, 2 Absent/Did Not Vote**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstention</b>	<b>Absent/Did not vote</b>
Angus Jenkinson	David Cunningham	David Fowles	Helene Mansilla
Chris Twells	Julia Judd	Jeremy Theyer	Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer	Len Wilkins	Tom Stowe	
Clare Turner	Tony Slater		
Daryl Corps			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			

Gina Blomefield			
Ian Watson			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Juliet Layton			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Every			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tony Dale			

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Following the vote, a short break in proceedings was taken.

## **78** Notice of Motions

Following the return to session and the return of officers who had left the room, the Chair then moved to the motion on the agenda.

### Motion A: Council Finances

The Chair invited the proposer of the motion, Councillor Every to introduce it.

Councillor Every in proposing the motion to Council, made the following points:

- It was noted that contrary to some commentary given, the Council was not close to bankruptcy but that there were financial challenges which needed to be faced as outlined in the Council's Budget Consultation.
- It was highlighted that 8 Councils had issued a Section 114 notice since 2018 which included Birmingham City Council which had lost control of its finances. It was noted that Councils nationally faced this challenge and that many Councils have indicated they may also face a S.114 notice.
- It was noted that the financial pressures had forced the Council to use of £1.3 million of the finite reserves available to balance the 2023/24 budget and that it was currently projected a further £860,000 would be required to balance the 2024/25 budget.
- It was noted that an increase of central government funding of 3% was outweighed against the backdrop of high inflation, and the upcoming Fairer Funding Review which is projected to result in a loss of £3 million of funding.

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- The request of the motion for multi-year settlements was outlined as key for planning the finances of the future, alongside a request to increase funding to maintain the current services provided by Councils.
- It was noted that the request regarding the Fairer Funding Review was also important to protect District Councils and the services provided.

Councillor Dale as seconder reserved the right to speak until later in the debate.

Councillor Stowe was then invited to introduce amendment tabled to the Motion which was as follows:

(Amendment in red inserted before point 1 of the original Motion tabled)

Recognise the importance of financial prudence in delivering a balanced budget. Noting that any further funding from Government can only be paid for by the taxpayer nationally, it is important that this Council gets its "Own House In Order" before requesting further funding. Council therefore instructs officers to implement the following 7-point plan, which as a package will generate significant savings and cash-flow with no impact on service provision:-

2 year freeze in Councillor's allowances.

25% reduction in Councillor's special responsibility allowances.

Cabinet to be reduced to 6 members.

Cross-party working group set-up to review all vacant staff posts with the CEO.

Future issues of "Cotswold News" to be scrapped.

Budget for Social Media "promotions" to be scrapped.

All purchases and procurement not directly related to the provision of mandatory services to be stopped.

Councillor Stowe in introducing the amendment to motion made the following points:

- It was highlighted that the Conservative Group had highlighted concerns regarding spending by the Council which included spend on consultants and staff pay-offs
- It was noted that the requests of the motion to deliver a surplus budget, ask for a multi-year settlement for funding, and raise the problems of the Fairer Funding Review was something that Councillor Stowe sympathised with and would discuss with the MP for The Cotswolds.
- It was noted that the request for more financial spending power was not going to fix the concerns.
- The amendment's request to adjust the budget were then highlighted to Council as practical measures to bring financial stability.

Councillor David Cunningham reserved the right to speak.

There were various comments around the benefits of Cotswold News in providing information to residents, especially those without access to the internet and communicating to those the Councils serve.

It was highlighted that part of the amendment's request to reduce Cabinet to 6 Members was within the responsibility of the Leader, and that there was not a specific budget for 'Social Media Promotions'.

It was noted that the Council provides a number of non-statutory services which Members recognised as important.

Councillor David Cunningham in seconding the amendment, then made the following points:

- The amendment was solely focussed on balancing the budget, and lead by example.
- The reference to 'vanity project's' was specific to changes such as the change to the livery on street signs.
- Whilst the work of Committee Chairs and Cabinet Members was recognised, a cut to the special responsibility allowances, and a two year freeze of Councillor Allowances as proposed was recognised as important to show residents of the need to balance the budget.

Councillor Every in his right to reply made the following points:

- The amendment would be better proposed at the Budget meeting in February 2024, which would include the financial figures.
- The Communications Team provides a variety of communications which are beneficial for residents.
- The Member Allowances for 2023/24 was set in May 2023 which was felt to be a balanced approach to reflect the work of Councillors and taking into account the financial position.

Councillor Stowe in summing up the amendment proposed mentioned the following

- The allowance increase was a deferred increased which was felt not to be appropriate at this time.
- The reiteration of the proposals leading by example was important.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Stowe and Seconded by Councillor Cunningham was then put to a vote.

The Council resolves to:

1 Recognise the importance of financial prudence in delivering a balanced budget. Noting that any further funding from Government can only be paid for by the taxpayer nationally, it is important that this Council gets it's "Own House In Order" before requesting further funding. Council therefore instructs officers to implement the following 7-point plan, which as a package will generate significant savings and cash-flow with no impact on service provision:-

2 year freeze in Councillor's allowances.

25% reduction in Councillor's special responsibility allowances.  
Cabinet to be reduced to 6 members.

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Cross-party working group set-up to review all vacant staff posts with the CEO.

Future issues of “Cotswold News” to be scrapped.

Budget for Social Media “promotions” to be scrapped.

All purchases and procurement not directly related to the provision of mandatory services to be stopped.

Following this implementation, Council further resolves to then:

1. **2.** To Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities including the contents of this motion and asking him for: (i) multiple year settlements for local councils to give them a more sound base on which to plan their finances; (ii) an overall real terms funding increase for councils in 2024/25 and beyond to prevent further councils declaring effective bankruptcy and enabling them to arrest, if not reverse, the decline in their services; and (iii) a commitment that the implementation of the Fairer Funding Review will not see councils facing reductions in their Government funding.

2. **3.** Request that a copy of this letter be sent to the Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds and the Local Government Association.

### Voting Record

8 For, 20 Against, 1 Abstention, 4 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Daryl Corps	Angus Jenkinson	Chris Twells	Helene Mansilla
David Cunningham	Claire Bloomer		Andrew Maclean
David Fowles	Clare Turner		Len Wilkins
Gina Blomefield	Dilys Neill		Roly Hughes
Jeremy Theyer	Gary Selwyn		
Julia Judd	Ian Watson		
Tom Stowe	Joe Harris		
Tony Slater	Jon Wareing		
	Juliet Layton		
	Lisa Spivey		
	Mark Harris		
	Michael Vann		
	Mike Every		
	Mike McKeown		
	Nigel Robbins		
	Nikki Ind		
	Patrick Coleman		
	Paul Hodgkinson		
	Ray Brassington		
	Tony Dale		

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The amendment was lost.

Councillor Evemy then returned to the resolution proposed and noted the following:

- It was recognised that priorities had to be made, and fitting these within the Budget. It was also important for people to participate within the Budget Consultation Survey.
- It was highlighted that the Local Government Association was clear that Councils needed additional financial support of all tiers and political control.

Councillor Dale in seconding the motion then made the following points:

- It was highlighted that the issue was a government financing issue regardless of the political party in control.
- It noted that there was lot of opportunity to deliver for the Cotswolds, particularly in the area of the economic strategy to help boost employment.

The motion presented by Councillor Evemy and seconded by Councillor Dale was then put to a vote:

The Council resolves to:

1. To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities including the contents of this motion and asking him for: (i) multiple year settlements for local councils to give them a more sound base on which to plan their finances; (ii) an overall real terms funding increase for councils in 2024/25 and beyond to prevent further councils declaring effective bankruptcy and enabling them to arrest, if not reverse, the decline in their services; and (iii) a commitment that the implementation of the Fairer Funding Review will not see councils facing reductions in their Government funding.

2. Request that a copy of this letter be sent to the Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds and the Local Government Association

### Voting Record

**25 For, 2 Against, 2 Abstention, 4 Absent/Did not vote**

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	Chris Twells	Daryl Corps	Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer	Len Wilkins	Gina Blomefield	Helene Mansilla
Clare Turner			Julia Judd
David Cunningham			Roly Hughes
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Juliet Layton			
Lisa Spivey			

<b>Mark Harris</b>			
<b>Michael Vann</b>			
<b>Mike Every</b>			
<b>Mike McKeown</b>			
<b>Nigel Robbins</b>			
<b>Nikki Ind</b>			
<b>Patrick Coleman</b>			
<b>Paul Hodgkinson</b>			
<b>Ray Brassington</b>			
<b>Tom Stowe</b>			
<b>Tony Dale</b>			
<b>Tony Slater</b>			

**79**      **Next meeting**

The next meeting of Full Council was confirmed by the Chair to be on 24 January 2024.

The Meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 5.18 pm

Chair

(END)

## Member Questions for Council - 22 November 2023

Question	Response
<p><b>Question 1 from Councillor Jon Wareing to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation</b></p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation please advise the Council about the outcome of the exploratory work officers were asked to do looking at off-site pay by cash facilities for people who can't or don't wish to pay by card, by phone or by app when using our car parks?</p>	<p>Officers have made enquiries into how PayPoint may offer an opportunity for customers to pay by cash for parking in Cotswold District Council car parks.</p> <p>The initial setup fee would be £7,500 with ongoing support fees of £9,000 per annum.</p> <p>The customer would need to locate the nearest store that offers PayPoint and walk there from the place of parking. Out of the 15 charged car parks in the district, 4 outlets were identified as being within a 4-minute walk.</p> <p>No other services have been identified that could provide a cash service.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question from Councillor Jon Wareing to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation</b></p>	<p>Councillor Wareing did not have a supplementary question</p>
<p><b>Question 2 from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>We have seen the huge amount of building work being carried out on the Trinity Road premises to repair roof defects, install solar panels, office conversions and other improvements. Is this work on time and on budget?</p>	<p>A report is coming forward to Cabinet in January which provides an update. The agile working project set aside £675,000 for office moves, lighting upgrades, carpeting and redecoration and security changes to tenant areas. £495,000 has been committed to-date and this work is due to be completed on budget. There was £520,000 allocated for repairs to the roofs. Whilst the initial quotes received were within budget, the scope of the work has been extended as invasive testing revealed that the substructure was saturated and therefore flat roofs would need to be stripped and insulation and boarding replaced rather than just re-covered. In addition the opportunity has been taken to undertake replacement of valleys (wide gutters between roofs) as it is more cost effective while other roofing repairs are ongoing. Work is</p>

	<p>ongoing but the estimated cost is now £606,364.</p> <p>Work was originally due to complete in July 2023. However, the initial tender process for roof repairs failed to generate any quotations. There was therefore a delay whilst interest in the work was generated and contractors were again invited to submit quotes. Delays have pushed the work into the Autumn period which causes further delays due to weather conditions, however work is due to complete by the end of January.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Mike Every, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>Councillor Blomefield asked about the installation of the solar panels to Trinity Road and when these would be active because of the plans to install electric vehicle charging points at the Council Offices.</p>	<p>Councillor Every stated he did not have a timetable he could give Councillor Blomefield at the meeting due to some delays that had been highlighted in the response given to the original question. However, it was stated that a written response would be given to Councillor Blomefield.</p>
<p><b>Written Response to Councillor Blomefield provided by email on 29 November 2023.</b></p>	<p>The contractor for the PV works has been selected and has provided final plans and costs. It has taken longer to finalise the system design and implementation than officers had initially expected. This is principally due to three factors:</p> <p>Firstly the delay in obtaining a response from the distribution network operator (SSEN) to confirm that we will be able to install the planned size of array (DNOs take longer to reply to such requests than they used to, due to the number of such requests being made). Note that any installation larger than a domestic scheme requires an application for permission to the DNO, and cannot proceed without DNO consent. Note also that it is still possible that the DNO could delay the scheme still further, if it determines that our solar scheme will require reinforcement of their network (although we do not expect this to be the case).</p> <p>Secondly it has taken a little longer than expected to agree the location within</p>

	<p>the building to house the PV equipment which accompanies the panels (inverters, batteries etc), because of the need to minimise impact on the lettable space that is being created through the agile project. The location of this equipment is now settled.</p> <p>Thirdly it is necessary to avoid any conflict between the ongoing building improvement works, including to the roofs, and the installation of solar panels. This means the solar installation can only proceed after the existing works are completed.</p> <p>Given these delays our contractor now expects to commence work on site to start in February / March of next year.</p>
<p><b>Question 3 from Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Could you confirm the cost of producing the October 2023 “Cotswold News”, including design, print and distribution via Royal Mail?</p> <p>Please also confirm ALL officer time spent in preparing this publication?</p>	<p>The total cost of design, print and distribution of Cotswold News in October 2023 was £15, 818.</p> <p>We have not kept detailed records of time spent working on Cotswold News, however, we estimate a total of 50-70 hours worth of work across the Communications and Marketing Team. There will also be time spent by other officers to review content, supply information and provide other required support.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary from Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Councillor Fowles thanked Councillor Harris for the response. It was raised that there were concerns beyond the financial costs in respect of the environmental impact of the printing of Cotswold News. Councillor Fowles asked if Cotswold News was printed on 100% recycled paper and that the production was therefore carbon balanced?</p>	<p>Councillor Harris stated that Cotswold News was a useful way to communicate with resident whom they couldn't communicate with, particularly those who do not have access to the internet. Councillor Fowles asked the Chair if Councillor Harris would confirm the details regarding the printing of Cotswold News. The Chair informed Councillor Fowles that Councillor Harris declined to provide further information.</p>
<p><b>Question 4 from Councillor Daryl Corps to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet</b></p>	<p>The Council intends to engage with Town and Parish Councils, and all</p>

<p><b>Member for Economy and Council Transformation</b></p> <p>On the 5th November this Council announced that it will be conducting a full study and review of its current car parks, working with local communities and parish councils to understand the current needs in each area. It also announced that it will look at what improvements car parks may need such as EV chargers.</p> <p>So far, the Town and Parish Councils in my ward are reporting that the community reach out from CDC has been limited to one generic email! How does the portfolio holder intend to engage on such an important and fundamental part of Town and Parish life?</p> <p>‘Working together’ is not done by a circular email or would anything more be considered too expensive given this councils current budgetary pressures?</p>	<p>interested stakeholders through focused meeting sessions held in the community to listen to feedback and concerns.</p> <p>Furthermore, we will be running online surveys which will be promoted in all our car park locations and through our media channels. This will provide an opportunity for all customers and stakeholders that have an interest in shaping the future car parking strategy to share with us their feedback and concerns.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary from Councillor Daryl Corps to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation</b></p> <p>Councillor Corps thanked Councillor Dale for his response and asked if there would be engagement with local business groups and business leaders.</p>	<p>Councillor Dale stated that the parking strategy update would look to address the changes in parking demands and mode of transport use over the past 13 years. Councillor Dale stated that he or officers from the Council would be at the key settlement meetings, and hoped that business leaders would attend these meetings to seek community views.</p>
<p><b>Question 5 from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Cherwell District Council provides support for people needing to rent in the Private Rental Sector (PRS) who have insufficient savings to provide a deposit, are refugees or involved with the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Primarily they provide a deposit bond in place of a cash deposit, as well as</p>	<p>Cotswold District Council is allocated an annual Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) plus on occasion, other short term top ups allocated throughout the year for specific purposes such as Winter pressures. For 2023/24 Cotswold DC also received a large top up to address additional pressures from the Homes for Ukraine scheme.</p> <p>The reports outlining the grants and the planned expenditure can be found</p>

other help for both the potential tenant and landlord, including access to grant funding for property improvements of up to £15,000 (Landlord Home Improvement Grant).

Has CDC considered implementing a similar scheme to help those who are on the waiting list for social and affordable housing find suitable, secure accommodation more quickly?

here:

<https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/s6764/Cotswold%20Homelessness%20Prevention%20Grant%202023-2025%20Proposed%20Spending.pdf>

<https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/s7493/CDC%20Planned%20Expenditure%20Homelessness%20Prevention%20Grant%20Top%20Up%20Ukraine.pdf>

Part of the planned spending of the general HPG is to provide Rent in Advance and Deposits for those who the council has an assessed housing duty to assist. The Housing Team may also provide, amongst other things, necessary white goods or furniture to those who are homeless and have no possessions from a previous tenancy. The Housing Team will also consider on a case-by-case basis using the HPG for any measure providing that it prevents homelessness or assists with securing alternative accommodation to avoid a household becoming homeless.

It is necessary to limit the funds to those with housing duties as the HPG is finite so must be directed at those with the greatest need.

Households from the Homes for Ukraine scheme in need of financial support to set up a tenancy can also access a countywide fund as well as the Cotswold top up grant. The Housing Team work in close partnership with the County to ensure that each fund is used for its intended purpose and is maximised to help as many people as possible.

The Council has offered a 'paper' bond scheme in the past whereby the council would guarantee to cover costs incurred through arrears or damage at the end of a tenancy up to an agreed amount, however this was discontinued around 5 years ago for multiple reasons. The 'paper' bond can remain outstanding for many years until a tenancy ends and therefore a landlord may make a claim on the bond years after it is issued. This left the council exposed to tens of thousands of potential claims that cannot be predicted and are therefore difficult to budget for. There is also very little chance of recovering any bonds paid to landlords as these were being given to

	<p>the most vulnerable of our clients and who have the least amount of spare money to repay such a debt.</p> <p>The HPG conditions have also changed in recent years in that DLUHC expect the grants to be spent within the budget year and they cannot be carried over into the next. Therefore, any payments made from the HPG to the most vulnerable of our clients are now given as one-off grants with no expectation of repayment.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Councillor Blomefield stated there may have been a misunderstanding with the reply as the question was in relation to the equivalent of the cash deposit referenced and not the insurance of inventory during a tenants time at a property. It was stated that Cherwell District Council actively engage with landlords in the private rented sector through forums and newsletters. There was also a concern around the increase of rental properties being used as short-term rental properties. Councillor Blomefield asked if newsletters or a forum would be set up to engage with these landlords?</p>	<p>Councillor Harris stated he was happy to look at the suggestion, and that the Council was committed to delivering genuinely affordable homes. It was highlighted that a planning application would be submitted shortly for high quality social rented homes. However it was also noted that further government support through more resources and powers would be required in order to deliver more affordable housing.</p>
<p><b>Question 6 from Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability</b></p> <p>At the Audit Committee meeting on 18th October, Internal Audit reported a key finding that climate change operations are not sufficiently embedded in the organisation. In particular, it found that 75% of survey respondents did not have any Climate Change key performance indicators to track operational work being done; 88% of officers were not actively tracking their Carbon Footprint within their service area and only 50% of respondents said they had resources to actively work towards their</p>	<p>Thank you, Councillor Wilkins, for raising this crucial issue. Climate change is a matter I feel deeply passionate about, and its impacts are not just a distant threat but a present reality. It's imperative that we acknowledge and address these challenges head-on, both within our organisation and beyond.</p> <p>Regarding the key findings from the audit committee, I want to clarify some points. The percentages cited, while concerning, stem from a low response rate to the survey, with only 27 officers participating. For example, the 75% who reportedly did not have climate change KPIs actually represents just 6 officers. Similarly, the 88% not tracking their carbon footprint equates to 7</p>



Climate Change commitments. There are KPIs shown in the last two Overview and Scrutiny minutes, so when will KPI's appear for Climate Change so we can monitor progress being made in this vital area?

respondents.

This limited participation does not provide a comprehensive view of our organisation's engagement with climate change. We are addressing this by redesigning the questionnaire for greater uptake and plan to relaunch it in 2024. This will offer a more accurate reflection of our efforts and areas needing improvement.

Furthermore, the survey did not cover significant climate change activities already underway, such as our work on the Local Plan and the Carbon Literacy training rolled out since July and the recent decision to install solar on council buildings and the successful launch of the Cotswold Solar initiative with Make My House Green.

Acknowledging the need for improvement, we're prioritising the creation of a corporate plan KPIs and myself and Charlie Jackson are looking to engage more widely with staff and the cabinet by establishing a new Climate Board starting in the New Year. The aim of the board will be to ensure strong embedding and action to ensure climate change is at the heart of all our operations and we are green to the core.

Regarding national climate policy, the government's recent cynical reversal of key green initiatives is deeply concerning. These decisions, widely criticized, not only undermine the UK's climate leadership but also pose substantial risks to our economy and prospects for inward investment.

Rolling back these policies will harm the UK's economy by increasing reliance on fossil fuels, leading to higher long-term costs and greater exposure to volatile global energy markets and Putin's War, increases household expenses and diminishes savings from transitioning to energy-efficient technologies, while harming people's health due to pollution. The UK risks missing out on the growing global market for green technology and sustainable infrastructure, sectors that are pivotal for future economic growth.

These developments emphasize the critical importance of our local efforts and

	<p>the need for robust, consistent leadership at all levels to confront the climate emergency. It's a stark reminder that effective climate action is not only an environmental necessity but also a key driver of economic stability and growth.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary from Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability</b></p> <p>Councillor Wilkins thanked Councillor McKeown for the reply and asked how soon there would be an improvement in the small number of key performance indicators.</p>	<p>Councillor McKeown stated that he was passionate about climate change and that further views would be gathered from officers and a Climate Board to look at new key performance indicators.</p>
<p><b>Question 7 from Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture</b></p> <p>Since Freedom Leisure won the contract to manage CDC's leisure and museum services, it is noticeable that the built fabric and level of service has deteriorated. As a season ticket member, I receive regular comments from other users. Could the portfolio holder confirm what plans are in place to monitor customer satisfaction levels?</p>	<p>The transition from one Leisure Operator to another at the end of a Contract Term is a complex process with a range of items and matters that need to be put into place. The overarching aim is to ensure that the customer experience remains seamless whilst 'behind the scenes' all of the systems, processes, data, ITC software and hardware, etc. are migrated.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there were some technical issues that occurred in the mobilisation phase (since August 1<sup>st</sup>). These included a staff error which led to a loss of pool water, some items of plant being identified as below the expected standard on takeover, and rainwater ingress which led to an electrical fault. Whilst these were managed and responded to well by Freedom Leisure they were unexpected which led to short periods of downtime for the facilities, including pool closures.</p> <p>Whilst the intended mobilisation phase of three months has taken slightly longer, Freedom Leisure has worked very hard alongside council officers to address the unexpected problems, most of which were legacy issues, as well as customer concerns effectively and in a timely manner. This has meant a slight delay in making the planned improvements. The transition is now on schedule and business as usual as well as further improvements to the services and customer experience is expected to continue.</p>

As an example of Freedom Leisure's commitment to making improvements in the facilities, they have reported that since 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 they have spent approximately £24,000 on building maintenance. This demonstrates that some areas were in need of investment – and that under our new partnership agreement Freedom Leisure are committed to take on these challenges, which will lead to significant improvements in the longer term.

Customer Satisfaction is a key factor in delivering the Leisure service, this is an area in which Freedom Leisure have a strong track record. There are a number of reporting mechanisms that fall under the Leisure Contract to ensure that Customer Satisfaction is delivered. Listed below is an example of the range of measures that will be used for this:-

- Quest (a nationally recognised Quality Assurance Scheme for the Leisure sector) will be introduced in 2024. This will include 'Mystery Visits' and face to face interviews and site management reviews from industry qualified assessors.
- An NPS Survey (which measures customer experience and loyalty) will be undertaken early in 2024 to ascertain the current performance and to form a benchmark through the rest of the Contract
- Freedom Leisure conduct internal audits from experts within their own estate to continually monitor service performance in fields such as H&S, Technical Operations, Energy Management, etc.

Regular meetings are now scheduled (Monthly, Quarterly, Annually) between various stakeholder representatives and the Freedom Leisure colleagues to ensure continued monitoring takes place of each of the service areas. Customer Feedback is also important and there is a trackable 'Customer Comment' scheme in place. This is in the form of both physical media and virtual. Whilst the number of actual reports received since August 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 are relatively low, we can see from the data held that:-

- 89% of enquiries were resolved within 24 hours
- 11% of enquiries were resolved within 7 days

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a downward trend in the number of comments being received at the sites.</li> </ul> <p>In November 2023 Freedom Leisure have also introduced 'Meet the Manager' sessions for sites. Feedback from these sessions will be used to inform each Centres planning/improvement actions. The response from customers to the initial sessions has been positive.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary from Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture</b></p> <p>Councillor Fowles wished to know if Councillor Hodgkinson was able to attend the stakeholder meetings and if he was able to see all of the sites due to the maintenance issues and staff morale problems. Councillor Fowles also wished to thank Councillor Hodgkinson for the detailed answer.</p>	<p>Councillor Hodgkinson stated he was a member of the leisure centre himself so he could see what was going on first hand. It was stated that from what he saw, the leisure centre was working well. It was also noted that regular visits were taking place and there were regular stakeholder events with Freedom Leisure. It was confirmed that Councillor Hodgkinson would raise any issues Members brought to him.</p>
<p><b>Question 8 from Councillor Chris Twells to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>Members will have noted that the 2023/24 pay award for local government staff in England has now been agreed with the trade unions. Can the Deputy Leader now provide us with a figure for increased councillor allowances, as voted for by Liberal Democrats and Cllr Ind at Annual Council on 24 May?</p>	<p>Members' Allowances for 2023/24 will remain unchanged in line with the decision taken by Members at the Annual Council to implement a freeze in allowances for 2023/24 at their 2022/23 level.</p> <p>23 councillors including members of the Liberal Democrat and Green Groups together with Councillor Ind supported this resolution. Five members from the Conservative and Green Groups opposed the resolution while five Conservative Group members abstained with Councillor Twells absent.</p>

<p><b>Supplementary from Councillor Chris Twells to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>Councillor Twells wished to know a figure in pounds/pence, a percentage figure or commit to publishing a figure for the increase in Members Allowances following the agreement of the staff pay award for 2023/24.</p>	<p>Councillor Evemy reiterated that Members receive allowances and are not paid and that the agreement between Local Government Employers and trade unions was the backdated pay award being referred to. It was confirmed that the 2024/25 allowance would reflect both settlements for 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was confirmed that this would be looked at as part of the budget preparations for Member Allowances.</p>
<p><b>Question 9 from Councillor Chris Twells to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>What will be the total cost to council taxpayers for the by-election in the Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South Ward scheduled for Thursday 14 December?</p>	<p>The estimated cost of the by-election is around £9,000, but the final figure will not be known until all the invoices have been received. The by-election in February 2022 in the other two-member ward, Campden &amp; Vale, cost £8,500.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary from Councillor Chris Twells to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p> <p>Councillor Twells asked whether a figure would be given following this election once all invoices has been collected.</p>	<p>Councillor Evemy stated that the figure was from the Electoral Services Manager, but that this would be given once the final figure has been confirmed.</p>
<p><b>Written Response provided by email to Councillor Twells on 16 January 2024</b></p>	<p>The final cost given of the Lechlade, Kempsford &amp; Fairford South by-election was £9,940.68.</p>

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