



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wednesday, 29 November 2023

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## **CABINET**

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held at Council Chamber - Trinity Road on **Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 6.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet  
(Councillors Joe Harris, Mike Evemy, Claire Bloomer, Tony Dale, Paul Hodgkinson, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown 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**  
To receive any apologies for absence. The quorum for Cabinet is 3 Members.
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 previous meeting, held on 2 November 2023.
4. **Leader's Announcements**  
To receive any announcements from the Leader.
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 one minute each and relate to issues under the Cabinet's remit. At any one meeting no person may submit more than two questions and no more than two such questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

The Leader will ask whether any members of the public present at the meeting wish to ask a question and will decide on the order of questioners.

The response may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;
- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

6. **Member Questions**  
No Member Questions have been submitted prior to the publication of the agenda.

A Member of the Council may ask the Leader or a Cabinet Member a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Cotswold District. A maximum period of fifteen minutes shall be allowed at any such meeting for Member questions.

A Member may only ask a question if:

- a) the question has been delivered in writing or by electronic mail to the Chief Executive no later than 5.00 p.m. on the working day before the day of the meeting; or
- b) the question relates to an urgent matter, they have the consent of the Leader to whom the question is to be put and the content of the question is given to the Chief Executive by 9.30 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

An answer may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;

- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

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

To consider any recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or matters raised by the Audit and Governance Committee.

8. **Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/2025 (Pages 13 - 28)**

Purpose

To present the results of the public consultation on proposals for revising the current Council Tax Support scheme with effect from 1 April 2024.

Recommendation

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Approve the increase in Council Tax Support as detailed in paragraph 3.4 from 1 April 2024.
2. Approve that any surplus in the Hardship Fund is transferred over to 2024/2025 for reasons detailed in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7.
3. Approve the amendment to the Council Tax Support Policy as recommended in paragraph 3.8.

9. **Increase in Fixed Penalty Notice fines for fly-tipping, duty of care, littering and graffiti (Pages 29 - 34)**

Purpose

To set out the new maximum level fines proposed by Government to deter and punish the offences of littering, fly-tipping, householder duty of care, flyposting and the distribution of free printed matter. To seek approval to introduce these new fine levels.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Note the report.
2. Agree to increase the fine levels to the maximum levels permissible as outlined in paragraph 3.4.
3. Agree an early payment discount as outlined in paragraph 3.4.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to increase the fine levels as approved.

10. **Proactive Delivery of Affordable Housing (Pages 35 - 40)**

Purpose

This report seeks to outline the council's aspiration for a more proactive approach to increase the supply of affordable housing within the district, outline of how this can be achieved, and the resources required.

Recommendation

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Explore innovative and proactive models to enhance the council's ability to increase the supply of affordable homes within the district.

11. **Draft Cotswold Housing Strategy (Pages 41 - 120)**

Purpose

To seek approval to consult with partners and the public on a new five year Cotswold

Housing Strategy. The strategy directly responds to the Council's Corporate Plan that seeks to address housing affordability and increase the supply of affordable housing.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Approve the draft Cotswold Housing Strategy for public consultation as presented at Annex A and B; and
2. Delegate authority to the Forward Planning Manager, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree a questionnaire for the public consultation exercise and to make minor modifications to improve clarity.

12. **Financial Performance Report - Q2 2023/24 (Pages 121 - 176)**

Purpose

This report sets of the latest budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Review and note the financial position set out in this report.
2. Endorse the recommendation in paragraph 9.3 that Cabinet continue to review in-year opportunities with Publica and Ubico to mitigate the forecast financial position.
3. Approve the provisional transfer of £0.150m to the Treasury Management reserve.
4. Agree to establish a new earmarked reserve "Contract Smoothing" and approves the provisional transfer of £0.255m from the General Fund Revenue Budget to the earmarked reserve.

13. **Council Priority And Service Performance Report - 2023-24 Quarter Two (Pages 177 - 254)**

Purpose

To provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance.

Recommendation

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Note overall progress on the Council priorities and service performance for 2023-24 Q2.

14. **Schedule of Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or Individual Cabinet Members (Pages 255 - 256)**

To note the decisions taken by the Leader and/or Individual Cabinet Members.

(END)