



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wednesday, 30 October 2024

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CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Thursday, 7 November 2024 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 - 14)**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet on 3 October 2024.

4. **Leader's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Leader of the Council.

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

8. **Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/2026 (Pages 15 - 26)**

Purpose

To consider and recommend to Full Council the revised Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2025/2026.

Recommendations

That Cabinet recommends to Full Council:

1. The increase to income bands as detailed within paragraphs 3.2, 3.3 and Annex A of this report from 1 April 2025.
2. That any surplus in the Hardship Fund is transferred over to 2025/2026 for reasons detailed in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 of this report.

9. **Update on the Council's involvement in and support for Cost of Living related initiatives (Pages 27 - 114)**

Purpose

To update Cabinet on the Council's work to support people affected by the cost of living crisis.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Note the Council's work to support communities with the cost of living.
2. Request that the Cost of Living Steering Group continues to consider further opportunities to support communities with the cost of living.

10. **Draft Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Pages 115 - 158)**

Purpose

This report sets out the Budget Strategy to support the preparation of the 2025/26 revenue and capital budgets and presents an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy forecast.

Recommendations

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Approves the 2025/26 Budget Strategy as outlined in the report.
2. Approves the revised Capital Programme including the additional expenditure on Disabled Facilities funded by Disabled Facilities Grant, as set out in Annex B.

11. **Schedule of Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or Individual Cabinet Members**

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

This will follow as an agenda supplement on 7 November 2024.

(END)