



COTSWOLD
District Council

Wednesday, 29 January 2025

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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, 6 February 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet
(Councillors Joe Harris, Mike Evemy, Claire Bloomer, Paul Hodgkinson, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown and Tristan Wilkinson)

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 7 - 18)
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 January 2025.
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. **Review of Parking Charges and Season Tickets** (Pages 19 - 32)

Purpose

The report proposes changes to the day tariffs and season ticket fees in the district car parks to take effect from 1 April 2025.

Recommendation

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Approve the freezing of car park charges for short stays of ½ hour or 1 hour at all the Council's Car Parks;
2. Approve the car park charges for stays of 2 hours or more being increased by 2.7% (rounded to 10p), to reflect CPI inflation between October 2023 and October 2024 as per Annex B;
3. Note the proposed charges for Rissington Road Car Park include the tourism levy increases from 50p to 60p agreed November 2024;
4. Approve increasing the fee for season tickets as per Annex D, reflecting a higher than inflationary increase to reflect the high level of subsidy offered for season tickets;
5. Approve the updating of the Parking Order to reflect agreed changes.

9. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund update February 2025** (Pages 33 - 46)

Purpose

To update Cabinet on the delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund projects to date and seek approval for the approach to

delivery of UKSPF projects in 2025/26 along with the necessary delegations.

Recommendation

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Note the progress with the delivery of UKSPF and REPF projects to date.
2. Note that the Council has been awarded UKSPF funding of £327,146 for 2025/26.
3. Agree to allocate up to £140,000 of funding for 2025/26 to Cirencester Growth Hub and up to £50,000 to a local employment and skills project
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment, to allocate the remaining funding, having regard to the recommendations of the UKSPF Assessment Panel.

10. **Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy** (Pages 47 - 220)

Purpose

To present the Revenue Budget for 2025-2026, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2025-2026 to 2028-2029.

Recommendation

Cabinet is requested to consider and approve for recommendation to Council:

1. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy set out in Annex B
2. The Budget Pressures and Savings for inclusion in the budget, set out in Annex C
3. The Council Tax Requirement of £7,065,418 for this Council
4. The Council Tax level for Cotswold District Council purposes of £158.93 for a Band D property in 2025- 2026 (an increase of £5)
5. The Capital Programme, set out in Annex D
6. The Annual Capital Strategy 2025- 2026, as set out in Annex E
7. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2025-2026, as set out in Annex F
8. The Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts, as set out in Annex H
9. The balances and reserves forecast for 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 as set out in Section 7 of the report.
10. Formally note the renewal of the CIVICA OpenRevenues 3-year software contract from 01 June 2025 with an annual fee of £0.106m (an increase of £0.031m over the previous annual contract value)

Cabinet is recommended to approve delegation to the Council's Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for

Finance

11. To agree changes to the General Fund Summary arising from the Local Government Finance Settlement and the Business Rates Retention Scheme estimates prior to submission to Council.

11. **2025/2026 Fees and Charges** (Pages 221 - 246)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a revised schedule of fees and charges for 2025/26. The report also describes the rationale for the revised charges compared to current charges for 2024/25. Revised charges are presented at Annex A alongside current charges for 2024/25.

Recommendation

That Cabinet resolves to:

1. Endorse the rationale for revising fees and charges as set out in the report; and
2. Approve the implementation of revised fees and charges for 2025/26 as detailed in Annex A from 1 April 2025.

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

No decisions have been taken by the Leader or Cabinet Members since the last meeting of Cabinet.