



Notification of Draft
Decisions Thursday, 6 February 2025

**Notice of Draft
Decisions of Cabinet -
Thursday, 6 February 2025**

3. Minutes

The purpose of this item was to consider the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet on 9 January 2025. There were no amendments to the minutes.

The approval of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council and seconded by Councillor Mike Every, Deputy Leader and Member for Finance and Transformation. This proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Voting Record:
5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

4. Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader of the Council.

5. Public Questions

There was one Public Question :
Andy Farmer introduced himself as a recent candidate in the Chesterton by-election. He explained that part of his campaign involved speaking to residents about their preferences for council spending, creating a wish list. He mentioned the possibility of an underspend from various grant funding streams at the end of the financial year and suggested that early planning could help the council spend this money effectively on residents.

Mr Farmer had collated a 'wish-list' which he had discussed with the Cabinet Member for Health , Culture and Visitor Experience and had a meeting arranged with the Economic Development Lead Officer to discuss further.



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An enquiry was made regarding the appropriate process for submitting non-grant-related spending requests, to which the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation responded that such requests could be sent to him or the Deputy Chief Executive.

Mr Farmer also raised a question about parking charges, noting that potholes and car park charges were major concerns with residents. The removal of the "free after three" parking initiative was also questioned. It was explained that the initiative was removed due to financial constraints and changing trends since the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial pressure meant that the council could not afford to reintroduce the initiative.

However it was noted that some parking charges would be frozen and the introduction of 20-minute free parking bays was highlighted. It was also noted that car park ticket sales had increased in 2024 despite previous charge increases. The council was analysing data from a recent car parking consultation to inform future decisions.

Mr Farmer requested consideration for lower-income residents who struggle with parking costs, suggesting options like "free after four." The Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience acknowledged the request and mentioned that Trinity Road car park was free on weekends, offering an alternative for those facing cost challenges.

8. UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund update February 2025

The purpose of the report was 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 the delivery of UKSPF projects in 2025/26 along with the necessary delegations.

In Councillor Wilkinson's absence Councillor Harris, Leader of the Council, introduced the item.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Harris, Leader, and seconded by Councillor Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning. This proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Cabinet.

RESOLVED that Cabinet :

1. Noted the progress with the delivery of UKSPF and REPF projects to date.
2. Noted that the Council has been awarded UKSPF funding of £327,146 for 2025/26.
3. Agreed 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



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4. Delegated 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.

Voting Record 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

9. Review of Parking Charges and Season Tickets

The purpose of the report was to detail proposed changes to the day tariffs and season ticket fees in the district car parks to take effect from 1st April 2025.

The Cabinet Member for Health, Culture, and Visitor Experience introduced the item.

The recommendations were proposed by the Cabinet Member for Health, Culture, and Visitor Experience, Councillor Hodgkinson and seconded by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Councillor Evely.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

1. Approved the freezing of car park charges for short stays of ½ hour or 1 hour at all the Council's Car Parks;
2. Approved 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. Noted the proposed charges for Rissington Road Car Park include the tourism levy increases from 50p to 60p agreed November 2024;
4. Approved 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. Approved the updating of the Parking Order to reflect agreed changes.

Voting Record 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

10. 2025/2026 Fees and Charges

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



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The report was presented by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Councillor Evemy.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation and seconded by Councillor Claire Bloomer, Cabinet Member for Communities.

This proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Cabinet.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

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

Voting Record: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

11. Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The purpose of the report was to present the Revenue Budget for 2025/26, the Capital Programme and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation introduced the item.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation and seconded by Councillor Harris, Leader. This proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Cabinet.

RESOLVED Cabinet approved 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 2025/26 (an increase of £5)
5. the Capital Programme, set out in Annex D
6. the Annual Capital Strategy 2025/26, as set out in Annex E
7. the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2025/26, as set out in Annex F
8. the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts, as set out in Annex H



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9. the balances and reserves forecast for 2025/26 to 2028/29 as set out in Section 7 of the report.
10. Formally noted 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)

RESOLVED: Cabinet approved delegation to the Council's Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to:

11. 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.

Voting Record: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Date of Publication: 7 February 2025

Closing Date for Call-In: 14 February 2025

Action Embargoed until: 17 February 2025