

Council  
20/July2022



COTSWOLD  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting held of Council held on Wednesday, 20 July 2022.

### Councillors present:

Dilys Neill - Chair  
Stephen Andrews  
Tony Berry  
Gina Blomefield  
Claire Bloomer  
Ray Brassington  
Patrick Coleman  
David Cunningham  
Tony Dale  
Andrew Doherty

Nikki Ind – Vice Chair  
Mike Every  
Joe Harris  
Mark Harris  
Stephen Hirst  
Roly Hughes  
Julia Judd  
Juliet Layton  
Andrew Maclean  
Nick Maunder

Richard Morgan  
Nigel Robbins  
Gary Selwyn  
Tom Stowe  
Ray Theodoulou  
Steve Trotter  
Clive Webster

### Officers present:

Rob Weaver – Chief Executive  
Jenny Poole – Deputy Chief Executive  
Angela Claridge – Director of Governance & Development  
Jan Britton – Managing Director – Publica  
Andrew Brown – Business Manager – Democratic Services  
Caleb Harris – Democratic Services  
Wayne Smith – Democratic Services

## **12** Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Lisa Spivey, Rachel Coxcoon, Sue Jepson, Richard Keeling, Richard Norris, Robin Hughes and Jenny Forde

## **13** Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest from Members

There were no Declarations of Interest from Officers.

## **14** Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 25th May 2022 and minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 25th May 2022 had been published and a few amendments and typographical errors had been corrected prior to the meeting. Printed copies of both sets of minutes were provided for all Members at the meeting.

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RESOLVED: Council agreed that the updated minutes from meeting of Full Council held on 25th May 2022 and the minutes from the Annual Council held on 25th May 2022 were correct records of the meetings

**Voting Record – For 24, Against 0, Abstentions 2, Absent 8,**

## **15 Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive (if any)**

The Chair welcomed all Members, Officers and members of the public (joining in-person and online) to the meeting.

The Chair stated that Councillor Jenny Forde was representing the Council at the Local Government Chronical Awards ceremony in London (accepting the LGC ‘Community Award’ for the Council’s ‘Crowdfund Cotswold’ programme).

The Chair paid a personal tribute and thanked the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer Jenny Poole for her tireless work for the Council over the previous 18 years. It was also noted that her leadership and outstanding financial knowledge was appreciated by both Members and Officers.

Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council presented a more comprehensive tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive that included her career development from a Technical Accountant to her current senior role. In future she would be spending more time with her family, hiking along the great country paths around the UK including the Cotswold Way.

Councillor Harris also welcomed the new Business Manager, Democratic Services, Andrew Brown, and looked forward to working together.

Finally Councillor Harris sent his condolences to the family and friends following the tragic drowning at Cotswold Water Park.

Councillor Berry paid a personal tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive, thanking her for the manner in which the finances of the Council had been handled under her tenure, and stating she would be sorely missed.

The Chief Executive, Rob Weaver added his condolences for the person who had drowned at the Cotswold Water Park. The Chief Executive also, sent good wishes and luck to the Council teams that had been nominated at the LGC awards for their NET Zero Carbo Tool Kit and Crowdfund Cotswold Programme.

The Chief Executive also paid a personal tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive, remarking how fortunate he was to have the support of Jenny Poole since becoming Chief Executive in 2021

## **16 Public Questions**

No questions had been submitted from the public and there were no members of the public attending the Council meeting that wished to ask a question.

## **17 Member Questions**

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The following questions were submitted by Members of the Council to Cabinet Members, and the subsequent responses had been returned to the Council Members previous to the Council meeting.

Supplementary Questions and responses were made at the Council meeting.

**Question 1 from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling**

Regular exposure to even small amounts of pesticides has the potential to harm human health, with children and pregnant people being particularly at risk. These chemicals can also have negative impacts on the wellbeing of our pets, and on biodiversity, affecting plants and wildlife. Can the Cabinet Member confirm the level and scope of the use of pesticides by CDC and its contractors?

**Response from Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling to Councillor Tom Stowe**

As part of the street cleansing service performed by Ubico, weed treatment is also undertaken and performed by a specialist subcontractor.

Weed treatment is performed twice a year and a glyphosate based weed killer is used as it is most effective however, it is strictly only applied on areas of the public highway - pavements and road channels. The application is made mainly on the back edges of the pavements, where the pavement butts up against buildings/walls etc. It is also used on channels, which feed water into the road gullies where the mechanical sweeping (ripping) brush isn't able to effectively work. These treatments stop build ups of vegetation and detritus, which risk blocking drains and gullies and in turn causing flooding within communities.

It is anticipated that in the future, the use of glyphosate based weed killers will be prohibited and so the Council and Ubico are actively exploring other ways or effectively treating weed growth on the public highway.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling**

Given the administration's stated aims to be 'green to the core, putting the environment, biodiversity and wellbeing at the heart of everything it does, rather than reacting to a future ban on the pesticides it is currently using, should the administration be more pro-active in reducing its pesticide usage and with this in mind, will the Council commit to drawing up plans to reduce the Council's use of pesticides to an absolute minimum, and only when all safer options have been considered.

**Response from Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling to Councillor Tom Stowe**

UBICO had started to investigate reducing this pesticide usage some time ago but progress had been delayed due to the pandemic. UBICO had looked at equipment that had been used by nearby Councils to reduce their usage of Glyphosate (Round-Up) and this work was ongoing as part of a wider Street Cleansing Review. Current usage of this chemical was low and reducing, and eliminating it completely would be a great aim.

**Question 2 from Councillor David Cunningham to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council**

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At the last Council meeting, members were told that this administration was 'somewhat involved' in the delivery of 114 affordable homes in the District in 2020/21. Can the Cabinet member please clarify what that phrase means in practical terms and confirm what percentage of overall homes built or approved in the same period across the District, does that number of 114 represent?

### **Response from Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council to Councillor David Cunningham**

Our administration is committed to delivering affordable homes across the District. The Council currently has a policy approach to delivering new homes, including affordable housing, through its adopted Local Plan 2011 – 2031. Policies and site allocations are set out to deliver the housing needed over the Plan period in a sustainable way. To help us deliver these homes the Local Plan contains policies to secure affordable housing as part of market housing development and policies that support the development of rural exception sites. In 2020 the Council, with the five other local planning authorities in Gloucestershire, commissioned a Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) to identify the minimum Local Housing Need (LHN) for the District. This included an assessment of the need for affordable housing.

Much of the new housing that comes forward in the district is developed by private developers and Registered Providers (RPs). Officers maintain a productive relationship with the development sector and our close working relationship with our RP partners is crucial in delivering affordable housing to meet the needs of our community which cannot not be met by our own resources.

The Council's role is to enable affordable housing delivery, encouraging innovation and diversity in the development sector and on community led projects, delivering the housing needed. The Council's policy for on-site affordable housing provision for sites of 11 units or more or with floor area greater than 1000sqm is 40% provision on greenfield and 30% on brownfield.

376 new homes were delivered in the district in 2020/21. Of these 114 were affordable, equating to 30% which is a considerable success given that, in 2020/21, 119 residential planning applications were granted outline or full consent, of which 95% were for sites of 10 units or less requiring no on-site affordable provision.

Of the 114 affordable homes delivered in 2020/21, 64 were through on-site developer contributions, 30 on 100% affordable RP sites and 20 on rural exception sites. Direct actions to deliver the 114 affordable homes in 2020-21 included:

Working in partnership to identify affordable housing needs, both district wide and at a local, site specific level.

Pro-actively supporting and encouraging resident engagement in both rural and urban areas to help communities to assess and understand local needs for housing in their area.

Jointly funding a Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) for Gloucestershire, based at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council to provide additional support to the parish councils and communities to deliver rural and small urban housing schemes to meet local need.

Working with a partner housing associations, parish councils and communities to consult on and identify the rural exception and small urban sites North Cerney, Ebrington and Chipping Campden

Providing over £680,000 capital grant funding to deliver the 16 affordable homes in North Cerney and Chipping Campden

Day to day contact with the development sector through the consideration of planning applications; engaging on affordable housing matters to deliver a policy compliant number, mix, design and tenure type for each development.

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Negotiating and securing the affordable housing provisions in planning legal agreements to meet the identified housing need including provisions to ensure the affordable housing is delivered in a timely manner and priority is given to households with a local connection  
Working with our RP partners to ensure that new housing is of a high-quality design and contributes to meeting wider objectives such as sustainable construction

**Supplementary Question from Councillor David Cunningham to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council**

How many of the 114 homes delivered were taken up by residents of the Cotswolds?

**Response from Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council to Councillor David Cunningham**

The figure was not immediately available, but would be identified and provided as written response.

**Question 3 from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

CDC have plans to borrow £75million and invest it to cover a possible shortfall in Government funding and yet this wasn't in the budget consultation and there is little information available regarding what this is to be used for or how it is to be paid for. Given your principle of 'openness and transparency', please could you give me that information and tell me when you will be publishing these details?

**Response from Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to Councillor Stephen Hirst**

The agenda for this meeting includes a debate and vote on the updated version of the Council's Recovery Investment Strategy (RIS) considered by the Cabinet on 4 April 2022. The RIS was first debated and adopted by the Council at its meeting in September 2020 with the support of 20 members of the Council. The updated RIS is a 21-page document and was accompanied by a five-page covering report and the 19-page narrative Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) document when considered by the Cabinet. The MTFS was agreed by the Council at its budget meeting in February and sets the context for the Council's financial position and decision-making.

Consultation on the 2022/23 budget included the following question: "Over the next three years, the Council expects the Government to cut the Council's funding. At the same time, there will be unavoidable increases in costs such as nationally agreed staff pay rises which the Council will have to fund. Our approach to the Council's finances is to improve our services while delivering on our priorities of doing our part to tackle the climate emergency, delivering homes local people can afford to rent and supporting our economy recover from the impact of Covid-19, all whilst balancing the ongoing budget. That will require small increases in Council Tax (see question 3) together with generating more money from new investments and by applying a principle of setting our fees and charges to ensure they are not subsidised by other taxpayers. Where the Council does decide to subsidise some fees and charges, the reasons for this will be clearly set out. To what extent do you agree with this approach?"  
42.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this approach. This compares to 36.6% of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Each individual investment under the RIS will be the subject of a business case which will be considered by the Cabinet and, where the investment is over £3 million, the full Council. The Council will not borrow in advance of the business cases being approved.

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**Question 4 from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council**

When and why was the decision made to reserve specific parking places for Cabinet Members and how does this fit into the egalitarian principles vaunted by this administration?

**Response from Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council to Councillor Tony Berry**

The spaces were for all Members, and not just Cabinet Members.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council**

Will the reserved parking spaces be bookable by Members, particularly those that live an hour or more from the Council Offices

**Response from Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council to Councillor Tony Berry**

I would like to meet with Councillor Berry individually to discuss the operation of the reserved parking places, rather than take up valuable Full Council time.

**Question 5 from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council:**

Questions and initial answers from members are currently invisible to members of the public following Council Meetings on social media. Why do we not briefly summarise these before asking the supplementary question (if required)?

**Response from Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council to Councillor Tony Berry**

Members initial questions and answers are available via the council website, a link to which is included on the social media post whereby the council meeting is being screened. A copy of the question, answer and any supplementary question and answer are also made available with the minutes.

I'd be willing to consider a more open format like the council has for public questions and would be happy to meet with Cllr Berry to discuss.

**Question 6 from Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council**

The Council's Recovery Investment Strategy is to borrow over £75m for projects to include £1.8m on housing, £49.7m on Green Energy Investments and £25m on Economic Development and Asset Utilisation. These projects align with and arguably mirror the ambitions of the Government's Levelling-Up Fund. We are only a small District Council, surely officer's time would be better spent preparing quality bids for the Levelling-up fund and using that money, rather than borrowing huge amounts which will place extra burdens on the residents of the Cotswolds and place this council at financial risk?

**Response from Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council to Councillor Julia Judd**

An update to the Recovery Investment Strategy will be considered by Council at the meeting on 20 July 2022. The Strategy sets out the plan for investment in the District to support the Council's priorities including, addressing climate change and delivering green economic

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growth. Some of the projects identified under the Recovery Investment Strategy could be partially funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a successful Levelling Up bid or through other external grants. Each Recovery Investment Strategy project will be subject to the preparation and consideration of a business case. The business case will identify external funding opportunities. Bids for funding often need to be “shovel ready”. Approval of business cases is good evidence that a project is moving to implementation and will therefore meet the “shovel ready” test for funding. Where the Council is successful in securing external funding, the requirement to finance capital expenditure by borrowing by the Council will reduce. The Council will not be borrowing until projects are at implementation and there is a need to borrow. Officers will work with treasury management advisors, using liability benchmarking tools to ascertain when there is a need to borrow, the appropriate level of borrowing, the appropriate length of borrowing and the most cost effective lender to use to ensure that the revenue cost to the Council is managed.

The work which officers are carrying out on Recovery Investment Strategy projects can and will be applied to a bid for Levelling Up, at the appropriate time to ensure the maximum chance for a successful bid.

#### **Supplementary Question from Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council**

Applications to the second round of the Levelling up Fund need to be submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. Has the council prepared a ‘shovel ready’ scheme that had (or will be) submitted to bid for funding from this scheme.

#### **Response from Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council to Councillor Julia Judd**

The Council did not yet have a ‘shovel ready’ scheme and would not therefore be submitting bids that were unlikely to be successful.

#### **Question 7 from Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services**

At the December 2021 meeting, Council voted unanimously to install an e-Petition link to be activated on the Council’s website front page. Five months have now passed, why has this not yet happened?

#### **Response from Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services to Councillor Julia Judd**

Officers are working on making the e-petition link live. Whilst we have access to the relevant module in our software there has been a requirement to make some changes and set relevant parameters before it can be published to the public. However, we can confirm that these changes are now scheduled to be made over the coming weeks and the Council will be able to start accepting e-petitions from August 2022.

The Council will accept petitions which have been generated online and then printed out so should any individuals or groups wish to present a petition that option is always available. The chair asked if Councillor Judd had a Supplementary Question and Councillor Judd indicated that she was satisfied with the response.

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The purpose of the report was to refresh the Recovery Investment Strategy framework within which the Council can invest in the infrastructure of the Cotswold District that delivers on the Council's Priorities.

Councillor Tony Dale introduced the report and summarised the requirement for the refresh and the importance of establishing investments that can fill the Council's future 'funding gap'.

The Council noted that over the past 2 years, changes had been made to the investment opportunities open to Councils, and the pandemic had effected financial outlooks for all local authorities.

The Council noted that within four years the Council would be facing a 'funding gap' of nearly £9m as a result of reducing Government funding and the increasing expectations and costs of serving Cotswold residents.

Following the debate, the following points were noted:

- the s151 Officer had considered it prudent to have a strategy in place to provide for the funding shortfall within both the MTFNS and the Recovery Investment Strategy.
- there were risks inherent in any investment strategy, but these would be professionally assessed and business cases would be made before any investments were made.
- the strategy would 'leverage the intrinsic strength of the Council's balance sheet' and this strong balance sheet had been inherited by the current Administration from the previous Administration.
- the increase in Council Tax charges and the removal of parking charge reductions and other savings had increased the Council's income and this would partly offset the potential funding gap, but would not fill it.
- programme plans showing the detailed business cases and roll out of individual projects was not included within the strategy, and without the comfort of seeing this detail, Members may not feel comfortable voting for the refreshed strategy.
- the strategy stated that any single investment of more than £3m would need to be brought before the Council for deliberation and approval.

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved the Cotswold District Council Recovery Investment Strategy 2022-2026 (Annex B).

**Voting Record – For 16, Against 9, Abstentions 1, Absent 8,**

### **19 Additions to the Constitution: a) Budget Council Protocol and b) Social Media Guidance for Members**

The purpose of the report was to update the Council on the work and recommendations of the Constitution Working Group who have been undertaking work to modernise the Constitution.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joe Harris introduced the report and summarised the work that had been completed on proposed amendments to the Constitution, specifically

- the proposed inclusion of a new protocol that defined the process to be employed when the Council receives, debates, amends, questions and votes on the annual Budget.

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- The production of a new Members' Social Media Policy ( an annex to the existing Elected Members' Code of Conduct) that provides guidance for Members to consider when engaging with social media in their capacity as a Cotswold District Councillor.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to adopt the Budget Council Protocol for inclusion in the Council's Constitution, and agreed to adopt the Members' Social Media Policy, as an annex to the existing Elected Members' Code of Conduct, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

**Voting Record – For 26, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 8,**

## **20 Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer**

The purpose of the report was to recommend to the Council, the appointment of David Stanley as the permanent Deputy Chief Executive Officer (S151) for Cotswold District Council. The recommendation to Council also included Jo Moore to be appointed as the Interim Deputy Chief Executive Officer (S151) for Cotswold District Council pending David Stanley commencing employment.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joe Harris introduced the report and stated the importance of the dual role of the Deputy Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer (s151) officer in any Council. The Council had been very fortunate to have had a Jenny Poole as Chief Finance Officer (S151) for over a decade and more recently as Deputy Chief Executive, and it had taken time to find and appoint David Stanley to the role.

Council noted that as the new Officer was required to work a notice period of three months, it would be necessary to appoint an interim Deputy Chief Executive Chief Finance Officer (s151) and Jo Moore had been appointed to this role.

Council noted that the there was an additional cost generated by appointing the Interim Officer that had not been included in the recruitment budget and this would be provided from the Council Priorities Fund.

Council noted that the new Deputy Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer (S151) was a Cotswold District Council employee and as such would be entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed with the Appointment Panel's recommendation to appoint David Stanley as Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer (s151) for Cotswold District Council and noted that the provisional offer of employment had been made, subject to two references, medical clearance and eligibility check in accordance with the Council's policies.

- Agreed that the appointment would commence on a date to be mutually agreed.
- Agreed that the salary to be offered was £86,275 per annum.
- Confirmed that the appointment would be subject to a 6 month probation period.

The Council also agreed to appoint Jo Moore as Interim DCE & Section 151 Officer until David Stanley commences employment and agreed that £35,000 is earmarked from the Council Priorities Fund to meet the costs associated with the Interim Deputy Chief Executive post.

**Voting Record – For 24, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 10,**

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**21** Notice of Motions

**Debate not Hate - Motion proposed by Councillor Gina Blomefield, Seconded by Councillor Tony Berry**

*The Council noted that as the Notice of Motion had been amended previous to the Council meeting, and the amended version had been accepted by the proposer and seconder of the original Notice of Motion, and distributed to all Members, the amended version would be proposed and seconded.*

The motion to Council was therefore as follows:

**An LGA survey revealed that seven out of ten councillors at all levels have experienced abuse over the last year. These attitudes, having started on social media, have now become normalised and morphed into the real world - it needs calling out.**

**Most Councillors, at any level of operation do it in order to make a positive contribution to their local society and 'make a difference' – regardless of any political affiliation they believe what they might be suggesting will be of benefit to the residents. It is therefore totally wrong to be either rude or abusive in response to such proposals.**

**By setting an example to ensure all councillors get better recognition and appreciation as well as protecting them from personal attacks will encourage more people to play their part in local government including at Town and Parish Council level. It is important to have polite yet robust debate, ideally with a free vote at the conclusion.**

**I would like to introduce a Motion of Debate not Hate at CDC and throughout the Town and Parish Councils in the Cotswold District to remind everyone that whilst democracy thrives on good, frank discussions these should never turn into personal abuse.**

Council welcomed the Notice of Motion and Members provided personal examples of abuse that had been directed to them as Members of the Council.

Council noted that the Notice of Motion had been framed to encourage Members of the Council to treat other Members, Council Officers and members of the public in a polite, moderated, manner with the expectation that this would be reciprocated and become the normal standard of behaviour.

Council noted that hate, rage and bullying was not created by social media or any other historic media (e.g. television, the telephone, newsprint) however these media enabled individuals to express their own hate, rage and domination with impunity (and often anonymously).

Council noted that the Town and Parish Councillors were being offered training in the autumn that included Councillor behaviour and the Director For Governance and Monitoring Officer would incorporate best practice guidance and personal examples of good practice within this.

**RESOLVED:** The Council agreed to accept the motion

**Voting Record – For 24, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 10,**

**Cost of Living - Motion proposed by Councillor Joe Harris, Seconded by Councillor Nikki Ind**

The motion to Council was as follows:

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Inflation is predicted to top 10% this year, the highest in 40 years and the tax burden is the highest today since World War Two and that the Government has consistently increased the direct and indirect tax burden on families.

The increased energy price cap will see the average standard tariff energy bill increase by £693 per year and the average prepay meter energy bill increase by £708 per year. The Government's suspension of the pension's triple lock for 22/23 will cost the pensioners in the Cotswolds on the full new state pension an average of £487 and those on the full basic state pension an average of £373.

This Government ended the uplift in Universal Credit and that changes to the taper will not compensate for the reduction in income of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society. This Council also notes that an estimated 11 million people in the UK live in food poverty, with the cost of living crisis predicted to greatly exacerbate this problem. Those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit by inflation, the lifting of the energy price cap and increased taxation.

This Council believes that no one should go hungry in the Cotswolds and the cost of living crisis will increase the levels of food poverty and malnutrition in the Cotswolds.

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to

- immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household a further £600 this year,
- immediately use revenue from the windfall tax on energy companies to help Gloucestershire families with their energy bills
- enshrine the right to food in law.

It is proposed that a cross party working group is set up which will report back to full council, in advance of the budget setting process, with steps the council could take to help address the cost of living crisis.

Council agreed that people in the Cotswolds should not go hungry and the Council needed to do more for the poorer people in society.

It was further noted that Cotswold District Council provides advice and guidance online and in the form of a leaflet, for residents struggling to pay their fuel bills and provide for their families

Council agreed that a cross party working group should be established to determine how additional support should be provided to those in need, and where the funds could be found to enable it to be delivered. Council did not unanimously believe that representation should be made to central Government as this was unlikely to successfully deliver the immediate support that was required.

Council noted that the proposed recommendation to call on the Government to reduce VAT from 20% to 17.5% was un-targeted, and would disproportionately benefit the highest earners who spend four times as much on VAT liable goods compared to the lowest earners. Other tax cuts would also need to be paid for by either reducing services or borrowing more and creating debts that would need to be serviced and repaid.

Council noted that although not relieving the immediate crisis, the Council could provide ongoing benefit to residents by supporting the planning/development of land based wind turbines to provide cheaper electricity, and provide support for home insulation to reduce the loss of heat, and the amount of energy required to keep them warm.

Council discussed whether the paragraph:

***"This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to***

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- *immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household a further £600 this year,*
- *immediately use revenue from the windfall tax on energy companies to help Gloucestershire families with their energy bills and*
- *enshrine the right to food in law.”*

should be removed in part or in full from the Notice of Motion in order to gain cross party support.

An adjournment was proposed by The Leader of the Council, Joe Harris and seconded by Councillor Mike Evey

**Voting Record\* – For 4, Against 7, Abstentions 0, Absent 8**

(\*Not all members took part in the vote)

- The Chair declared a comfort break for 5 minutes at 8.30pm
- Council resumed at 8.35pm

All Council Members present were provided with amended written copies of the Notice of Motion that removed the text of the original motion:

*“...and calls on the Government to*

- *immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household a further £600 this year,*
- *immediately use revenue from the windfall tax on energy companies to help Gloucestershire families with their energy bills and*
- *enshrine the right to food in law.”*

The Chair read out the amended Notice of Motion to ensure that all Council Members were clear on the exact wording of the Notice of Motion on which the vote would be taken

The amended Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Harris and seconded by Councillor Andrew Maclean

RESOLVED: Council agreed to accept the amended motion and in doing so agreed to set up a cross party working group in response to the motion which would report back, in advance of the budget setting process, with recommendations that Council could take to help address the cost of living crisis

**Voting Record – For 24, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 10,**

## **22** Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council will be Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 6pm.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 8.41 pm

Chair

(END)