

Agenda

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Council

Date: **Wednesday 18 February 2015**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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Officer**

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As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the Contact Officer know how you wish to do this before the start of the meeting.

This meeting will also be available via a webcast. This means that people may choose to watch all or part of the meeting over the internet rather than attend in person. The webcast will be available to view on the City Council's website after the meeting.

Council

Membership

Lord Mayor Councillor Mohammed Abbasi

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Craig Simmons

Sheriff Councillor Rae Humberstone

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Councillor Sajjad Malik
Councillor Farida Anwar	Councillor Chewe Munkonge
Councillor Elise Benjamin	Councillor Michele Paule
Councillor Ruthi Brandt	Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor Susan Brown	Councillor Bob Price
Councillor Bev Clack	Councillor Mike Rowley
Councillor Mary Clarkson	Councillor Gwynneth Royce
Councillor Colin Cook	Councillor Gill Sanders
Councillor Van Coulter	Councillor Scott Seamons
Councillor Roy Darke	Councillor Christine Simm
Councillor Jean Fooks	Councillor Dee Sinclair
Councillor James Fry	Councillor Linda Smith
Councillor Andrew Gant	Councillor John Tanner
Councillor Stephen Goddard	Councillor Richard Tarver
Councillor Michael Gotch	Councillor Sian Taylor
Councillor Mick Haines	Councillor David Thomas
Councillor Tom Hayes	Councillor Ed Turner
Councillor David Henwood	Councillor Louise Upton
Councillor Sam Hollick	Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen
Councillor Alex Hollingsworth	Councillor Elizabeth Wade
Councillor Pat Kennedy	Councillor Ruth Wilkinson
Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan	Councillor Dick Wolff
Councillor Mark Lygo	

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SUMMONS

A special meeting of the City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 5.00 pm to transact the business set out below.

Peter Sloman

Proper Officer

AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3 RECOMMENDATION TO VARY COUNCIL PROCEDURES FOR THIS MEETING

9 - 10

Council is invited to suspend its normal procedure rules and adopt the procedures set out in the note attached to this agenda to facilitate debate of the items on the agenda and any proposed amendments.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements relating to the business of this meeting by:

- (1) The Lord Mayor
- (2) The Leader of the Council
- (3) The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer

5 PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS MEETING

Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Board member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.10 and 11.11.

The full text of any address or question must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by 5.00 pm on 12 February 2015.

Addresses and questions must directly relate to items on this agenda.

Full details of addresses submitted by the deadline will be provided in the briefing note. Full details of questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available, will be provided in the briefing note.

COUNCIL DECISIONS - OFFICER REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

6 SECTION 151 OFFICER'S BUDGET REPORT

This report will be circulated separately prior to the meeting.

The Head of Finance will submit a report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 which requires him to report to the Council on:

- a) The robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations of the budget, and
- b) The adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

Council will be asked to note the report when setting its budget for 2015/16 and the indicative budgets for 2016/17 – 2018/19.

7 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

This report has been published separately as a supplement.

The Head of Finance has submitted a report which details the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2015/16 to 2018/19 and the 2015-16 Budget.

The City Executive Board will consider these reports at its meeting on 12 February and their decisions and recommendations will be reported separately.

Officer Recommendations: Subject to the recommendation of the City Executive Board, Council is recommended to:

1. approve the Council's General Fund Budget Requirement of £23.304 million for 2015/16 and an increase in the Band D Council Tax of 1.99% or £5.44 per annum as set out in Table 8 and Appendices 1-4, representing a Band D Council Tax of £278.97 per annum;
2. approve the continuance of the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme (formerly Council Tax Benefit)
3. approve the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2015/16 to 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 5 and 6 and an increase in average dwelling rent of 3.49% for April 2015 representing £3.59 per week an annual average rent of £105.77 as set out in Appendix 7;
4. approve the Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 8 and 9;
5. approve the Fees & Charges schedule as set out in Appendix 10;
6. adopt the criteria for adopting the Business Rates Retail Relief scheme as set out in paragraph 21 and transitional relief as set out in paragraphs 22 – 24; and

7. approve an increase in the 2014-15 capital budget of £550,000 in relation to the property purchase referred to in paragraph 43 and referred to elsewhere on the CEB agenda.

8 COUNCIL TAX 2015/16

11 - 24

The Head of Finance has submitted a report setting out the necessary calculations to enable Council to set the 2015/16 Council Tax for Oxford City, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Acts, 1988 and 1992, as amended by The Localism Act 2011.

Officer Recommendations: Council is recommended to approve for 2015/16:

1. The City Council's precept and Council Tax requirement of £12,072,263 (inclusive of Parish precepts) and £11,900,498 excluding Parish precepts.
2. The average Band D Council Tax figure (excluding Parish Precepts) of £278.97 a 1.99% increase on 2014/15 figure of £273.53. Including Parish Precepts the figure is £283.00, a 2.02% increase (see paragraph 3 of the report).
3. The contribution of £10,000 to the Parish of Old Marston in recognition of the additional expenditure that the Parish incurs as a consequence of maintaining the cemetery (see paragraphs 11 and 12).
4. The amount of £515,696 to be treated as Special Expenses (see paragraph 15).
5. The Band D Council Taxes for the various areas of the City (excluding the Police and County Council's additions) as follows:-

Littlemore	£301.50
Old Marston	£308.19
Risinghurst and Sandhills	£295.59
Blackbird Leys	£276.71
Unparished Area	£281.25

These figures include the Parish Precepts and special expensing amounts as appropriate in addition to the City-wide Council Tax of £266.88.

The Council is also asked to note:

6. Oxfordshire County Council's precept and Band D Council Tax as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
7. The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley's precept and Band D Council Tax as set out in paragraph 19, and
8. The overall average Band D equivalent Council Tax of £1,679.16 including Parish Precepts (subject to confirmation of the Band D figures for the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner – see paragraphs 18 and 19 of the report).

9 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 15/16

25 - 42

The Head of Finance has submitted a report which details the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16 together with the Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 to 2017/18.

The City Executive Board will consider these reports at its meeting on 12 February and their decisions and recommendations will be reported separately.

Officer Recommendations: Subject to the recommendation of the City Executive Board, Council is recommended to:

1. approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16, and adopt the Prudential Indicators 2015/16 – 2017/18 at paragraphs 8 to 37, and Appendix 2 of the report;
2. approve the Investment Strategy for 2015/16 and investment criteria set out in paragraphs 23 to 37 and Appendix 1; and
3. approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement at paragraphs 12 to 22 which sets out the Council's policy on debt repayment.

10 ADOPTION OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2015-19

43 - 116

The Head of Policy Culture and Communications has submitted a report which details the consultation of the draft Corporate Plan 2015-19 and proposes its adoption.

The City Executive Board will consider these reports at its meeting on 12 February and their decisions and recommendations will be reported separately.

Officer Recommendations: Subject to the recommendation of the City Executive Board, Council is recommended to:

1. approve the draft Corporate Plan 2015 – 19; and
2. delegate authority to the Head of Policy, Culture and Communications to make minor textual changes to the Corporate Plan 2015 -19 in advance of formal publication.

11 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

If Council wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding agenda items it will be necessary for Council to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Section 15 of the Council’s Constitution – sets out the conditions under which the public can be excluded from meetings of the Council)

UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPLEMENT THIS AGENDA IS PUBLISHED IN THE COUNCIL BRIEFING NOTE.

The Agenda and Briefing Note should be read together. The Briefing Note is available on the Friday before the meeting and can be accessed from the calendar of meetings page on the council’s website.

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licences for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

¹Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.