

Agenda

Council

Budget Council


Summons

A meeting of the City Council will be held to transact the business set out below on

Date: **Wednesday 16 February 2022**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber - Oxford Town Hall**



Proper Officer

Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and:

- may register in advance to speak to the meeting in accordance with the [public speaking rules](#)
- may record all or part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's [protocol](#)

Information about speaking and recording is set out in the agenda and on the [website](#)

Please contact the Committee Services Officer to register to speak; to discuss recording the meeting; or with any other queries.

This meeting can be viewed live or afterwards on the council's [YouTube channel](#).

For further information please contact:

Andrew Brown, Committee and Member Services Manager

☎ 01865 252275

✉ democraticservices@oxford.gov.uk

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All public papers are available from the calendar link to this meeting once published

Membership of Council

Councillors: Membership 48: Quorum 12.

Lord Mayor Councillor Mark Lygo

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Stephen Goddard

Sheriff Councillor Dick Wolff

Members	Councillor Evin Abrishami	Councillor Jemima Hunt
	Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Councillor Chris Jarvis
	Councillor Lubna Arshad	Councillor Tom Landell Mills
	Councillor Shaista Aziz	Councillor Dr Amar Latif
	Councillor Nadine Bely-Summers	Councillor Sajjad Malik
	Councillor Diko Walcott	Councillor Katherine Miles
	Councillor Susan Brown	Councillor Edward Mundy
	Councillor Nigel Chapman	Councillor Chewe Munkonge
	Councillor Mary Clarkson	Councillor Jabu Nala-Hartley
	Councillor Colin Cook	Councillor Lucy Pegg
	Councillor Tiago Corais	Councillor Susanna Pressel
	Councillor Barbara Coyne	Councillor Ajaz Rehman
	Councillor Lizzy Diggins	Councillor Mike Rowley
	Councillor Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini	Councillor Linda Smith
	Councillor Paula Dunne	Councillor Roz Smith
	Councillor Laurence Fouweather	Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton
	Councillor James Fry	Councillor Imogen Thomas
	Councillor Andrew Gant	Councillor Marie Tidball
	Councillor Mick Haines	Councillor Ed Turner
	Councillor Duncan Hall	Councillor Louise Upton
	Councillor Tom Hayes	Councillor Elizabeth Wade
	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth	Councillor Naomi Waite
	Councillor Rae Humberstone	

Apologies will be reported at the meeting.

Agenda

The business to be transacted is set out below

Pages

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

Relevant Dispensations: The Standards Committee on 11 September 2018 recommended and Council on 1 October 2018 agreed a set of general dispensations for a 4 year period for all councillors including:

- Determining an allowance (including special responsibility allowances), travelling expense, payment or indemnity given to Members
- Housing: where the Member (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council as long as the matter does not relate to the particular tenancy or lease of the Member (their spouse or partner);
- Housing Benefit: where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) receives housing benefit;
- Universal Credit: where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) receives housing benefit;
- Any Ceremonial Honours given to Members;
- Setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (or any subsequent legislation); and
- Setting a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme or Local scheme for the payment of business rates (including eligibility for rebates and reductions) for the purposes of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (or any subsequent legislation).

3 Announcements

Announcements by:

1. The Lord Mayor
2. The Sheriff
3. The Leader of the Council (who may with the permission of the Lord Mayor invite other councillors to make announcements)
4. The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer

4 Budget debate procedure

The procedure for this meeting including timings for the debate on the Council's budget, capital programme and medium term financial strategy as recommended by Cabinet is set out in the Council's Constitution at Part 11.4.

Any amendments to the procedure must be agreed by majority vote and will only apply to this meeting.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to note that the times permitted for each stage in the budget debate (Item 8 on the agenda) are as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

5 Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

Public addresses, and questions of under 200 words, to the Leader or other Cabinet member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 11.4, 11.12, 11.13, and 11.14 relating to matters for decision on this agenda.

The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address or question must be received by the [Head of Law and Governance](#) by 5.00 pm on Thursday 10 February 2022.

The briefing note will contain the text of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

A total of 30 minutes is available for this item. Responses are included in this time. Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three minutes for each question.

Committee recommendations to be considered before the budget debate

6 Licensing and Gambling Acts and General Purposes Licensing Committees - recommendations on fees and charges 2022/23

The General Purposes Licensing Committee and the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee considered at their meetings on 07 February 2022 reports on fees and charges for the licensing functions falling within their remits.

The draft minutes of the meetings will be available on the webpages for the meetings of the [General Purposes Licensing Committee](#) and the [Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee](#).

Cllrs Cook and Clarkson, the Committee Chairs, will propose the recommendations.

The fees and charges are also included in the budget papers at Item 8 Appendix 7.

Recommendations: the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee and the General Purposes Committee recommend that Council resolves to agree the relevant licence fees and charges for 2022/23 as set out in Items 6a, 6b and 6c (and repeated in the relevant sections of Item 8 Appendix 7).

6a	Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 Licence Fees and Charges for the 2022/23 Financial Year	15 - 20
6b	Commercial Events, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Road Closure Orders, Scrap Metal Dealers, Sex Establishments and Street Parties: Licence Fees and Charges for the 2022/23 Financial Year	21 - 28
6c	Miscellaneous Licensing: Fees and Charges for the 2022/23 Financial Year	29 - 32

Budget and Council Tax

7	Report of the Council's Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the 2022/23 budget	33 - 46
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Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 there is a requirement for the Council's Chief Financial Officer to report to 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.

The Head of Financial Services may present the report and recommendations.

Council in considering its Budget should have regard to this advice.

Recommendation: That Council notes this report in setting its budget for 2022/23 and the indicative budgets for 2023/24 – 2025/26.

8	Report of the Scrutiny Budget Review Group	47 - 84
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Report of the Scrutiny Budget Review Group on the proposed budget.

Exempt Appendix 1, which contains additional recommendations from Scrutiny to Cabinet, is included at item 15.

Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny recommendations on the budget will

be included in the Briefing Note.

The Chair of the Budget Review Group will present the report and recommendations.

Recommendation: Council is asked to note the recommendations of the Budget Review Group and Cabinet's response.

9 Budget 2022/23

85 - 252

The Head of Financial Services submitted a report to Cabinet on 09 February 2022 to present the outcome of the budget consultation and agree the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023-24 to 2025-26 and 2022-23 Budget for recommendation to Council.

The Cabinet decisions and any further proposed amendments to the budget will be reported in the Briefing Note.

Cllr Turner, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Amendments to the budget proposed by opposition groups or individual councillors must be received by Committee Services before 1.00pm on Tuesday 15 February 2022 and will be published in the Briefing Note.

The procedure for this item is set out in Part 11.4 of the Council's Constitution.

A recorded vote must be taken when voting to agree the final budget and medium term financial strategy.

Council is recommended to:

- a. consider Cabinet's recommendations to Council, including the budget published as part of the agenda for this meeting along with any amendments resulting from the Cabinet meeting of 09 February;
- b. consider the substantive amendments proposed by the opposition groups; and published with the briefing note;
- c. consider any individual amendments; and
- d. agree the recommendations from the Cabinet as presented to Council, or with further amendments as decided by Council.

Recommendations: Cabinet recommends subject to decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting on 09 February that Council resolves to:

1. Approve the 2022-23 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets for consultation and the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendices 1-10, noting:

- a) the Council's General Fund Budget Requirement of £22.382

million for 2022/23 and an increase in the Band D Council Tax of 1.99% or £6.37 per annum representing a Band D Council Tax of £326.54 per annum;

b) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2022/23 of £47.882 million and an increase of 4.10% (£4.51 per week) in social dwelling rents from 1 April 2022 giving a revised weekly average social rent of £112.00 as set out in Appendix 5;

c) the increase in shared ownership rental in accordance with the lease as shown in paragraph 44 and the discretion used by the Head of Housing in setting the initial rent for the unsold share of 2% and giving delegated approval to the Head of Housing to set this for future shared ownership rents up to 2.75%;

d) the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 6.

2. Approve the appropriation of Alice Smith House from the HRA to the General Fund in accordance with paragraph 44 subject to any consents which are required.

9a Additional recommendations from Cabinet and corrections to the published budget

If Cabinet agrees changes to the recommendations, or changes or corrections to the published report or appendices, these will be published in the Briefing Note.

9b Alternative budget proposals - Liberal Democrat Group amendments

Liberal Democrat Group amendments to the revenue and capital budgets, including explanation, for debate. These will be published in the Briefing Note.

9c Alternative budget proposals - Green Group amendments

Green Group amendments to the revenue and capital budgets, including explanation, for debate. These will be published in the Briefing Note.

9d Alternative budget proposals - Independent Group amendments

Independent Group amendments to the revenue and capital budgets, including explanation, for debate. These will be published

in the Briefing Note.

9e Individual amendments to the budget

Individual amendments to the revenue and capital budgets, including explanation, for debate. These will be published in the Briefing Note or individual items from (b) or (c) above may be tabled at the appropriate point in the debate.

10 Council Tax 2022/23

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The Head of Financial Services has submitted a report setting out the necessary calculations to enable Council to set the 2022/23 Council Tax for Oxford City.

Cllr Turner, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, will propose the recommendations and the Head of Financial Services will be available to answer questions.

A recorded vote must be taken when voting to agree the Council Tax and associated resolutions.

Recommendations: That Council resolves to approve for the financial year 2022/23 recommendations 1 to 5 and to note points 6 to 8 below:

1. The City Council's precept and Council Tax requirement of £15,028,571 including Parish precepts and £14,757,529 excluding Parish precepts.
2. The average Band D Council Tax figure (excluding Parish Precepts) of £326.54 a 1.99% increase on the 2021/2022 figure of £320.17. Including Parish Precepts the figure is £332.54, a 1.9% increase (see paragraphs 2 to 6).
3. A contribution of £10,000 to Old Marston Parish Council in recognition of the additional expenditure that the Parish incurs as a consequence of maintaining the cemetery (see paragraphs 9 and 10).
4. The amount of £638,036 to be treated as Special Expenses (see paragraph 13).
5. The Band D Council Taxes for the various areas of the City (excluding the Police and County Council's precepts) as follows:

Littlemore	£366.94
Old Marston	£360.32
Risinghurst and Sandhills	£349.98

Blackbird Leys	£331.59
Unparished Area	£329.30

These figures include Parish Precepts and special expensing amounts as appropriate; in addition to the City-wide Council Tax of £312.43.

Council is also asked to note:

6. Oxfordshire County Council's precept and Band D Council Tax as set out in paragraph 17
7. The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley's precept and Band D Council Tax as set out in paragraph 18, and
8. The overall average Band D equivalent Council Tax of £2,225.43 including Parish Precepts (subject to confirmation of the Band D figures for the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner).

Cabinet recommendations relating to the Council's budget

11 Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23

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The Head of Financial Services submitted a report to Cabinet on 26 January 2022 to consider the feedback from the recent consultation on the proposed changes to the 2022/23 Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to agree the principles of the new scheme to be drawn up for approval by Council.

Councillor Shaista Aziz, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to adopt the new Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23 taking into account the following:

- To increase the Income Bands in line with paragraph 8 Table 1 using CPI for the Benefit Cap uprating;
- To continue to support a 100% CTR entitlement;
- To continue with a Banded Scheme based on Income rather than family composition;
- To leave non dependant deductions as they are currently.

12 Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23

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The Head of Financial Services has submitted a report to Cabinet on 09 February 2022 which presents the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 together with the Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 to 2025/26.

The Cabinet decisions will be reported in the briefing note.

Councillor Ed Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendations: Cabinet recommends subject to decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting on 09 February that Council resolves to approve:

1. The Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 as set out in paragraphs 22 to 63 of this report and the Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 – 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 2;
2. The Borrowing Strategy 2022/23 at paragraphs 38 to 40 of this report;
3. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement at paragraphs 41 to 43 which sets out the Council's policy on charging borrowing to the revenue account; and
4. The Investment Strategy for 2022/23 and the investment criteria as set out in paragraphs 44 to 62 of this report and in Appendix 1.

13 Capital Strategy 2022/23

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The Head of Financial Services has submitted a report to Cabinet on 09 February 2022 which presents the Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2025/26 for approval.

The Cabinet decisions will be reported in the Briefing Note.

Councillor Ed Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends subject to decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting on 09 February that Council resolves to approve the Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2025/26.

14 Matters exempt from publication and exclusion of the public

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)

15 Report of the Scrutiny Budget Review Group - exempt Appendix 1

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Updates and additional information to supplement this agenda are published in the Council Briefing Note.

Additional information and public addresses will be published in a supplementary briefing note. The agenda and briefing note should be read together.

The Briefing Note is published as a supplement to the agenda. It is available on the day before the Budget Council meeting and can be accessed along with the agenda on the [Council's website](#).

Information for those attending

Recording and reporting on meetings held in public

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee and Member Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks Councillors and members of the press and public recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recordings may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

Councillors 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; licenses 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". 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.

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