

Agenda

Council

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Budget Council

Summons

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

Date: **Monday 23 February 2026**

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:

Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager,

☎ 01865 602767

✉ 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 Louise Upton

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Mike Rowley

Sheriff Councillor Andrew Gant

Members

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Councillor Dr Max Morris
Councillor Lubna Arshad	Councillor Lois Muddiman
Councillor Mohammed Azad	Councillor Edward Mundy
Councillor Susan Brown	Councillor Chewe Munkonge
Councillor Nigel Chapman	Councillor Simon Ottino
Councillor Mary Clarkson	Councillor Alex Powell
Councillor Tiago Corais	Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor Lizzy Diggins	Councillor Asima Qayyum
Councillor Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini	Councillor Anna Railton
Councillor Laurence Fouweather	Councillor Rosie Rawle
Councillor James Fry	Councillor Dr Dianne Regisford
Councillor Stephen Goddard	Councillor Ajaz Rehman
Councillor Judith Harley	Councillor Kate Robinson
Councillor David Henwood	Councillor Jo Sandelson
Councillor Alex Hollingsworth	Councillor Anne Stares
Councillor Jemima Hunt	Councillor Linda Smith
Councillor Chris Jarvis	Councillor Roz Smith
Councillor Theodore Jupp	Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton
Councillor Emily Kerr	Councillor James Taylor
Councillor Dr Amar Latif	Councillor Ed Turner
Councillor Mark Lygo	Councillor Naomi Waite
Councillor Sajjad Malik	Councillor Ian Yeatman
Councillor Katherine Miles	

Apologies will be reported at the meeting.

Agenda

The business to be transacted is set out below

Pages

Minute's silence and tributes

To hear tributes and observe a minute's silence in memory of former Lord Mayors or serving councillors or serving senior officers who have died.

List the names, posts and dates of death

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

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

13 - 18

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.

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

Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Cabinet member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules at 11.4 in the Constitution relating to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda.

Up to five minutes is available for each public address.

The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address must be received by the [Director of Law, Governance and Strategy](#) by 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 17 February 2026.

The briefing note will contain the text of addresses 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.

Committee recommendations to be considered before the budget debate

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------|
| 6 | Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 Licence Fees and Charges for the 2026/27 financial year | 19 - 24 |
| | <p>The Deputy Chief Executive for City and Citizen Services has submitted a report to seek agreement on the licence fees for 2026/27 where the council has discretion over the level of fee charged, following recommendation from the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee on 9 February 2026.</p> <p>Recommendation: Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agree the licence fees and charges for 2026/27 as recommended by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee and as set out in Appendix 1. | |
| 7 | Miscellaneous Licensing Fees and Charges for the financial year 2026/2027 | 25 - 56 |
| | <p>The Director of Planning and Regulation has submitted a report to seek agreement of the licence fees for 2026/27 where the Council has discretion over the level of fee charged, following recommendation at the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 9 February 2026.</p> <p>Recommendation: Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agree the Miscellaneous Licensing Fees and Charges for 2026/2027 recommended by the General Purposes Licensing Committee as set out in Appendix 1. | |
| 8 | Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Road Closure Orders, Scrap Metal Dealers, Sex Establishments Street Parties and Commercial Events: Licence Fees and Charges for | 57 - 62 |

the 2026/27 financial year

The Deputy Chief Executive for City and Citizen Services has submitted a report to seek agreement on the licence fees for 2026/27 where the council has discretion over the level of fee charged following recommendation from the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 9 February 2026.

Recommendation: Council resolves to:

1. **Agree** the licence fees and charges for 2026/27 as recommended by the General Purposes Licensing Committee and as set out in Appendix 1.

Budget and Council Tax

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|-----------|---|--------------|
| 9 | Chief Finance Officer's report on the robustness of the Council's 2026/27 budget | 63 - 76 |
| | <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations of the budget; andb) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. <p>Council in considering its Budget should have regard to this advice.</p> <p>Recommendation: That Council notes this report in setting its budget for 2026/27 and the indicative budgets for 2027/28 – 2029/30.</p> | |
| 10 | Report of the Scrutiny Budget Review Group | 77 - 136 |
| | <p><i>Appendix 3 to this item includes exempt information pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If Council wishes to discuss matters relating to the information set out in Appendix 3 to the report, it will be necessary for Council to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting.</i></p> <p>The Scrutiny and Governance Advisor has submitted a report of the Scrutiny Budget Review Group on the proposed budget., following endorsement at the Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of the Budget Review Group will present the report and recommendations.</p> <p>Recommendation: Council is asked to note the recommendations of the Budget Review Group and Cabinet's response.</p> | |
| 11 | Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30 and | 137 -
324 |

2025/26 Budget

The Group Finance Director has submitted a report to present the outcome of the budget consultation and approve the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2027-28 to 2029-30 and 2026-27 Budget.

Recommendation: Council resolves to:

1. **Note** the approval by Cabinet on 21 January 2026 and subsequently agreed by the Council on 26 January of an increase of 4.8% i.e. CPI+1% in line with the recent Government announcement referred to in paragraph 28 from 1st April 2026, giving an average weekly increase of £8.47 per week, and a revised weekly average social rent of £143.40 as set out in Appendix 5 based on a HRA budget as set out in Appendix 4;
2. **Approve** the 2026-27 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets and the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendices 1-9, noting:
 - a) the Council's General Fund Budget Requirement of £32.185 million for 2026/27 and an increase in the Band D Council Tax of 2.99% or £10.66 per annum representing a Band D Council Tax of £367.38 per annum; and
 - b) the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 6;
3. **Agree** the fees and charges shown in Appendix 7;
4. **Confirm** the Council Tax Base for 2026-27 of **48,725.2** as per paragraph 17 below and Appendices 11 and 12 attached.

Amendments submitted by opposition groups (proposers may speak for up to 10 minutes). These amendments must be received by Committee and Member Services by 1.00pm three working days (Tuesday, 17 February 2026) before the meeting. These proposals will be voted on as one amendment for each group.

12 Council Tax Setting

325 -
336

The Group Finance Director (Section 151 Officer) has submitted a report to provide the necessary calculations to enable the Council to set the 2026/27 Council Tax for Oxford.

Recommendation: Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the Council's precept and Council Tax requirement of £18,191,281 including Parish Precepts and £17,900,664 excluding Parish Precepts.
2. **Approve** the average Band D Council Tax figure (excluding Parish Precepts) of £367.38, a 2.99% increase on the 2025/26 figure of £356.72. Including Parish Precepts, the figure is £373.34, a 3.00% increase, noting that this is not the figure that is used to compare to the referendum limit (as set out in

- paragraphs 2 to 8 of the report).
3. **Approve** a contribution of £10,000 to Old Marston Parish Council in recognition of the additional expenditure that the Parish Council incurs as a consequence of maintaining the cemetery in Marston (as set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report).
 4. **Approve** the amount of £773,943 to be treated as Special Expenses (see paragraph 15 of the report).
 5. **Approve** the Band D Council Tax for the various areas of the city (excluding the Police and Crime Commissioner and Oxfordshire County Council's precepts) as follows:

Littlemore	£393.69
Old Marston	£402.73
Risinghurst and Sandhills	£399.04
Blackbird Leys	£371.13
Unparished Area	£370.48

These figures include Parish Precepts and special expensing amounts as appropriate; in addition to the City Wide Council Tax of £351.50.

6. **Note** Oxfordshire County Council's precept and Band D Council Tax is as set out in paragraph 19 below
7. **Note** the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley's precept and Band D Council Tax is as set out in paragraph 20 below, and
8. **Note** the overall average Band D equivalent Council Tax is £2,678.40 including Parish Precepts (subject to confirmation of the Band D figures for Oxfordshire County Council).

Cabinet recommendations relating to the Council's budget

13 Treasury Management Strategy

337 -
382

The Group Finance Director (Section 151 Officer) has submitted a report to approve the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27 together with the Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 to 2029/30, following recommendation from Cabinet.

Recommendation: Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 as set out in paragraphs 11 to 56 of this report and the Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 – 2029/30 as set out in Appendix 2;
2. **Approve** the Borrowing Strategy 2026/27 at paragraphs 32 to 33 of this report;

3. **Approve** the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement at Appendix 3 which sets out the Council's policy on charging borrowing to the revenue account;
4. **Approve** the Investment Strategy for 2026/27 and the investment criteria as set out in paragraphs 37 to 55 of this report and in Appendix 1;
5. **Approve** the Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation at Appendix 4

14 Capital Strategy

383 -
426

The Group Finance Director (Section 151 Officer) has submitted a report to approve the Capital Strategy, following recommendation from Cabinet.

Recommendation: Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the Capital Strategy attached at Appendix 1.

15 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27

427 -
482

The Group Finance Director (Section 151 Officer) has submitted a report to approve the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2026/27. To note that the current 2025/26 scheme has been through a public consultation and the proposed changes are reviewed with an Equality Impact Assessment.

Recommendation: Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the change to the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme to the income bandings in accordance with Option 2 listed at paragraphs 32-37 within the report.
2. **Delegate authority** to the Group Finance Director (Section 151 Officer) to draft the details of the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2026/27

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)

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

Additional information, councillors’ questions, public addresses and amendments to motions are 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 Friday before the 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.

Members Code – Other Registrable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing** of one of your Other Registrable Interests*** then you must declare an

interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members Code – Non Registrable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests, then you must declare the interest.

You must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room, if you answer in the affirmative to this test:

“Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.”

Otherwise, you may stay in the room, take part in the discussion and vote.

*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.

** Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person’s quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

*** Other Registrable Interests: a) any unpaid directorships b) any Body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority c) any Body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.