Bourton Vale Ward

District Councillor’s Report – February 2024

Cllr Len Wilkins, Bourton Vale District Councillor

len.wilkins@cotswold.gov.uk

07970668849

During February the following meeting were held

Thurs 1st Feb Cabinet

Wed 7th Feb Planning & Licensing

Wed 21st Council.

Tues 27th Overview & Scrutiny

Thurs 29th Licensing Sub-Committee

CABINET DECISIONS

**Leader’s Announcement**

The Leader announced that around an additional £500 million made available for local authorities. Whilst the additional funding was welcomed, it was stated that the funding would not be sufficient against the projected reduction in funding. The additional funding would largely go to authorities with responsibility for adult social care and children social services.

**REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE’S PUBLIC CONVENIENCES REVIEW GROUP**

This report was accepted by Cabinet and the 11 recommendations accepted. They are were

* re-tender the cleaning and maintenance contract rather than bring the service in house.
* to reduce the annual revenue cost of providing public conveniences facilities by charging
* to retaining at least one District Council provided public conveniences facility in each town and village within the district that currently has one
* to open discussions with the relevant Town Councils about the transfer of responsibility for four sites in towns that have more than one district council provided facility
* to allocate £47,200 in the capital programme to introduce charging at the four retained sites that are currently free to use
* to allocate capital funding of £27,650 in priority works to remedy condition (the replacement of paddle gates) at the two sites in Bourton on the Water in order to protect future income.
* to maintain the condition of its public convenience facilities through the Council’s Asset Management Strategy
* to set at 70p for the cost of using at all retained district council public conveniences facilities
* that the Council uses signage at public convenience facilities to explain to users that public conveniences are not a statutory service and the usage charge does not cover the full cost
* That the Council continues to provide one disabled access unit at each retained site which can be accessed free of charge with a RADAR key
* That the Council encourages key partners such as town and parish councils and local businesses to make their toilets available for public use and to register their toilets on popular public toilet apps.

**Discretionary Rate Relief**

Cabinet approved a Hardship relief award of £16,952.21 and

instructed officers to make a suitable repayment plan to recover the remaining £16,952.22

**Budget Fees and Charges**

The Cabinet endorsed the revised fees and charges and approved the implementation of revised fees and charges for 2024/25. It recommended that the services and fees and charges should increase by 6.7% with effect from 1 April 2024. Some individual charges will be slightly higher or lower than 6.7% due to rounding up.

**Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25**

This was approved by Cabinet.

**Future Of The Old Station And Memorial Cottages – Cirencester**

Cabinet agreed to allocate funding to carry out structural works to rebuild an unstable wall at the Old Station, Cirencester.

**Agile working update and tenancy proposals for trinity road council offices in Cirencester**

Cabinet were updated on the work that has been completed to make changes to the Trinity Road offices to facilitate agile working and free up space for tenants.

Cabinet agreed to enter into a legal agreement with a tenant.

Full Council Meeting

**Future Of The Old Station And Memorial Cottages – Cirencester**

This was approved by full council

**Changes to** **CDC’s Planning Protocol, the Scheme of Delegation and the Planning Review Panel.**

That Council approved:

1.    the Medium-Term Financial Strategy set out in Annex B

2.    the Savings and Transformation items for inclusion in the budget, set out in Annex C

3.    the Council Tax Requirement of £6,596,721 for this Council

4.    the Council Tax level for Cotswold District Council purposes of £153.93 for a Band D property in 2024/25 (an increase of £5)

5 the Capital Programme, set out in Annex D

6.    the Annual Capital Strategy 2024/25, as set out in Annex E

7.    the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2024/25, as set out in Annex F

8.    the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts, as set out in Annex H

9.    the balances and reserves forecast for 2024/25 to 2027/28 as set out in Section 6 of the report.

10.  the Council Tax Support scheme recommended by Cabinet summarised in paragraphs 7.29 and 7.30 of this report

**Council Tax**

The meeting approved the Council Tax amounts calculated by the Deputy Chief Executive.

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**River Quality/Sewage**

The Committee received a presentation on the work of the Council around river quality and sewage and passed its recommendation on to the Cabinet meeting on 7 March.

**Publica Review – Local Partnership Transition Plan**

To consider the Local Partnerships report and for Cabinet to approve the recommendations therein.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the report and passed any recommendations to the Cabinet meeting on 7 March.

The report was introduced by the newly appointed Transition Manager - Andrew Pollard. He said it was too early to release a report from Local Partnerships LLP. The original £150,000 estimated costs of the transition had already been increased to £200,000 and now been increased to £500K to recognise the need for robust data for transition

**Green to the Core’ Local Plan consultation begins.**

Residents are invited to give their views on updates to Cotswold District Council’s adopted Local Plan (2011 – 2031) to make it ‘Green to the Core’. The consultation builds on the public feedback received in 2022 at the previous ‘Issues and Options’ stage of plan-making. The consultation also responds to changes in national guidance and new evidence-based studies that inform the Local Plan Update.

**Calling all home interior fanatics**

Cotswold District Council is hosting the Cotswold Homes and Interior Festival in Cirencester this March, funded by the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

**Council seeks views on design of residential spaces.**

Residents living in the Cotswolds are invited to help shape Cotswold District Council’s approach to the future design of new build developments.

Our Local Plan Design Code Consultation seeks to understand residents’ views on what recent housing developments got right, what could have been better, and what they most enjoy about their area. The Local Plan has been updated to make it ‘Green to the Core’, and the consultation seeks to understand whether homes and residential areas are tackling the impacts of climate change.

**Are you ready for the elections?**

Voters across Cotswold District are being encouraged to make sure they are registered, have applied for postal voting, and applied for identification if needed ahead of the deadlines so that they can vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 2 May.

**APPENDIX A**

Waste and Recycling – A £7 increase for the Garden Waste Annual Subscription is recommended to £57 to £64.

There is also a 50p increase for refuse sacks and recycling containers.

Charges for bulky waste collection remain at 2023/24 levels; .

Car Parks 30 minutes 0.80p to 1.00

1 hour 1.70p to 2.00

10 hours 2.70 pt o 3.10p

Sun: 10am to 6pm as above