Foreword from the Leader

When this administration took office, we made a clear commitment to listen to our residents and businesses and to focus on the things that matter most to you.

At a time when councils across the country are facing significant financial pressures, there are different choices that can be made. Some councils have reduced services, withdrawn support and scaled back investment. We have chosen a different path.

We have chosen to protect the things residents value, invest in the places people care about and prepare Cherwell for the future.

That commitment is reflected in the decisions we have taken over the past year. We have continued to support Banbury Museum, ruled out the introduction of overnight parking charges, and are proposing to freeze all council car park charges for the coming financial year. At the same time, we have maintained support for residents facing financial hardship and housing pressures, while protecting the local services and facilities that help our communities prosper and thrive.

We have also continued to invest in our towns, villages and rural communities. From regeneration projects in Banbury and Bicester to new community facilities, improvements to public spaces and investment in sports and leisure, we are committed to ensuring that every part of Cherwell benefits from growth and opportunity.

At the same time, we are preparing for the future. This budget proposes investment in climate action, renewable energy, and improvements to our natural environment, helping to create more attractive community spaces, support wildlife, strengthen resilience to flooding and drought, and reduce carbon emissions. It also supports the homes, infrastructure and local economy our communities need to thrive. We believe growth should be responsible and sustainable, delivering lasting benefits for both current and future generations. Through these investments, we will improve local green spaces, enhance council-owned environmental assets.

These priorities reflect our belief that local government should be listened to and be ambitious for its communities, be responsible with public money and focused on delivering practical results that residents can see and feel in their everyday lives.

I encourage everyone with an interest in Cherwell to take part in this consultation. Together, we can continue building a Cherwell that is ambitious for its future, proud of its communities and confident in its potential.



Councillor Lesley McLean

Leader of Cherwell District Council

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