

To: Council

Date: 13 April 2015

Report of: Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Scrutiny Briefing

Purpose of report: To update Council on the activities of the scrutiny function

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee has one more meeting scheduled for this municipal year but much of the review work we have established will continue into the summer months. There are three time-limited scrutiny reviews currently in progress and these are focused on inequality, the city centre economy and cycling.
2. The Scrutiny Committee has circulated a brief survey to all members to gather views on the effectiveness of the City Council's scrutiny function. I would urge all executive and non-executive members to please respond to the survey by 17 April. The Scrutiny Committee will review your comments and suggestions, and these will help the Committee to ensure that scrutiny is able to add value and punch above its weight.
3. I would like to thank all Officers and Board Members who have contributed to writing or presenting reports that the Scrutiny Committee and various panels have requested.

Work programme

4. The attached work programme includes details of review groups and ad hoc panels, as well as indicative agenda schedules for the Scrutiny Committee and Standing Panels.

Standard Information

5. I will always include the following information:
 - Current Panel work showing membership and progress.
 - Forward agendas – these will be indicative only.
 - The number and result of any called in decisions or councillor calls for action.
 - Recommendations made and the outcome of these.

6. This information is included as appendices to this briefing.
7. I will also provide verbal updates where there has been progress since the last Committee.

Current Activity

8. Since my last update, the following items resulted in recommendations being presented to CEB. I have included the number of recommendations made in brackets, followed by the number of these that were agreed, either in full or in part:
 - Budget Review 2015/16 (17/10)
 - Oxford Living Wage (5/4)
 - Fusion Lifestyle – Annual Service Plan 2015/16 (4/4)
 - Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 (4/4)
 - Grant Allocations to Community and Voluntary Organisations (2/2)
 - The Culture Strategy 2015-2018 (2/2)
 - Discretionary Housing Payments policy (1/1)
 - Community and Neighbourhood Services (1/1)
 - Activities for older residents and preventing isolation (1/1)

The Scrutiny Committee

9. Since my last update, the Committee has met on 3 February, 2 March and 23 March. The Committee has pre-scrutinised a number of CEB decisions and considered several reports that it had independently requested from officers. The Committee has also monitored the Council's performance and established a cycling review.

Housing Panel

10. The Housing Panel looked at the City Council's approach to Unlawful Developments (Beds in Sheds), as well as under-occupancy in the Council's housing stock, at its meeting in February. In March, the Panel received a report on non-statutory homelessness services and received updates on the joint commissioning of housing support services, and Affordable Housing contributions in light of the amended national Planning Practice Guidance.

Finance Panel

11. The Finance Panel met in February to consider how the City Council can maximise the benefits of European Funding. The Panel is very grateful to Anneliese Dodds MEP for attending the meeting in person and providing a lot of very helpful information and advice to inform the Panel's deliberations. A report with recommendations will be presented to a future CEB meeting.

Budget Review

12. The annual Budget Review reported to CEB in February, providing assurance that the Council's budget for 2015/16 and its medium term spending plans are robust and fully funded. The report also included specific recommendations, which were discussed in some detail at CEB.

Inequality Review

13. The Inequality review, led by Councillor Van Coulter, is the major piece of scrutiny review work the Committee has initiated in 2014/15. The Review

Group has continued to engage with a wide range of contributors, including representatives of the Citizens Advice Bureau, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford and District Child Poverty Action Group, and Oxfordshire Community Action Groups. The Review Group will be holding one final public evidence session in April which will include a focus on the impacts of Welfare Reform in Oxford. The Inequality Review Group will also be considering on the contents of its report and recommendations, before reporting to CEB in early summer.

Local Economy Review

14. The 'Local Economy' Review Group, led by Councillor James Fry, is exploring how the City Council can mitigate disruption to the city centre economy while major developments are taking place, and looking at issues around vacant premises. The Panel is engaging with the Town Team and some of the major landlords in the city centre, as well as City Council officers.

Cycling Review

15. The Cycling Review Group, led by Councillor Louise Upton, will engage with local cycling groups in drawing up a priority list of suggested cycling improvements and considering a number of other issues around cycling. Regrettably, County Council representatives will not be meeting with the Review Group.

Looking Ahead

16. Finally, we are beginning to think about the 2015/16 Scrutiny work programme and I would encourage all members to contribute suggestions. You can do this in your response to the scrutiny survey, through your political group, or by contacting Andrew directly.

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Scrutiny Work Programme 2014 - 2015

This programme represents the work of Scrutiny, including panel work and Committee items. The work programme is divided under the following headings:

1. Standing Panels
2. Review Panels and Ad hoc Panels in progress
3. Potential Review Panels (to be established if and when resources allow)
4. Items for Scrutiny Committee meetings
5. Draft Scrutiny Committee agenda schedule
6. Items called in and Councillor calls for action
7. Items referred to Scrutiny by Council

1. Standing Panels

254 Topic	Area(s) for focus	Nominated councillors (no substitutions allowed)
Finance Panel – All finance issues considered within the Scrutiny Function.	See appendix 1	Councillors Simmons (Chair), Darke, Fooks and Fry
Housing – All strategic and landlord issues considered within the Scrutiny Function.	See appendix 2	Councillors Hollick (Chair), Sanders, Smith and Wade Co-opted Member – Linda Hill

2. Review panels and ad hoc panels in progress

Topic	Scope	Progress	Next steps	Nominated councillors
Thames Water investment to improve flooding	To continue engagement with Thames Water Utilities (TWU) at a senior level to ensure delivery of the agreements reached.	TWU catchment study commences in April 2015.	First oversight meeting to be arranged for spring/summer 2015	Councillors Darke (Chair) Pressel, Thomas and Goddard
Inequality	To review how the City Council contributes to combatting harmful inequality in Oxford, and whether there is more that could reasonably be done.	The Panel has one final evidence gathering session remaining and has begun its deliberations.	Final evidence gathering in public on 16 April. Private session focused on outcomes on 30 April.	Councillor Coulter (Chair), Gant, Lloyd-Shogbesan and Thomas
Recycling rates	To review of recycling and waste data rates, and consider community incentives and other recycling initiatives.	Site visit to Cowley Marsh depot held on 16 February. Bid made for DCLG Recycling Reward Scheme funding.	Awaiting comparison data and outcome of bid for government funding.	Councillor Fry (Chair), Simmons & Hayes
Local economy	1. Mitigate disruption to the city centre economy while major developments are taking place and improve communications. 2. Minimise the time shop units are left empty, and improve the appearance of empty units.	Updates on the work of the Town Team and initial written evidence have been reviewed. The Panel has also received feedback from Town Team members on what they would like to see happen.	Meeting focused on empty premises on 8 April. Panel to meet with 2 Town Team steering groups.	Councillor Fry (Chair), Darke, Benjamin & Gotch
Cycling	To review how the City Council can make best use of unallocated investments and produce a costed list of priority schemes.	Scope signed off by Scrutiny Committee. Cycling groups and officers relevant officers have been invited to meetings on 14 April and 12 May.	Panel to engage widely to develop a list of priority schemes.	Councillors Upton (Chair), Gant, Hayes, Pressel & Wolff

3. Potential Review Panels – to be established when resources allow

Topic	Area(s) for focus	Nominated councillors
Neighbourhood working	Scope to be determined. Could to consider how to address feedback provided to the City Council by the peer review group.	TBC

Indicative scrutiny review timeline 2014-2015 (does not include ad hoc review panels)

Review	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
Budget Scrutiny	Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting					
Inequalities		Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting		
Local economy					Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting	
Cycling							Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting

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Scoping
Evidence gathering and review
Reporting

4. Items for Committee meetings (in no particular order)

Topic	Area(s) for focus
Discretionary Housing Payments	Quarterly updates on spending profiles within a framework agreed by the Committee.
Performance monitoring	Quarterly report on a set of Corporate and service measures chosen by the Committee.
Educational attainment investment	To consider the academic progress and key stage results at schools operating the KRM model compared to those not.
Fusion Lifestyle contract performance	Regular yearly item agreed again by the Committee to consider performance against contract conditions.
Research on the effects of welfare reform	To consider research into the impact of welfare reforms in the City.
Clean streets	To receive an update on the City Council's approach to keeping Oxford streets clean from graffiti, detritus, littering and waste.
Living Wage	To review how the living wage is enforced through procurement contracts
New controls over anti-social behaviour	To receive an update on the City Council's changing approach to anti-social behaviour.
Low Carbon Oxford	To receive an update on the progress of this scheme and plans to progress the low carbon agenda in Oxford.
Community and Neighbourhood services	To review aims, activities and outcomes; grant distribution; community centres and associations; volunteering; Neighbourhood plans; how better on-going engagement can be established with different communities.
Activities for older residents and preventing isolation	To receive an update on services and activities for over 50s, with a focus on preventing isolation.
Individual voter registration	To receive an update on changes to electoral registration and to monitor how the City Council is maximising registration.
Taxi Licencing	To review rules and processes; to understand driver issues.
Forward Plan items	To consider issues to be decided by the City Executive Board.

5. Draft Scrutiny Committee Agenda Schedule

Date (all 6pm, St. Aldate's Room unless stated)	Agenda Item	Lead Member / Officer(s)
27 April 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes of serious case review briefing 2. Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adult Policy (pre-scrutiny) 3. City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (pre-scrutiny) 4. Oxpens Delivery Strategy (pre-scrutiny) 5. Covered Market Action Plan 6. Review of Scrutiny work programme and results of member survey 	<p>Cllr Craig Simmons</p> <p>Tim Sadler, Val Johnson</p> <p>Richard Adams</p> <p>Fiona Piercy; Network Rail</p> <p>Jane Winfield</p> <p>Andrew Brown</p>
2 June 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Oxfutures</i> 2. <i>Proposed Lease and Monitoring Arrangements for Community Centres (pre-scrutiny)</i> 3. <i>Oxford Railway Station Redevelopment</i> 	<p><i>Mairi Brookes</i></p> <p><i>Mark Spriggs</i></p> <p><i>Fiona Piercy</i></p>
30 June 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Taxi licencing</i> 	<p><i>Julian Alison</i></p>

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2015/16 Scrutiny Committee dates: 2 June, 30 June, 7 September, 6 October, 2 November, 8 December, 12 January, 2 February, 7 March, 5 April

6. **Items called in and Councillor calls for action**

None

7. **Items referred to Scrutiny by Council**

None

Appendix 1 - Finance Panel work programme 2014-15

Items for Finance Panel meetings

Suggested Topic	Suggested approach / area(s) for focus
Budget Scrutiny	Review of the Council's medium term financial strategy.
Budget monitoring	Regular monitoring of projected budget outturns through the year.
Treasury Management	Scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and regular monitoring of Treasury performance.
Capital process	To receive an update on the implementation of the Capital Gateway process.
Maximising European funding	To consider how the City Council can maximise funding opportunities; invite local MEPs to contribute to the discussion.
Municipal / Local bonds	To receive an update on the establishment of a municipal bonds agency and consider whether there is a case for the City Council to generate capital financing locally through bonds or crowd-funding.
Ethical investment	To monitor the City Council's approach to implementing an ethical investment policy.
Council tax exemptions	To receive an update on the financial implications of different types of exemptions.

Draft Finance Panel agenda schedule

Date and room (all 5.30pm, St. Aldate's Room)	Agenda Item	Lead Officer(s)
28 April 2015 (TBC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget monitoring – quarter 3 2. Capital Strategy (pre-scrutiny) 3. Corporate Debt Policy (pre-scrutiny) 4. Draft European Funding report 	<p>Nigel Kennedy</p> <p>Nigel Kennedy</p> <p>Nigel Kennedy</p> <p>Cllr Simmons / Andrew Brown</p>
2 July 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Municipal/Local Bonds</i> 2. <i>Low Carbon Hub</i> 	<p><i>Steve Drummond (Low Carbon Hub), Aidan Brady or Christian Wall (Local Capital Finance Company)</i></p> <p><i>Steve Drummond (Low Carbon Hub); Anna Winship</i></p>

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Provisional 2015/16 Finance Panel dates: 2 July, 3 November, 14 January, 28 January & 7 April.

Appendix 2 - Housing Panel work programme 2014-15

Items for Housing Panel meetings

Suggested Topic	Suggested approach / area(s) for focus
Performance monitoring	Regular monitoring of performance measures for Estates Regeneration, Housing Supply and Welfare Reform and Housing Crisis.
Housing Strategy	Review headline priorities and sought outcomes in Housing Strategy at draft stage, and the action plan post-consultation.
Increasing the provision of affordable housing	Monitoring of performance measures; scrutiny of the Housing Business Plan and the Housing Strategy; consider alternative options e.g. pre-fabs and 'pods'; possible review topic.
Homelessness	Monitoring of performance measures; scrutiny of the Housing Business Plan and Housing Strategy; pre-scrutiny of homelessness grant allocations; possible review topics.
Rent arrears	Monitoring of performance measures; bi-annual update reports.
STAR survey results	Monitoring of results.
Tackling under-occupancy	Report on efforts to tackle under-occupancy; consider in rent arrears reports.
Oxford Standard	To receive a progress update on the delivery of the Oxford Standard through the Asset Management Strategy and Action Plan, including an update on work to improve thermal efficiency in the Council's housing stock.
Private sector licencing	Update report on the scheme; consider views of landlords and PRS tenants.
Unlawful dwellings	A report on the City Council's approach to tackling illegal dwellings e.g. beds in sheds, given that funding ends in April 2015.
Repairs exemptions policy	To scrutinise proposed changes to the current policy.
De-designation of 40+ accommodation	Update report on the final phase of de-designating 40+ accommodation (expected in April 15).
Sheltered Housing	To contribute to and monitor the customer profiling survey of residents in sheltered accommodation and how this data should inform future provision.
Fuel Poverty	To receive an update on the City Council's approach to the issue of Fuel Poverty. Commission/review research; consider during other items; possible review topic.
Supporting people	Verbal updates on the joint commissioning of housing support services.

Draft Housing Panel Agenda Schedules

Provisional 2015/16 Housing Panel dates: 4 June, 9 September, 8 October, 9 December & 9 March.

Date, room and time	Possible Agenda Items	Lead Officer(s)
4 June 2015, Plowman Room, 5pm (Provisional)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. De-designation review year 4 2. Asset Management Strategy (including the Oxford Standard) (pre-scrutiny) 3. Private Sector Housing Policy (pre-scrutiny) 4. Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing Scheme (pre-scrutiny) 	<p>Tom Porter</p> <p>Martin Shaw</p> <p>Ian Wright</p> <p>Adrian Chowns</p>

Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker – February to March 2014/15

Fusion Lifestyle Annual Service Plan 2015/16 – Scrutiny Committee 23 March				
Recommendations	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. We recommend that a more ambitious performance target is adopted for increasing the participation of users resident in the most deprived wards in our city (the existing proposal is for the target to increase from 110,000 visits in 2014/15 to 114,000 visits in 2015/16).	Y	We will liaise with Fusion and report at CEB what we feel is doable.	Cllr Mike Rowley / Ian Brooke	2 April 2015
2. We recommend that a more ambitious performance target is adopted for increasing the participation of disabled users (the existing proposal is for the target to increase from 15,000 visits in 2014/15 to 16,000 visits in 2015/16).	Y	We will liaise with Fusion and report at CEB what we feel is doable.	Cllr Mike Rowley / Ian Brooke	2 April 2015
3. We recommend that the City Council continues to work with Fusion Lifestyle to remove barriers to participation for our target groups, for example by seeking to extend crèche provision at Council leisure facilities.	Y	Agreed - it describes what we're doing and intend to keep doing.	Cllr Mike Rowley / Ian Brooke	TBC
4. We recommend that the utility consumption performance target is changed to a carbon reduction target, measured on a per user basis. This could be in line with the City Council's corporate target of reducing carbon emissions by 5% per annum.	Y	Happy to report on a per user basis for carbon.	Cllr Mike Rowley / Ian Brooke	2 April 2015
Living Wage – Scrutiny Committee 2 March				
Recommendations	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. We recommend that the City Council surveys all suppliers to measure compliance with paying the Oxford Living Wage.	Y	We should make every effort to ensure that our contractors are paying the Living Wage, but it may be difficult to	Cllr Bob Price / Simon Howick & Jane	Nov 2015

		achieve a full coverage of the very large number of suppliers, some of which provide very small volumes.	Lubbock	
2. We recommend that the City Council reviews whether the Oxford Living Wage should continue to be set at 95% of the London Living Wage.	Y	The original figure was determined on the basis of a comparison of housing and transport costs in Oxford and London. It should be possible to repeat that exercise. The Council motion which committed us to the LW, proposed a £7 OLW against the £7.20 LLW, taking account of the work undertaken by the original research by Loughborough University and the Mayor of London and using Oxford housing and transport data. That relationship was subsequently translated into a 95% figure, in order to ensure that the OLW was maintained in line with a figure for the LLW that was well researched and supported by time series evidence. This percentage link makes the administration of the OLW straightforward and avoids the need for complex research to be undertaken locally at regular intervals.	Cllr Bob Price / Simon Howick & Jane Lubbock	Nov 2015
3. We recommend that the City Council seeks to increase apprentice pay in the next budget round.	N	This issue was considered carefully at the time of the decision on apprentice pay. The current apprenticeship rates are well above the national rates, but a move to the OLW would result in a reduction in the number of apprenticeships.	Cllr Bob Price / Simon Howick & Jane Lubbock	N/A

4. We recommend that the City Council actively explores the merits of incentivising businesses to pay the Oxford Living Wage through offering business rate discounts.	Y	We should consider this, but there are difficult issues of practical implementation as well as a potentially significant cost to the Council's budget.	Cllr Bob Price / Simon Howick & Jane Lubbock	Nov 2015
5. We recommend that the City Council seeks to be more pro-active in engaging with employers and encouraging them to pay the Oxford Living Wage. This could also involve raising the profile of the Oxford Living Wage on the City Council website and listing employers that have committed to paying it.	Y	As the portfolio holder, I have written to all the major employers to encourage them to pay the Living Wage and have engaged with many of them in the course of my visits to them over the past two and a half years. The suggestions about the website and employer listings are very good ones and will be adopted.	Cllr Bob Price / Simon Howick & Jane Lubbock	Nov 2015
Culture Strategy – Scrutiny Committee 2 March				
Recommendations	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. We recommend that there is an objective to extend cultural opportunities to excluded communities under priority for culture 2.	Y	Section 2 of the Strategy states that 'We are committed to providing and supporting opportunities for all of Oxford's residents to engage with arts and cultural events and activities, with a particular focus on work which reaches our young people and diverse communities.' and 'Our aim- working with our partners in the cultural sector- is to increase access from all our communities to good quality cultural opportunities and events, at affordable prices, in a range of venues and locations'.	Christine Simm / Peter McQuitty	April 2015

		This represents a clear and robust commitment to working with all communities including excluded groups. However, the phrase 'including excluded groups' could be inserted after 'increase access from all our communities' to strengthen the point.		
2. We recommend that the City Council asks Experience Oxfordshire to convene a seminar with elected members.	Y	Excellent suggestion which will be actioned within the next two months, giving the new incumbent a little time to settle in to her new role.	Christine Simm / Peter McQuitty	May 2015
Discretionary Housing Payment Policy – Scrutiny Committee 2 March				
Recommendations	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
We recommend that the City Executive Board approve the revised Discretionary Housing Payment Policy.	Y	<i>An update paper will come to Scrutiny and CEB at the end of quarter 2 at the latest.</i>	Susan Brown / Paul Wilding	Y
Budget Review 2015/16 = Finance Panel 5 February				
Recommendations	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. That reserves and balances are reviewed with a view to investing any overstated reserves.	Y	Agree. This is something that we are undertaking anyway, as we want to maximise return on investment. It is worth noting that reserves may not be “over-stated” but may still be suitable for investment if they are held against a risk or item of expenditure occurring in a future year.	Cllr Turner	Sept 2015
2. That the City Council explores new ways of increasing public engagement in its budget setting process.	In part	We can look at the consultation and welcome suggestions. However, it is important to note that the budget is a	Cllr Turner	Dec 2015

		politically-led process and that it would need to be consistent with the aims and values of the administration setting the budget.		
3. That Council Tax is increased by 1.99% (rather than the proposed 1.50%) in 2015/16.	Y	Agreed.	Cllr Turner	Y
4. That the City Council continues to engage constructively with other Oxfordshire Councils in order to optimise any potential benefits available from business rates pooling and distribution arrangements.	Y	Agreed. We already do work with the other councils on this, but at present pooling is not to our advantage.	Cllr Turner	Y
5. That the City Council looks at ways of mitigating the impacts of higher than average rents on those Council tenants who will be most affected.	N	The overall average rent rise for council tenants is 3.49% but the range is -6.58% to 6.25%. If a tenant faces into difficulties, s/he should approach the Council for assistance. For instance, there may be tenants who are not receiving all funds to which they are entitled, or in some cases a claim for Discretionary Housing Payment might be appropriate. However, the far bigger issue is for tenants in privately rented accommodation, rather than those paying comparatively low council rents.	Cllr Turner	N/A
6. That further consideration is given to covering more enforcement costs through higher, related fees and charges. This should include keeping legislation under review and asking the LGA what other local authorities charge for.	Y	We are happy to do this, but it should be noted that some budgets are ring-fenced and there is a limit to what can be charged for.	Cllr Turner	Sept 2015
7. That to protect future Park and Ride incomes, the City Council seeks agreement with the County Council on consistent charging rates across all	Y	We want to have common charges with the County Council, to avoid extra journeys being made to visit a cheaper	Cllr Turner	Dec 2015

Oxford Park and Rides.		park and ride. Ultimately the charges levied by the County Council are a matter for that authority. Our budget figure is our best estimate of the approach to be taken by the County Council.		
8. That the City Council explores mechanisms for the earlier release of land value locked up in the Barton Park development.	N	This does not look feasible or desirable. If the desire is to release waterfall payments earlier, that would not be possible without renegotiating the whole deal, which would not appear to be an endeavour with great prospect of success. Alternatively, if it is to borrow off the back of the deal, this would present the authority with additional risk, and it is not clear what the borrowing would for. We are already providing well over £100 million of investment over the next ten years, and are borrowing around £232 million.	Cllr Turner	N/A
9. That the following efficiency savings are re-rated as high risk: a) Shifting services towards community settings and online (£126k from 2017/18 in Customer Services), b) Application portfolio & telephony review (£150k from 2015/16 in Business Improvement & Technology).	N	a) We believe this saving is deliverable and the risk rating is appropriate. b) The applications review should deliver savings through reduced maintenance and reduced staffing resources that's why its medium risk. It doesn't make a difference to the budget since we provide a 40% contingency against unachieved savings for high and medium risks.	Cllr Turner	N/A

10. That there is a re-energising of attempts to identify new invest-to-save opportunities in future budget rounds (see recommendation 17d).	In part	We are very ambitious here already but will continue to look.	Cllr Turner	Dec 2015
11. That sufficient flexibility is in place to mitigate the risk of the City Council having to repay £7m to the Housing Revenue Account.	Y	We will be in a position to mitigate this, but would be undesirable.	Cllr Turner	Y
12. That the City Council explores how it can become a more agile operator in the housing market to ensure it secures best value for new property acquisitions.	In part	We believe we are appropriate and agile in this area of work, but are always happy to receive suggestions.	Cllr Turner	N/A
13. That half of the additional waste disposal costs pressure is re-instated in the budget from 2016/17.	N	Not agreed. It would not be in the interests of the authority to make this change, and if the budget is not deliverable it will be reviewed next year.	Cllr Turner	N/A
14. That off street parking income is re-modelled in light of the most recent parking data and experience with the temporary Westgate car park.	N	At this stage we do not see any evidence to suggest remodelling is necessary.	Cllr Turner	N/A
15. That any savings achieved through lower than assumed energy prices are invested in energy efficiency improvements.	N	We will continue to prioritise energy efficiency regardless of the movement on energy prices.	Cllr Turner	N/A
16. That HRA void losses are modelled at 1.0% (rather than the proposed 1.2%), at least in the early years of the budget period.	N	It would be prudent to retain potential void losses at 1.2%, in case void levels are higher when the Barton development becomes available. The impact upon the budget is minor.	Cllr Turner	N/A
17. That the following areas should be priorities for further spending in the event that additional general fund resources become available (we have identified some options for raising revenue in the short to medium term). These suggested priorities are listed in no particular order: a) Staff Training and Wellbeing – continue funding the training budget increase (£100k) and funding	In part (N a-f, Y g, in part h)	On all of these, they are really matters for councillors and groups to take a view of when it comes to budget setting. On “Beds in Sheds”, we are proposing a carry forward to continue to fund some of this work.	Cllr Turner	April 2015

<p>for staff wellbeing (£75k) beyond 2016/17,</p> <p>b) Apprenticeships – reinstate £50k from 2015/16 or a sufficient amount to fund no fewer than 25 apprentices in future cohorts,</p> <p>c) Community Development (Social Inclusion) Fund – reinstate £60k from 2015/16,</p> <p>d) Business Improvement staffing reductions – reverse the £110k cut in 2016/17 in full or in part (see recommendation 10),</p> <p>e) Partnership development – new investment,</p> <p>f) Fund raising – new investment,</p> <p>g) Planning enforcement – continue funding the Beds in Sheds project at the post April 2015 level to April 2016. A more detailed review of alternative funding streams should be undertaken during this period,</p> <p>h) Discretionary Housing Payments – continue the current level of funding to April 2016.</p>		<p>Discretionary Housing Payments – continue the current level of funding to April 2016. We will, of course, review the situation with respect to DHP in the light of the coalition government’s dramatic, inappropriate reduction of our budget. We could, if needs be, support it from the homeless contingency, in some circumstances from the HRA, and we may also need to revisit the criteria for the scheme.</p>		
Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 – Finance Pane 6 February				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. That paragraph 14 in appendix 2 and the title of table 5 are reworded before Council is asked to approve the Treasury Management Strategy.	Y		Cllr Turner	Y
2. That the City Council considers all options for refinancing the £20m repayment of its external debt, which is due to be repaid in 2020/21.	Y		Cllr Turner	July 2015

3. That the City Council pursues 'real asset lettings' at a pace. This could be both a good investment and one which supports the City Council's objectives.	Y		Cllr Turner	July 2015
4. That the City Council obtains independent advice on its liquidity and borrowing potential.	Y		Cllr Turner	July 2015
Grant Allocations to Community and Voluntary Organisations – Scrutiny Committee 3 February				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. That the City Council works with OCVA to improve outreach and engagement activities with diverse community and voluntary groups, with a focus on building capacities and supporting bid-writing.	Y	I am happy to accept this recommendation. Given the concerns that were expressed at the meeting about the capacity of overarching support services to reach minority communities, we will also explore other ways of making those communities aware of what we can (and cannot) offer. We will include in the OCVA specification for 15/16 that they must follow up any unsuccessful applicants to any of the grants funding pots to offer them support and guidance. We already offer bid writing workshops for all community groups through OCVA, and this will continue.	Cllr Rowley	
2. That consideration is given to providing a greater separation between grants allocated to smaller, localised community groups and those that seek to achieve wider community benefits.	In part	I agree that full consideration should be given to the difference between larger voluntary-sector organisations and smaller groups based in local communities, and the need to strike a balance, as well as to ensure Oxford retains a wealth of groups that come from within local communities to achieve collective goals.	Cllr Rowley	

		<p>The Council awards grants solely on the basis of the proposal's contribution to achieving the Council's local objectives, as well as evaluating applications on the basis of how closely the applicant works with local communities and how well they establish the specific local need. We also offer dedicated support to community groups in preparing bids, both directly and through OCVA, and this will continue.</p> <p>I am not convinced that a formal separation between different kinds of bidder would help to achieve this. The Council already has different a number of different grants budgets: for commissioning, with no bid limit and divided according to the Council's objectives; open bidding grants up to £10,000, and small grants up to £1,000 both very much aimed at local community-based groups; specific grants budgets for meeting particular needs. I think that considering applications separately according to the type of organisation they come from, rather than simply always bearing in mind the considerations outlined in my first paragraph above, could add complexity and diminish flexibility in achieving the Council's objectives.</p> <p>However, there could be more we could do to ensure that small community-based groups are fully aware of what we can and</p>		
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		cannot offer, and have the capacity to make appropriate applications; and our work on Scrutiny's first recommendation will be structured in order to address this.		
Activities for Older People and Preventing Isolation – Scrutiny Committee 3 February				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
That a high level review takes place to flag up any issues of non-compliance with the Equalities Act.	Y		Cllr Simm	June 15
Communities and Neighbourhood Services – Scrutiny Committee 3 February				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
That the review of priority areas draws on the findings of the Inequalities Scrutiny Panel, as well as the latest social research data.	Y	I am fully in support of work being undertaken to identify areas deprivation throughout the City and with the seven identified areas. Work is underway to provide an evidence based report to identify demographic change and areas of need drawing upon multiple indices of deprivation. The findings of the Inequalities Scrutiny Panel will inform this undertaking and I expect to be able to present a completed report in the summer of this year.	Cllr Simm	June 15