

Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker 2015-16 (exception report)

Listed below are recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board between May and October 2015 that have been agreed but not yet fully implemented:

Arrangements for fitting Solar Panels – 8th October Housing Panel				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Due date
1. That the City Council should make every effort to enter into a viable agreement with the Low Carbon Hub as soon as possible in order to maximise the available benefits of fitting solar panels on Council-owned housing stock.	Y	I agree with the recommendation and indeed officers are already looking at ways of working with the Low Carbon Hub to help install PV panels on Council homes.	Cllr Rowley & Stephen Clarke	Feb 2016
Additional Licensing for HMOs – 8th October Housing Panel				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Member & Officer	Due date
1. That the City Council encourages landlords and agents offer longer term tenancies and rent level guarantees, and explores the option of including these as discretionary criteria within the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.	Y	The Council will endeavour to encourage landlords and agents to offer longer tenancies and affordable market rents wherever possible and investigate the option of including this as a desirable element of accreditation in consultation with landlords and agents at the next Landlord Information Exchange event planned for December 2015.	Cllr Turner & Ian Wright	April 2016
2. That the City Council considers whether there is anything that can be done to address the inequity whereby many tenants living in HMOs are unable to access free bulky waste collections.	Y	Officers will investigate the potential to increase the number of free bulky items collections for tenants living in HMOs and if feasible will report back to CEB at a future meeting.	Cllr Turner & Ian Wright	April 2016
Proposed Lease and Monitoring Arrangements for Community Centres – 6th October Scrutiny Committee 2015				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Member & Officer	Due date

2. That the City Council should develop a “code of conduct” that sets out the expectations on Community Centre Associations and the types of support Associations can expect from the City Council. This code of conduct should be linked to the lease and monitoring arrangements for community centres.	In part	Many community associations will have their own Code of Conduct; this suggestion can be explored with community associations, either individually or through the Federation.	Cllr Simm & Ian Brooke	April 2016
4. That City Executive Board should make arrangements for independent legal advice to be available to Community Centre Associations.	Agreed	For those CAs moving from a licence to a lease, we will consider this during the period of discussion and negotiation. As there are areas of commonality in this process we can consider who would be the best source of advice of the CAs, for example, Community Matters. Associations with expired leases are being offered financial assistance towards seeking legal advice.	Cllr Simm & Ian Brooke	April 2016
Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy – Scrutiny Committee 7 September				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Member & Officer	Due date
1. That the City Council looks into extending the functionality of its mobile apps to enable leisure bookings.	Agreed	We will look into this in conjunction with Fusion.	Cllr Rowley & Ian Brooke	March 2016
Oxford Growth Strategy – Scrutiny Committee 7 September				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Member & Officer	Due date
That the Council’s strategic approach to providing new affordable housing should be aligned with, and referenced in, the Oxford Growth Strategy.	Agreed	It is important to note that the Oxford Growth Strategy is one of a range of documents which taken together outline Oxford City Council’s approach to meeting both overall housing need and affordable housing need, and that therefore the Oxford Growth Strategy implicitly includes affordable housing in its	Cllr Hollingsworth & Matthew Bates & Lynsley Beveridge	Sept 2016

	<p>coverage. For example, the documents that make up the Local Plan specify how the City Council's policies for affordable housing should be applied to development sites within Oxford's boundaries, the overall number of which are part of the Growth Strategy.</p> <p>However, as the Scrutiny Committee heard, the difference between the objectively assessed need for housing (SHMA¹) for Oxford and the number of homes that can be accommodated within the City's administrative area (SHLAA²) is substantial, and the majority of unmet need will have to be met on sites outside Oxford's boundaries. This means that different affordable housing policies of other Local Planning Authorities will apply to those sites. Where the City Council is a landowner it may be possible to take a different approach above and beyond that laid down in the relevant LPA's planning policies, but in most instances the sites are owned by others.</p> <p>In the SHMA numbers the need for affordable housing was a major factor, alongside supporting expected economic growth. Even so, it is important to note that it has been estimated that to meet all of Oxford's unmet need for just affordable housing, using current planning policies, requires a number that is HIGHER than the highest figure in the SHMA</p>		
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¹ Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2014

² Oxford City Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, 2014

		<p>range (24-32k). That is why the City Council will continue to argue strongly for housing allocations to meet unmet need in Oxford to be at the higher end of the range in the SHMA.</p> <p>In conclusion, it will be helpful for future iterations of the Oxford Growth Strategy to make clear both the origin of the SHMA range as being in part influenced by the assessed need for affordable housing, and the likely impacts for affordable housing of different policy options being pursued by the City Council and by others in the current discussions over housing allocations in Oxfordshire.</p>		
Waste Water Flooding Panel – Scrutiny Committee 7 September				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Member & Officer	Due date
That the City Council continues to engage with Thames Water Utilities (TWU) at a senior level through the Oxford Area Flood Partnership and other appropriate channels. This should include early engagement in relation to future development proposals that affect TWU.	Agreed	Happy to agree and endorse the work of the Waste Water Flooding Panel	Cllr Price & Tim Sadler	March 2016
Debt Management Policy – Finance Panel 2 July				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Member & Officer	Due date
2. We reaffirm recommendation 15d of the Inequality Panel about the Council moving towards having a single view of debt. It will still require considerable	Y	The project to implement this software which will allow us the single view of debt is underway, and will greatly assist in the management of all outstanding debts to the	Cllr Turner / Tanya Bandekar	June 2016

effort to make this a reality but we strongly endorse this direction of travel and the progress made to date, including the use of fraud detection software to identify individuals with multiple debts owed to the Council		Council and allow us to operate in accordance with the Corporate Debt Policy.		
Adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (2015) – Scrutiny Committee 30 June				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Member & Officer	Due date
2. That the Council continues to explore new and improved ways of informing residents and community organisations of local planning issues, using both on-line and off-line communication methods. In particular, enhancements to ICT systems should be prioritised so that individuals and groups that have signed up can receive automatic notifications when specific planning applications are progressed or amended.	Y	These are action plan issues. We need to improve the ICT.	Cllr Hollingsworth / Lyndsey Beveridge	Dec 2015
3. That the Council explores whether there is a lower cost means of informing local residents of planning applications as an alternative to “neighbouring property notification letters”. We suggest that proposals are brought forward in the next budget round.	Y	Proposals will be put to political groups.	Cllr Hollingsworth / Lyndsey Beveridge	Dec 2015

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