**Appendix 1**

**Oxford City Council Scrutiny Committee**

**Consultation Response**

**Oxfordshire 2050 Plan Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation Document**

1. Oxford City Council’s Scrutiny Committee wishes to submit a response to the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation Document. This response has been prepared in recognition that the Council as a whole will not be providing a response to the Consultation. The Committee has *agreed* to submit an extract from the minutes of a meeting held on 21 January, where the Committee considered the DraftRegulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation Document. The minutes summarise the nature of the Committee’s views, as set out below:

**Extract of the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2019**

1. Councillor Simmons had prepared paper in advance of the meeting which suggested how the Committee might wish to start framing recommendations to the City Executive Board. At its heart was concern at the lack of ambition in the proposed consultation document, with no recognition of the ‘mega trends’ that will impact on the County over the next 30 or more years, and a disconnect between the aspirations and objectives within the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and those stated elsewhere.
2. It would be a matter of regret if it was not possible to recast the document at this stage in a way which was closer to what the Council knew it wanted to see as an end product. The Scrutiny Officer had distilled the contents of Councillor Simmons’s suggestion as follows:

*That the City Executive Board works with the six partner authorities to rewrite the aspirations and objectives set out in the Regulation 18 consultation document to be more ambitious and consistent with international, national and local policies and targets concerning climate change. This should include:*

1. *A greater recognition of the importance of climate change, and its relationship with the forward planning of our housing, transport, health, wellbeing and economic infrastructure.*
2. *A greater recognition of the ‘mega-trends’ that are expected to affect the demographic, climatic and technological environment, for example.*
3. *A ‘SMART’ target for greenhouse gas reductions against which all the aspirations and objectives are judged.*
4. This then formed the basis of the subsequent Committee discussion. Members of the Committee made a number of detailed observations, including the desirability of making explicit reference to the importance of social housing in the Housing Context section.
5. The Planning Policy and Place Manager and Board Member for Planning and Transport pointed to the practical difficulties of seeking substantial changes at this stage (given the need for all the other authorities involved to agree). The observations being made by the Committee would, however, provide a valuable contribution as responses to the proposed consultation.
6. Officers explained that the document provided sufficient ‘hooks’ on which to raise the points concerning climate change and affordable housing once the consultation was underway and a number of examples were given. The document was drafted with open questions in a way which gave space to meet the prospective needs of all those likely to participate. It would not be desirable for the consultation to be seen to be closing down options at this stage.
7. The Chair expressed frustration on behalf of the Committee at the limits on the extent to which it appeared to be able to recommend changes to the document at this stage. This was particularly so given the Committee’s scrutiny function. At the same time he recognised the practical difficulties consequent upon a process requiring the simultaneous agreement of 5 other authorities.
8. It was agreed however that the City Executive Board could be recommended to make some minor amendments and points of clarifications where it is felt the hooks are ambiguous. This could be recommended in line with recommendation 4 of the City Executive Board report (ie necessary editorial corrections and minor amendments) to accommodate some of the Committee’s views.
9. The Committee resolved to pass the following recommendation to the City Executive Board:

*That the Council works with the Oxfordshire districts to incorporate minor amendments to the Regulation 18 Consultation Document, to strengthen the Plan’s ambitions to address climate change and provide truly affordable housing (consistent with other long term national and local policies and targets). These themes should be considered the basis for the Council’s response to the consultation.*

1. *(This recommendation was subsequently accepted by the City Executive Board on 22 January 2019, and some minor changes were made to the consultation document in line with the recommendation).*