

# Supplement for

# Cabinet

On **Wednesday 13 July 2022** At **6.00 pm**

## Agenda Item 7 - Scrutiny Reports

### Contents

<b>7. Scrutiny reports</b>	<b>3 - 26</b>
<p>Scrutiny Committee will meet on 5 July 2022. The following reports are expected and will be published as a supplement, together with any other recommendations to Cabinet from that meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Report</li><li>• Oxford City Council Safeguarding Report</li><li>• Oxford City Council's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy</li><li>• Growth Fund Cycle Routes</li><li>• Waterways Update</li></ul>	

The agenda, reports and any additional supplements can be found together with this supplement on the [committee meeting webpage](#).

This page is intentionally left blank

## Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Housing & Homelessness Panel. These recommendations were endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee on 12 April 2022 and were presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 April 2022. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1) That the Council identifies appropriate thresholds above which procurement or interview-focused ambassadors will be invited to be involved in the respective process.	<p>The Tenant Involvement Ambassadors and staff are in full agreement. Conversations have commenced with the Procurement Manager to determine practical steps; thresholds, outcomes and stakeholders.</p> <p>An additional training programme for Ambassadors is being drafted and the recommendation has been embedded within the Social Housing White Paper programme of work with timelines to August for go live.</p>
2) That the Council establishes a board with Cabinet member, senior officers and tenant and leaseholder representatives to meet on a regular basis to discuss tenant and leaseholder issues, and to report on progress and performance.	<p>Staff and the Ambassadors have signed off agreement with this recommendation of a Tenant &amp; Leaseholder Board. Initial discussions have been held with the Executive Director and an early autumn 2022 advertisement internal and external communications campaign is proposed.</p> <p>There has been initial desktop best practice reviews of similar boards set up elsewhere, as well as a recruitment, interview and training process and retention plan. This will be presented to the Head of Service and Executive Director in summer 2022 to begin scoping the design of such a board and the governance remit.</p>
3) That the Council makes the greatest effort to ensure that tenant representatives on the board reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the Council's tenants.	<p>This recommendation has been approved and signed off by Ambassadors and Staff. A Tenant Involvement Officer is conducting a resident mapping exercise based on wards, existing representatives and those to contact from the 2022 STAR survey. This will be published in the autumn Tenants in Touch magazine with the aim of ensure that the Board is representative of the tenant base.</p> <p>Every existing Ambassador is being met individually to design a Tenant</p>

3

	<p>Involvement Improvement Recruitment and Retention 2 year plan. The outcome of this will be a clear external communications plan and programme aimed at reaching out to communities and residents in poorly represented areas and increasing their engagement.</p>
<p>4) That the Council establishes the planned Housing Development Working Group as a matter of priority, that it includes within its scope issues relating to interior design of the homes built, and that a more precise name is agreed.</p>	<p>There has been an advertisement in the summer edition of Tenants in Touch promoting the “New Homes &amp; Design Panel” providing the opportunity for tenants and leaseholders to apply.</p> <p>A job description and Terms of Reference have been produced for the panel and we will hold semi-formal interviews in autumn 2022. Each of our panels now follows a clear structure of training and development.</p>
<p>5) That the Council implements ways to recognise the contributions of tenant ambassadors which do not incur universal credit clawback or other benefit issues.</p>	<p>The sentiment of this recommendation is recognised, although this has previously received significant push back from Ambassadors.</p> <p>We already support digital inclusion by providing laptops/tablets and broadband to Ambassadors where needed.</p> <p>As of this year, we will however offer Ambassadors tickets to events, with examples being the Lord Mayor event, Town Hall Christmas Party and also consider the option of offering discounted memberships to OCC leisure centres or similar.</p>
<p>6) That the Council recruits more tenant ambassadors from younger age groups, particularly to participate in the Housing Development Working Group and Great Estates</p>	<p>This recommendation is accepted and action planning is in place through a re-vitalised community engagement plan and communications planning alongside the recruitment and retention improvement plan.</p> <p>It is anticipated increased connections with the community/ locality hubs and groups now more known to us, as well as the Grant Funding Programme and Healthy Living approaches will enable improved integration, advertisements, clearly demonstrating the benefits of being involved shaping council work outcomes.</p>
<p>7) That the Council recruits a tenant ambassador to represent the views of older, frailer residents.</p>	<p>We will follow the process referred to above and have recently completed the recruitment of an Ambassador from Singletree.</p> <p>We will continue to encourage other applicants from Older Persons Accommodation through this representative as our lead advisor.</p>

8) That the Council interrogates the data at ward-level from the census (when available), and the tenant satisfaction survey, alongside the knowledge of locality workers to develop a profile of the specific needs of each ward, and that this is shared with members and used to identify priorities for work planning at community level.	We will undertake cross tab analysis of the data at ward-level from the census (when available), and the tenant satisfaction survey, alongside the knowledge of locality workers to develop a profile of the specific needs of each ward, and that this is shared with members and used to identify priorities for work planning at community level
9) That the Council works to develop a distinct Housing identity.	We will consider the most appropriate approach to developing a brand which identifies “housing”. There are three potential scenarios that will be considered as part of this work: a) Housing Services, which includes Rough Sleeping, Homelessness, Allocations, Housing Options and many other prevention services; b) the wider landlord service, which includes ASBIT, Incomes, Sustainment, Repairs and Maintenance and Landlord Services; and c) the Landlord Services team which comprises the Tenancy Management and Involvement teams.
10) That the Council ceases to make reference to ‘customers’ or ‘clients’ in its reports unless the relationship is genuinely commercial.	Consultation will be carried out through Tenants in Touch and in discussion with Ambassadors to gather the views of the wider tenant and leasehold base on the preferences and accepted use of the various terms used both by this Council and other agencies.
11) That in the event that the Tenants Forum established by the DSS discrimination motion does decide not to pursue a joint Council and private rented sector structure, that the Council ensures that a Council Tenants Forum continues to be provided.	We agree that it’s important for our tenants to have access to such a forum and if the joint forum with private sector tenants does not appear to be sufficient we will look to support other options.
12) That the Council prioritises the collection of the KPIs required for distribution by the Social Housing white paper.	<p>In late summer the Regulator of Social Housing is due to publish new Tenant Satisfaction Measures and will provide clear guidance on the performance information that is required to be made easily available to our tenants &amp; leaseholders. We will adhere to these requirements once published.</p> <p>A Project Plan for each of the seven Social Housing White Paper chapters has been generated to ensure that OCC achieve compliance. The Social Housing White Paper project is under way.</p> <p>An introduction to the Social Housing White Paper project is being published in the summer edition of Tenants in Touch. In this introduction</p>

	<p>we have committed to provide regular updates on progress and where compliance has been achieved, and the direction for each group/review.</p>
<p>13) That the Council publishes, in addition to the annual report required by the Social Housing white paper, live performance data on its website, and distributes performance details to tenants in each Tenants in Touch magazine.</p>	<p>We are currently investigating the potential of an ongoing/daily Transaction Survey Tender and Procurement programme as an addition to the annual STAR Survey and annual report.</p> <p>This would include the publication of results and how OCC would address our tenants and leaseholders feedback online and within Tenants in Touch.</p> <p>Discussions have already been held with our ODS and Property Services colleagues about the necessity of producing and publishing Building Safety information, as well as our requirement to produce Safety Case Reports for each of our high risk buildings next year.</p> <p>In addition we will investigate OCC's technical ability to publish live performance data digitally, with regular updates being included within Tenants in Touch quarterly.</p> <p>We will work to improve the website reach and accessibility for our tenants and leaseholders.</p>
<p>14) That in its reporting against Social Housing white paper KPIs the Council benchmarks against relevant comparators.</p>	<p>We will investigate the ability to benchmark our Social Housing White Paper KPI's against relevant comparators and work with Housemark on how this could potentially be achieved.</p> <p>We expect that once the Regulator of Social Housing publish the new Tenant Satisfaction Measures, this will include instruction on the publication of KPI's and any potential benchmarking requirements.</p> <p>We also expect the Regulators to publish further KPI requirements as part of the publication of the new Consumer and Decent Home Standards, Complaints Handling Code and through further Building Safety Act legislation.</p>
<p>15) That the Council reviews whether the structures to enable tenants to challenge areas of spend under the Social Housing white paper are sufficient to give</p>	<p>An Annual Report is being prepared and this will include a video link/QR code regarding the Housing Revenue Account spend. A series of training days and/or pre-recorded training videos on financial accounts</p>

<p>tenants meaningful challenge to Council spending.</p>	<p>will be offered to Ambassadors and uploaded onto the website to encourage all tenants and leaseholders to view and comment with feedback incorporated.</p>
<p>16) That the Council implements and promotes a clearer process for councillors and tenants to influence the spending of the Great Estates programme.</p>	<p>The Great Estates programme is well established and in its second year. Ambassadors and Councillors receive a short list of areas within the council which are put forward by a large variety of people: Tenants, Leaseholders, Police, Staff and Councillors.</p> <p>This short list of areas is matched against a matrix to assess priorities and is reinforced with a walk round of those sites with our Ambassador Group to ensure that they fully understand the scope, cost and possible improvements that could be made to each area. The Great Estates Project is regularly advertised in Tenants in Touch and emails from the Project Lead to Councillors offer invitations to put forward areas/schemes and attend the walkabouts and choice meetings.</p> <p>The residents in each chosen area are fully consulted before, during and post work completions.</p>
<p>17) That the Council implements a councillor casework system for housing issues within QL within 12 months.</p>	<p>Initial discussions have been held with Democratic Services around setting up a cross party group to understand specific member requirements for a casework system. This will also consider whether the existing provision of devices (laptops/tablets) to members is appropriate for mobile (on the doorstep) activity or whether additional or alternative devices are required and at a cost.</p>
<p>18) That the Council holds discussions with Thames Valley Police to determine whether additional resources for community policing have become available, and to propose reinstating Neighbourhood Action Groups or similar ward-based stakeholder meetings in priority areas if so.</p>	<p>The ASB team have committed to have discussions with Thames Valley Police to determine whether additional resources for community policing have become available, and to propose reinstating Neighbourhood Action Groups or similar ward-based stakeholder meetings in priority areas if so.</p> <p>This reinforces work the Tenant Involvement Team ASB review group are doing to improve the customer journey and a sense of satisfaction and understanding of what we all do working together.</p>

19) That the Council undertakes preparatory work with the Police to enable joint-working at a locality level to be established as quickly as possible.

ASBIT will have additional discussions with Thames Valley Police to establish realistic options of undertakings preparatory work to enable pro-active joint-working arrangements at locality level.

It is anticipated Tenant Involvement Staff would have part in these discussions and meetings going forwards. This matches well with our increased focus on community based engagement as a precursor for the new Customer Engagement Team and Complaints Team work.

Multi-agency working will increase community and neighbourhood understanding around Tenant and Leaseholder Safety expectations, and the requirements in the Social Housing White Paper for Tenants and Leaseholders to have their voice heard, have a community they are proud of, and to feel safe in their homes.

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 July 2022  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Oxford City Council Safeguarding Report

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Support Thriving Communities
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24
<b>Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.</b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

### **Introduction and overview**

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 05 July 2022 to consider a report concerning the Oxford City Council Safeguarding Report. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 July 2022, sets out progress made on the Oxford City Council Safeguarding Action Plan 2021/22. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Walcott (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities), Mish Tullar (Head of Corporate Strategy) and Laura Jones (Safeguarding Co-ordinator) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

### **Summary and recommendations**

2. Councillor Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities introduced the report. She highlighted the work of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which ensured the delivery of safeguarding interventions and training across the County.

3. The Head of Corporate Strategy highlighted that this was a report and not a policy, adding that the Council had achieved a ‘best practice’ finding for the fifth consecutive year – which he congratulated staff on.
4. During discussion, the Committee noted the work being undertaken to ensure safeguarding was taken seriously and suggested that, given the increase in digital platforms and use of digital devices for activities including education (particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic), attention should be given to incorporating digital inclusion and digital safeguarding into safeguarding training.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council works with Oxfordshire County Council and other local organisations to ensure that digital inclusion and digital safeguarding are covered in safeguarding training.***

<b>Report author</b>	Alice Courtney
Job title	Committee & Member Services Manager (Interim Acting)
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 529834
e-mail	<a href="mailto:acourtney@oxford.gov.uk">acourtney@oxford.gov.uk</a>

## Appendix A

### Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 05 July 2022 concerning the Oxford City Council Safeguarding Report. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agree?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<p>1) That the Council works with Oxfordshire County Council and other local organisations to ensure that digital inclusion and digital safeguarding are covered in safeguarding training.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The actions recommended by Scrutiny around digital safeguarding are already fully embedded in existing safeguarding practice; and those on digital inclusion are part of the existing Communities Service Plan for Oxford City Council.</p> <p>The County Council Education, safeguarding and assessment team (ESAT) monitor and support all Oxford schools to develop and deliver best practice safeguarding for children and teaching staff.</p> <p>A 'safety programme' was developed by Ann Pearce for schools that's available to view on the OSCB webpage.</p> <p>This includes the programme of training for digital safeguarding, which is picked up within a school setting in addition to that of standard level safeguarding training. This training is delivered to all year groups and designed to ensure its age appropriate. Delivered by external providers throughout the school year including teaching staff. In addition all schools have a policy about digital access and safety.</p>

	<p>As part of the quality performance and assurance group we participate in the check and challenge of this programme on a quarterly basis and are provided with a written annual report.</p> <p>OFSTED also monitor this element within their assessment process.</p> <p>As a Council OSCB training is promoted in internal comms which includes: <a href="#">WEBINAR: Digital Safeguarding - Reducing Risk and Building Resilience.</a></p> <p>The Council's Communities Team current Service Plan includes working with Oxfordshire County Council on digital inclusion, E-learning and better connectivity.</p>
--	---

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 July 2022  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Oxford Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Pursue a Zero Carbon Oxford; Enable an Inclusive Economy; Support Thriving Communities
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24
<b>Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.</b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

## **Introduction and overview**

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 05 July 2022 to consider a report concerning the Oxford Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 July 2022, recommends that Cabinet adopts the Oxford Electric Vehicle Strategy and note that an Implementation Plan will follow for Cabinet approval in the autumn. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Upton (Cabinet Member for Health and Transport), Mish Tullar (Head of Corporate Strategy) and Vikki Robins (Project Manager - Innovation) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

## **Summary and recommendations**

2. Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport introduced the report. It set out the Council's approach to ensuring a robust, quality and equitable

deployment of charging infrastructure across the city. The strategy would play a role in fulfilling the ambitions set out in the Council's road map and action plan to become a net zero Council by 2030, which included a framework for delivering electric vehicle infrastructure. Councillor Upton advised the Committee of the opening of the new Energy Superhub at Redbridge earlier on 05 July 2022, which had capacity for charging 400 vehicles; and the trademarked GUL-e initiative by the ODS Group – both of which had income generating potential.

3. The Project Manager – Innovation explained the reasoning behind the decision for the dynamic purchasing system of procurement and the benefits of the approach. She added that the public consultation on the strategy had recently closed and the responses had been positive.
4. The Committee noted that the strategy mentioned specific Council support of car clubs and suggested that consideration should be given to including a requirement for large housing developments to allocate spaces exclusively for car club electric vehicle charging.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council explores setting a requirement for large housing developments to have electric vehicle charging spaces which are allocated exclusively for car clubs, in addition to electric vehicle charging spaces available for private cars.***

5. During discussion, the Committee considered how realistic the projected figures for electric vehicle uptake across the City were. The Project Manager – Innovation advised that the figures included uptake of plug-in hybrid vehicles, however the Committee noted that plug-in hybrids still contributed to carbon emissions so should not be included in the projections.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council reviews the projected uptake figures for electric vehicles contained in the strategy to ensure they are realistic; namely***  
***a) Ensuring that the projected figures take into account the later 2035 phase-out date of some non-plug-in hybrids (which are not considered EVs by the strategy), and***  
***b) Checking the very high near-term EV uptake that would be required to hit any of the given 2026 targets.***

6. The Committee discussed the reliability of electric vehicle charging points made available for public use and noted that often residents could drive to a charger and find it in a poor state of repair, making it unusable. It was suggested that the Council should explore the levers it had to incentivise providers of electric charging points to keep them in a good state of repair so that the unreliability of infrastructure was not a reason why residents were hesitant to adopt usage of electric vehicles.

***Recommendation 3: That the Council explores ways in which it could incentivise local organisations, businesses and partners to ensure that any electric vehicle charging infrastructure provided by them is reliable and in a good state of repair.***

<b>Report author</b>	Alice Courtney
Job title	Committee & Member Services Manager (Interim Acting)
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 529834
e-mail	<a href="mailto:acourtney@oxford.gov.uk">acourtney@oxford.gov.uk</a>

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix A

### Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 05 July 2022 concerning the Oxford Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

17

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agree?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1) That the Council explores setting a requirement for large housing developments to have electric vehicle charging spaces which are allocated exclusively for car clubs, in addition to electric vehicle charging spaces available for private cars.	In part	As this recommendation is about planning and building of new developments it is proposed it is considered within the process of development of the Local Plan 2040 rather than adopted within the OxEVIS strategy. However, it should be noted EV Car clubs form a key part of the OxEVIS strategy. The proposed car club policies reflect what we would look to do where we can control the outcome, as well as reflecting the transport hierarchy: the drive for private car reduction and supporting active travel plans for Oxfordshire.
2) That the Council reviews the projected uptake figures for electric vehicles contained in the strategy to ensure they are realistic; namely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensuring that the projected figures take into account the later 2035 phase-out date of some non-plug-in hybrids (which are not considered EVs by the strategy), and</li> <li>b. Checking the very high near-term EV uptake that would be required to hit any of the given 2026</li> </ul>	No	Modelling work and projections for uptake of EVs was undertaken by the specialist consultancy Urban Foresight and utilises internationally recognised formulae to model take up <sup>1</sup> . It would not be an appropriate use of resources to commission separate analysis of Urban Foresight's modelling. Not least, a key factor of the OxEVIS strategy is an annual review of EV uptake against provision of infrastructure. This will ensure these figures remain relevant to Oxford, and will enable us to flex infrastructure deployment

<sup>1</sup> Figures based on formulae and ratios from the following bodies - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, and the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), an independent non-profit organization to provide research scientific analysis to environmental regulators.

<p>targets.</p>		<p>numbers to meet demand and reduce the risk of throttling provision or oversupply. It should be noted Urban Foresight anticipates that the expanding ZEZ will drive the uptake of battery electric vehicles rather than hybrids, as the ZEZ compliance does not include hybrid vehicles. Some hybrids still require plug in charging, and therefore charging infrastructure and it is likely that hybrids will form part of the vehicle mix in the city beyond 2035 (in the same way ICE vehicles will do so after 2030).</p>
<p>3) That the Council explores ways in which it could incentivise local organisations, businesses and partners to ensure that any electric vehicle charging infrastructure provided by them is reliable and in a good state of repair.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The forthcoming OxEVIS implementation plan will ensure those who supply charging infrastructure for Oxford City Council adhere to a robust set of standards and performance levels set out in the Oxford Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). All suppliers who are members of the DPS have contractually agreed to meet these requirements. We will also produce a technical advice note for developers and businesses installing infrastructure, to support these organisations. As utilisation of the charge points grows, the risk of poorly maintained assets reduces as income levels generated from them grows. Thus, there is a clearer financial incentive for suppliers to keep them operational.</p>

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 July 2022  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Growth Fund Cycle Routes

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Pursue a Zero Carbon Oxford
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24
<b>Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.</b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

### **Introduction and overview**

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 05 July 2022 to consider a report concerning Growth Fund Cycle Routes. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 July 2022, seeks Cabinet approval for the variations to schemes to be funded from the £1 million Growth Deal funding. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Upton (Cabinet Member for Health and Transport) and Jenny Barker (Regeneration Manager) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

### **Summary and recommendations**

2. Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport introduced the report. The initial cycling schemes, funded by Growth Deal funding, were approved by Cabinet in March 2020 however they were later found to be undeliverable due to local opposition or other approvals needed. This report sought Cabinet approval of the variations to schemes negotiations and the identification of revised schemes.

3. During discussion, the Committee noted that the Council needed to ensure clarity around public messaging related to the schemes and the reasons for the variations.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council ensures all communications setting out the changes to the cycle route plans have clear messaging and explain the rationale behind the changes.***

4. The Committee noted that the Growth Deal funding was for the development of off-road cycle routes and could therefore not be utilised for safer cycling routes on City roads, however it was advised that this was an area of work for development and was being reviewed. The Committee agreed that, going forward, it was important to ensure that, where appropriate, Council communications referenced other pieces of work such as Vision Zero to ensure public awareness of ongoing work.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council ensures that Vision Zero is highlighted in its public communications, where appropriate, to ensure awareness.***

<b>Report author</b>	Alice Courtney
Job title	Committee & Member Services Manager (Interim Acting)
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 529834
e-mail	<a href="mailto:acourtney@oxford.gov.uk">acourtney@oxford.gov.uk</a>

## Appendix A

### Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 05 July 2022 concerning the Growth Fund Cycle Routes report. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>Agree?</i></b>	<b><i>Comment</i></b>
1) That the Council ensures all communications setting out the changes to the cycle route plans have clear messaging and explain the rationale behind the changes.	Yes	We will where appropriate reference in communications how this links to wider strategic context working with Oxfordshire County Council.
2) That the Council ensures that Vision Zero is highlighted in its public communications, where appropriate, to ensure awareness.	Yes	As above.

This page is intentionally left blank

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 July 2022  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Oxford Waterways Project Update

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Dr Chris Smowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Support Thriving Communities
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24
<b>Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.</b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

### **Introduction and overview**

1. At its meeting on 08 June 2022, the Scrutiny Committee considered an update report on the progress made against the Scrutiny Committee's previous recommendations in relation to the Oxford Waterways Project, which it made in November 2020. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Munkonge (Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks), Mish Tullar (Head of Corporate Strategy) and Michael Woods (Oxford Waterways Co-ordinator) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

### **Summary and recommendations**

2. The Oxford Waterways Co-ordinator introduced the report and highlighted that the project priorities had shifted because a number of health and safety issues had been identified and taken a high priority. He advised that an asset management

system was being established, but that it was difficult to determine riparian ownership.

3. The Committee noted that parts of the waterways were deteriorating and there were issues around anti-social behaviour, bio-diversity and accessibility. It suggested that there was a need for the university, colleges and adjacent landowners to play a role in contributing to the improvement of the waterways and the Council should improve communication with those stakeholders and work with them on the Oxford Waterways Project.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council works with the university, colleges and adjacent landowners to encourage them to contribute to the Oxford Waterways Project, both in terms of financial and strategic contributions (e.g. considering how to utilise growth funding).***

4. The Committee requested details of the timeline for completion of the improvement works, particularly as the summer months usually saw an increase in usage of the waterways and there was a need to ensure safety for those entering and exiting the water. It suggested that communications should be produced to inform Councillors and residents of the projected timeline for completion.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council produces communications for Councillors and residents setting out the timeline for repairs to Waterways infrastructure.***

5. The Committee noted that the discharge of sewage into the waterways was a serious concern and Thames Water had accepted some responsibility. It was suggested that water quality data which the Council was already collecting should be used to lobby the Government and Environment Agency to hold Thames Water to account.

***Recommendation 3: That the Council uses appropriate data which it is already collecting to lobby the Government to ensure it is holding water regulators to account on matters of water quality.***

6. The Committee discussed issues relating to biodiversity along parts of the waterways and highlighted a need to ensure any work on the Oxford Waterways Project was joined-up with other work being undertaken by the Council related to wildlife and wetland habitats.

***Recommendation 4: That the Council ensures the work of the Oxford Waterways Project is aligned with other work related to wildlife and wetland.***

Report author	Alice Courtney
Job title	Committee & Member Services Manager (Interim Acting)
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 529834
e-mail	<a href="mailto:acourtney@oxford.gov.uk">acourtney@oxford.gov.uk</a>

## Appendix A

### Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 08 June 2022 concerning the Oxford Waterways Project. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agree?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1) That the Council works with the university, colleges and adjacent landowners to encourage them to contribute to the Oxford Waterways Project, both in terms of financial and strategic contributions (e.g. considering how to utilise growth funding).	Yes	<i>The Council will reach out to relevant colleges/landowners that have a landowner responsibilities adjacent to the waterways, to invite them to join as a partner for the Oxford Waterways Project. Project partners can then look at strategic needs for Oxford's waterways that reflect the priority themes in the vision document.</i>
2) That the Council produces communications for Councillors and residents setting out the timeline for repairs to Waterways infrastructure.	Yes	<i>The Council is working up the scope and extent of survey work required; there is currently no centralised database of what the council owns along the waterways. There is an aim to provide Members and interested stakeholders with a timescale of the work programme for summer 2023.</i>
3) That the Council uses appropriate data which it is already collecting to lobby the Government to ensure it is holding water regulators to account on matters of water quality.	No	<i>Lobbying of the Government is not needed. DEFRA has already instructed the Environment Agency to test the newly Designated Bathing Water at the Wolvercote Mill Stream on a weekly basis. This data is published by the Environment Agency on the Bathing Water Profiles. Any enforcement action will be led by the EA or OFWAT, depending on which is appropriate.</i>
4) That the Council ensures the work of the Oxford Waterways Project is aligned with other work related to wildlife and wetland.	Yes	<i>The Waterways Project is tied into several strands of work that relate to wildlife and wetlands. The project has been successful in obtaining funding for ongoing restoration of Rivermead Nature Park fen, and is exploring further opportunities for more funding for the ongoing restoration and improvement of Oxford's fens to the west of the city.</i>

This page is intentionally left blank