

Supplement for

Cabinet

On **Wednesday 19 October 2022** At **6.00 pm**

Item 7 - Scrutiny reports

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The Housing and Homelessness Panel met on 6 October 2022 and Scrutiny Committee will meet on 11 October 2022. The following reports are expected and will be published as a supplement, together with any other recommendations from those meetings:

- Draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28
- Botley Road Retail Park Development Brief
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

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

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To: Cabinet
Date: 19 October 2022
Report of: Housing and Homelessness Panel
Title of Report: Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Housing and Homelessness Panel recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision.
Key decision:	Yes
Lead member	Cllr Paula Dunne, Chair, Housing and Homelessness Panel
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Linda Smith, Cabinet member for Housing
Corporate Priority:	Deliver More, Affordable Housing and Supporting Thriving Communities.
Policy Framework:	Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

Recommendation : That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of the report

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Housing and Homelessness Panel

Introduction and background

1. The Housing and Homelessness Panel met on 06 October 2022 to consider a report on the Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 19 October 2022, recommends that Cabinet notes the progress made to develop a new Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy; approves the draft Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy for public consultation; approves the launch of the statutory six

week public consultation; and delegates authority to make any necessary minor amendments prior to the launch of the Consultation.

Summary and recommendations

2. Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet member for Housing, introduced the report. She provided a broad overview of the strategy and highlighted that it was arranged under five priority areas:
 - a. More affordable homes;
 - b. Great homes for all
 - c. Housing for a net zero future
 - d. Preventing homelessness and adopting a rapid rehousing response
 - e. Ending rough sleeping
3. Nerys Parry, Head of Housing, Amie Rickatson, Strategy & Service Development Manager, and Richard Wood, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager, answered the Panel's questions alongside Cllr Smith.
4. The Panel commended the wide-ranging nature of the strategy and was pleased to hear of the planning for an active consultation period. The Panel recognised, however, that some of the language contained within the strategy was necessarily technical and suggested that consideration be given to providing a glossary so that people could more readily engage with the document.

Recommendation 1: That the Council produces a glossary for the strategy document as part of the consultation to make engagement more accessible.

5. The Panel noted that some elements of the strategy refer to 'customers', one to 'client', and others to 'residents.' The Panel sought to encourage a move towards 'residents' so as to emphasise that people are not seen to be in a transactional relationship with the Council.

Recommendation 2: That the Council employs the language of residents/service users/citizens rather than customers or client in the strategy.

6. In response to questions, the Panel heard that the different numbers of new houses on different pages related to different types of housing or different timeframes or different locations. The Panel considered that more fruitful engagement could be achieved if consideration were given to ensuring that these seeming discrepancies could be explained at the outset.

Recommendation 3: That the Council makes clear the difference and interplay between the different numbers of new houses stated in the strategy (on, for example, pages 11, 27, 31, and 170)

7. The Panel raised a number of questions about the section 'improve standards for new developments of council housing in the city' and, after some discussion, the

Panel considered that consideration should be given to rewriting the section so that it is clearer and thus more accessible.

Recommendation 4: That the Council revises the content on p23 of the draft strategy, particularly in the section headed 'Improve standards for new developments of council housing in the city,' so that it is more readily accessible and understandable.

8. The Panel recognised that the evidence base, at appendix 2, made reference to the universities and the impact dedicated, purpose-built student accommodation would have in releasing housing for other groups. The Panel also recognised that this was set out in the Local Plan but, given its importance, the Panel considered that consideration should be given to highlighting this in the strategy itself.

Recommendation 5: That the Council considers including reference in the strategy itself to the importance of the contribution the universities and constituent colleges could make.

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Appendix A

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Housing and Homelessness Panel

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Housing and Homelessness Panel on 06 October 2022, approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 11 October 2022, concerning the draft Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1: That the council produces a glossary for the strategy document as part of the consultation to make engagement more accessible.	Y	A glossary will be included as part of the strategy document itself when it goes out for consultation. The glossary will seek to help readers get the full understanding of terms used in the document, so that readers can engage with the document and respond to the consultation.
2: That the Council employs the language of residents/service user/citizens rather than customers in the strategy.	Y	The word 'customer' will be replaced with the word 'resident' or other more suitable alternatives, in the strategy document.
3: That the Council makes clear the difference and interplay between the different numbers of new houses stated in the strategy (on, for example, pages 11, 27, 31, and 170)	Y	A clearer breakdown of the new build accommodation that is forecast to be built in the city and outside of the city, by various developers will be incorporated in the review and evidence base, as well as the strategy document before consultation.
4: That the Council revises the content on p23 of the draft strategy, particularly in the section headed 'Improve standards for new developments of council housing in the city,' so that it is more readily accessible and understandable.	Y	The content in relation to 'Improve standards for new development of council housing in the city' will be revised in the strategy document before consultation so that it is better accessible and understandable.
5: That the Council considers including reference in the strategy itself to the importance of the contribution the universities and constituent colleges could make.	Y	A narrative on the housing market for students, and what the universities are doing to increase supply of purpose built student accommodation in order to reduce pressure on wider housing market for Oxford residents, is included

		<p>in the homelessness review and evidence base. This narrative will be updated to reflect the comments of the panel and the strategy itself will be revised to reflect this. We will also add further detail on our ongoing conversations with large land owners in the City to explore further development opportunities.</p>
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To: Cabinet
Date: 19 October 2022
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Development Brief for Botley Road Retail Park

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Chris Smowton
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet member for Planning and Housing Delivery
Corporate Priority:	Support Thriving Communities; Foster an Inclusive Economy; Pursue a Zero Carbon Oxford
Policy Framework:	Oxford Local Plan 2036 and evidence base for the preparation of the Oxford Local Plan 2040
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 11 October 2022 to consider a report on the Development Brief for Botley Road Retail Park. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 19 October 2022, recommends that Cabinet endorses the development brief.

Summary and recommendations

2. Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet member for Planning and Housing Delivery, introduced the report. Cllr Hollingsworth emphasised that a development brief was not a scheme and explained that the purpose of such a development brief was to provide guidance to those who sought to bring forward development of the site and other interested parties.

3. Arome Agamah, Senior Planner, and Amanda Ford, Team Leader Planning Policy, also answered the Committee's questions.
4. The Committee explored why it was considered that none of the site was suitable for housing and heard that it was because of a lack of safe entrance and egress as a result of flood risk. The Committee established that it was the Environment Agency who had deemed it unsuitable and the Committee considered that consideration should be given to making this clear in the development brief and that editing the document to remove the passive voice would make the Council's logic and position clearer.
5. The Committee also explored ways in which the forthcoming Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme might impact in the future and that advice could change. The Committee established that the development brief stated the position at the time of writing and that there was the possibility of change in the future.

Recommendation 1: That the Council should consider how to make clear where the deeming of unsuitability for residential provision has come from and should add text clarifying what bearing the actual effects of OFAS may have on future suitability for residential use.

6. The Committee established that the boundary of the area under discussion did not include the car park on Earl Street. The Committee considered that consideration should be given to making that explicit in the development brief.

Recommendation 2: That the Council should consider how to make clear that the Earl Street car park is not included within the boundary of the site.

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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 11 October 2022 concerning the Development Brief for Botley Road Retail Park. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council should consider how to make clear where the deeming of unsuitability for residential provision has come from and should add text clarifying what bearing the actual effects of OFAS may have on future suitability for residential use	Yes	The text will be amended to make clear that the Environment Agency as the statutory consultee was the source of the guidance relating to the unsuitability for residential use, and the advice relating to the effects of OFAS. Additional text will be added to clarify that guidance will reflect the position of the EA on the effects of OFAS for facilitating residential development were it to change in future.
2) That the Council should consider how to make clear that the Earl Street car park is not included within the boundary of the site.	Yes	The red line will be redrawn to exclude the small car park on Earl Street from the scope of the Development Brief.

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To: Cabinet
Date: 14 September 2022
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships; Councillor Imogen Thomas, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice
Corporate Priority:	Enable an Inclusive Economy; Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 11 October 2022 to consider a report on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 19 October 2022, recommends that Cabinet endorses the Oxford City Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, as submitted to central government on 01 August 2022; delegates authority to the Executive Director (Development) to take necessary decisions and actions to oversee the scheme and the resulting projects; delegates authority to the Executive Director (Development) to enter into contract with central government and to make non-material changes in consultation with the Head of Financial Services and the relevant Cabinet Members; and recommends to Council the establishing of Capital and Revenue budgets in accordance with the report.

Summary and recommendations

2. Councillor Imogen Thomas, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, introduced the report. She explained that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund had been launched as a result of the Levelling Up White Paper to replace European Union funded structural funds.
3. Matthew Peachey, Economic Development Manager, explained that the Council worked in close cooperation with partner institutions across the City, including the universities, colleges, hospitals, and businesses, and was committed to continuing to do so in the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Board and more widely.
4. The Committee recognised the importance of this collaboration and leverage and sought to encourage the Council to give consideration to exploring and reporting on opportunities for even greater collaboration in the Investment Plan's delivery to benefit citizens across the City.

Recommendation 1: That the Council should explore and report on opportunities to cooperate even further with partner institutions in the delivery of the Investment Plan.

5. The Committee recognised the intention to support communities in areas of economic deprivation and emphasised the importance of that aspect of the Investment Plan. The Committee sought to encourage the Council to give consideration to exploring and reporting on ways in which the funding could be focussed on all those areas of the City which are amongst the most deprived.

Recommendation 2: That the Council should explore and report upon ways in which the funding can be focussed on all those areas of the City which are amongst the most deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

6. The Panel recognised that the delivery of the UKSPF would be managed within the Council by an Oxford Shared Prosperity Fund programme board. In order to ensure democratic accountability, the Committee considered that consideration should be given to how the outworking of the Investment Plan would be reported to councillors and suggested that periodic reports should be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee as a matter of course.

Recommendation 3: That the Council should arrange for periodic reports to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

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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 11 October 2022 concerning the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council should explore and report on opportunities to cooperate even further with partner institutions in the delivery of the Investment Plan.		Opportunities to work in partnership and maximise match funding opportunities will be explored throughout the programme. Any match funding and collaboration will be regularly monitored and reported on.
2) That the Council should explore and report upon ways in which the funding can be focussed on all those areas of the City which are amongst the most deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.		Support will be targeted where there is greatest scope for impact as well as need. Direct support will focus on areas of high deprivation and this could also include pockets of deprivation which aren't picked up in the aggregate LSOA-level IMD statistics. Wherever possible the programme will ensure that any initiatives, policies, toolkits, and communications on support can be applied citywide. We will look for opportunities to leverage complementary activities through existing and future partnerships which can extend the impact of the funding.
3) That the Council should arrange for periodic reports to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.		A report outlining progress, outcomes and any proposed changes to the programme will be submitted annually to the Scrutiny Committee. The format will be aligned to the reporting requirements of central government, as outlined here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-reporting-and-performance-management-3

