

# Supplement for

# Cabinet

On **Wednesday 15 March 2023** At **6.00 pm**

## Agenda item 7: Scrutiny reports

### Contents

7. **Scrutiny reports**

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Scrutiny Committee met on 6 March 2023; Climate & Environment Panel will meet on 9 March 2023; and Housing & Homelessness Panel will meet on 13 March 2023. The following reports are expected and will be published as a supplement, together with any other recommendations from those meetings:

- Annual Update of the Council's Business Plan
- Integrated Care Strategy Update
- Integrated Performance Report for Q3 2022/23
- Development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Oxford
- Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

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:** 15 March 2023  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Oxford City Council Corporate Business Plan 2023

<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>	Cllr Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships;
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All
<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 07 March 2023 to consider a report on the Corporate Business Plan 2023. The annual update of the Business Plan recommends that Cabinet agrees the draft Council Corporate Business Plan priorities for 2023/24; delegates authority to the Head of Corporate Strategy in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make further minor amendments before implementation; notes the progress made in delivery against the actions set out in the Corporate Business Plan 2022/23.

## **Summary and recommendations**

2. The Committee was grateful to Cllr Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships, for attending to present the report as well as to Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy, for

attending to answer the Committee's questions.

3. Cllr Brown introduced the report and explained to the Committee that this was the fourth year of the four year business plan and, given its scope, it covered a vast amount of activity on the Council's part. Cllr Brown emphasised that there were a number of interconnected priorities that could sit under different headings. Cllr Brown advised the Committee that the Corporate Business Plan was a coherent strategy for the City and this update was about ensuring that the Council was delivering it.
4. Cllr Brown reminded the Committee of a number of successes the Council was proud of, including 318 affordable homes completed this year so far, and that OX Place was delivering its greenest homes yet. She explained that these were an example of overlapping priorities in that they could sit under Zero Carbon Oxford as well as under More Affordable Homes.
5. Given the breadth of the Corporate Business Plan, the Committee had a wide-ranging discussion veering from the macro to the micro. One concern raised by the Committee was that, with the update focusing in some areas on long-term achievements, it could be difficult for members to be assured of clear progress against the more strategic ambitions. The Committee considered that future iterations of the Corporate Business Plan would benefit from having some high-level targets which could be tracked in a more holistic way.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council, in future four year Corporate Business Plans, should include higher-level key performance indicators to enable Members to track strategic ambitions more easily.***

6. Recognising that the Council adopted the Urban Forest Strategy after the adoption of the four year plan, the Committee questioned the Urban Forest Strategy's absence from the progress update. The Committee accepted the complexities in delivering the strategy and also the funding challenges that had hindered progress. The Committee was pleased to hear of ambition to potentially move forward. However, given the importance to the Council of the Strategy, the Committee considered that it should be reported on and monitored as an ongoing action.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council reports on, and monitors progress of, the implementation and outworking of the Urban Forest Strategy.***

7. The Committee noted that bathing water status was mentioned in the table of priorities. The Committee also noted Council's resolution of 30 January 2023 relating to Thames Water. The Committee was pleased to hear that progress had been made in seeking meetings between Members and representatives of Thames Water and considered that it would be appropriate to make explicit reference in the update to partnership working with Thames Water.

***Recommendation 3: That the Council makes explicit reference in the report to working with Thames Water in seeking to improve the situation with water in the City.***

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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 07 March 2023 concerning the report on the Oxford City Council Corporate Business Plan 2023. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>Agree?</i></b>	<b><i>Comment</i></b>
1) That the Council, in future four year Corporate Business Plans, includes higher-level key performance indicators to enable Members to track strategic ambitions more easily.	Yes	High level KPIs will be developed in conjunction with the Council's Corporate Strategy 2024-28 to enable tracking of progress against strategic ambitions.
2) That the Council reports on, and monitors progress of, the implementation and outworking of the Urban Forest Strategy.	Yes	A reference will be included within the Corporate Business Plan 2023-24 in relation to implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy.
3) That the Council makes explicit reference to working with Thames Water in seeking to improve the situation with water in the City.	Yes	A reference will be included within the Corporate Business Plan 2023-24 to ongoing engagement with Thames Water on a range of issues.

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**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 15 March 2023  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Integrated Care System Draft Strategy 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 Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All
<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 07 March 2023 to consider a report on the Integrated Care System Draft Strategy Update. The report presents information on the production of a new Integrated Care Strategy by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West and recommends that Cabinet notes the content of the report for information.

## **Summary and recommendations**

2. The Committee was grateful to Cllr Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport, for attending to present the report as well as to Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy, for attending to answer the Committee's questions.

3. Cllr Upton introduced the report and explained to the Committee it was understood that 80% of people's health and wellbeing related to factors other than healthcare. The Council was working with councils and health organisations across the three counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire West to develop a strategy for the new Integrated Care Board.
4. The Committee established that the strategy had eighteen priorities, some of which were far broader than the City Council's remit and some of which involve the Council very directly. It was explained to the Committee that the Council has been at the forefront of discussions relating to the establishment of the ICB.
5. The Committee considered it would be helpful for the Council to establish and set out how the ICB is funded and what budget is available to it with what constraints.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council sets out in summary how the Integrated Care Board is funded and what budget is available to it.***

6. The Committee noted that that the first priority in section 4.1 of the Strategy was to reduce the proportion of the population that smokes. The Committee did not deny that this was commendable but considered that attention should also be given to harms caused by vaping, particularly amongst children and young people.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to ensure that the risks and dangers of vaping, particularly amongst the young, are emphasised in the action plan arising from the strategy.***

7. The Committee noted that priority 5 was "protect people from infectious disease by preventing infections in all our health and care settings and delivering national and local immunisation programmes." The Committee commended this priority but was concerned to note the absence of any explicit reference to vaccine hesitancy and misinformation spread to encourage such. The Committee considered that it would be appropriate to be mindful of the importance of combating this in delivering the strategy.

***Recommendation 3: That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to ensure that the need to combat vaccine hesitancy and widespread misinformation is articulated in the action plan arising from the strategy.***

8. The Committee noted that the Strategy refers at a number places to a variety of different groups with issues and concerns pertaining particularly to them and agreed that appropriate targeting and engagement were key. The Committee also noted that priority 4 is to "Take action to address the social, economic and environmental factors that influence our health." Whilst recognising that the Strategy itself was not the most appropriate for detailed outworking of how appropriate targeting would be done, the Committee was keen that consideration was given to how such engagement could be successfully driven and how it should take account of the wide variety of relevant factors.

***Recommendation 4: That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to ensure that, when the Masterplan is drawn up to monitor the***

***implementation of the strategy, specific attention is paid to the relevant needs of particular demographic groups (including but not limited to the LGBT communities and those from some minority ethnic communities) and the impact of certain strategies and factors on those groups particularly.***

***Recommendation 5: That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to broaden the strategy's existing work on air quality to also consider indoor air quality and indoor sources of pollutants.***

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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 07 March 2023 concerning the report on the Integrated Care System Draft Strategy Update. 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 sets out in summary how the Integrated Care Board is funded and what budget is available to it.	In part	The information sought is clearly held within the NHS. Council officers will request this information, but cannot commit to what information will be provided.
2) That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to ensure that the risks and dangers of vaping, particularly amongst the young, are emphasised in the action plan arising from the strategy.	Yes	The Cabinet Member for Health & Transport has now raised this matter in her capacity as Chair of the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Partnership Board. It was agreed that the issues of vaping will be considered as part of the Oxfordshire systemwide work on smoking cessation.
3) That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to ensure that the need to combat vaccine hesitancy and widespread misinformation is articulated in the action plan arising from the strategy.	Yes	The issue of vaccine hesitancy and associated misinformation was raised by Oxford City Council officers at a planning workshop in March for the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Partnership Board. Further consideration of this issue and actions to address it are expected to be included in the Board's forward plan.
4) That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to ensure that, when the masterplan is drawn up to monitor the implementation of the strategy, specific attention is paid to the relevant needs of particular demographic groups (including but not limited to the LGBT communities and those from some minority ethnic communities) and the impact of certain strategies and factors on those groups particularly.	Yes	

5) That the Council uses its influence via the Integrated Care Board to broaden the strategy's existing work on air quality to also consider indoor air quality and indoor sources of pollutants.	Yes	
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**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 15 March 2023  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Integrated Performance Report for Q3 2022/23

<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>	Cllr Ed Turner, Deputy Leader – Statutory and Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All
<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 07 March 2023 to consider a report on the Integrated Performance Report for Q3 2022/23. The report recommends that Cabinet notes the projected financial outturn for 2022/23 as well as the position on risk and performance at 31 December 2022 and that it notes the change in timing of the insurance contract procurement exercise.

## **Summary and recommendations**

2. The Committee was grateful to Cllr Ed Turner, Deputy Leader – Statutory and Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets, for attending to present the report as well as to Anna Winship, Management Accountancy Manager, for attending to answer the Committee's questions.

3. Cllr Turner introduced the report and summarised the report for the Committee giving an overview of the financial position for Quarter 3.
4. The Committee raised a number of questions, seeking further detail on some items and explanation of others. The Committee noted that, at paragraph 10 under the bullet point 'Responsive and Cyclical repairs', a net adverse variance of £1.26m was described as being "due to increases in material prices and work demand." The paragraph went on to explain that officers "are looking to mitigate this overspend position further by suspending some areas of work." The Committee sought explanation as to which areas of work were to be suspended and considered that the Council should set this out as well as what level of difference such suspensions were anticipated to make financially.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council sets out in more detail which areas of work were proposed to be suspended in paragraph 10 of the report and enumerates the financial impact of this.***

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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 07 March 2023 concerning the report on the Integrated Performance Report Q3. 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 sets out in more detail which areas of work were proposed to be suspended in paragraph 10 of the report and enumerates the financial impact of this as well as the expected length of suspension.	Yes	Future reports will set out in more detail which areas of work were proposed to be suspended in respect of housing repairs and to enumerate the financial impact of this. The suspension is proposed to the end of the financial year (31 March 2023).

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**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 15 March 2023  
**Report of:** Climate and Environment Panel  
**Title of Report:** Development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Oxford

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Jemima Hunt, Climate and Environment Panel Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice;
<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 Climate and Environment Panel met on 09 March 2023 to consider a report on the Development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Oxford. The report recommends that Cabinet notes the report and the proposed establishment of a steering group in connection with the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

### **Summary and recommendations**

2. The Panel was grateful to Cllr Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, for attending to present the report as well to Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy, and Mai Jarvis, Environmental Sustainability Lead, for attending to answer the Panel's questions.

3. The Panel was pleased to note the recognition that collaboration across the City was key to the success of a Biodiversity Strategy and that the Council was committed to its success. The Panel noted that the report explained the Council expected the steering group to “include representatives from the Local Nature Partnership, health, universities, businesses, wildlife groups, planning and community groups.” The Panel considered that it would be particularly appropriate for Oxford University’s Biodiversity Network and the HERO project to be represented on the steering group. The Panel was grateful to the member of the public who addressed the Panel for drawing attention to these groups.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council seeks to ensure that, amongst others, Oxford University’s Biodiversity Network and the HERO project are represented on the steering group.***

4. The Panel recognised the importance of the Baseline Exercise as being fundamental to the success of the Strategy. The Panel considered it vital that, in conducting the Baseline Exercise, the Council and its partners must be aware of, and take account of, shifting baseline syndrome and the impact that would have on individual expectations.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council, in conducting the baseline exercise, takes account of shifting baseline syndrome.***

5. The Panel noted that the second bullet point in paragraph 11 referred to one potential area of focus including that of “considering the appropriateness of the use of pesticides including glyphosates.” The Panel considered that it would be appropriate to go further than that and argued that, rather, the Council should be seeking to stop the use of pesticides and herbicides on Council-owned land as soon as possible and discouraging their use more widely.

***Recommendation 3: That the Council considers how best to move away from the use of chemicals in land maintenance as a matter of urgency.***

6. The Panel established that Natural England has not had the capacity to audit the eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the city for some years. The Panel noted that the report suggests that an audit “could be undertaken to better understand how favourable condition can be retained/achieved across these sites” and considered that it was important that this should be done as soon as possible.

***Recommendation 4: That the Council commissions or conducts its own audits of the eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the near future in order to understand their current condition.***

7. The Panel regretted the absence of an explicit reference to trees in the report. The Panel considered it essential that the Council commit explicitly to preserving and protecting mature trees wherever feasible, in line with the Urban Forest Strategy.

***Recommendation 5: That the Council ensures that the protection of mature trees is prioritised wherever possible.***

8. The Panel considered it would be inappropriate for any Biodiversity Strategy drawn up not to take account of the internationally agreed Global Biodiversity

Framework and considered it important that the Council commits to adhering to it. Similarly, the Panel considered that the Council should commit to, at the least, meeting the Government targets on halting the decline of species.

***Recommendation 6: That the Council commits to ensuring that the Biodiversity Strategy is developed in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and, also, at least in alignment with Government targets to halt decline of species under the Environment Act 2021.***

9. The Panel recognised that the Local Plan is required to take account of biodiversity. The Panel considered that the interlinkage of the Biodiversity Strategy and the needs of the Local Plan should be emphasised and highlighted in the drawing up of the Strategy and the development of the Local Plan.

***Recommendation 7: That the Council takes account of the interconnectedness between the policies in the Local Plan and the Biodiversity Strategy when developing both documents and ensures that these links are emphasised and appropriately cross-referenced.***

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**Appendix A**  
**Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of**  
**the Climate and Environment Panel of the Scrutiny Committee**

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Panel on 09 March 2023 concerning the report on the Development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Oxford. 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 seeks to ensure that, amongst others, Oxford University's Biodiversity Network and the HERO project are represented on the steering group.	Partially	We will take into account these recommendations when setting up the steering group.
2) That the Council, in conducting the baseline exercise, takes account of shifting baseline syndrome.	Partially	Historic data for the sites in question may be impossible / impractical to recover, and we may not be able to do so in a consistent way that offers meaningful insights.
3) That the Council considers how best to move away from the use of chemicals in land maintenance as a matter of urgency.	Partially	A further review of the use of herbicides and pesticides by ODS on behalf of the Council will be undertaken this year which will explore the costs and efficacy of the Council ending the use of glyphosates including assessing the alternatives used by other Councils in England. It would not be appropriate to pre-determine the outcome of that review.
4) That the Council commissions or conducts its own audits of the eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the near future in order to understand their current condition.	Partially	We will evaluate the optimal approach to assessing the SSSIs in conjunction with the Steering Group.

5) That the Council ensures that the protection of mature trees is prioritised wherever possible.	Agree	The Council has a range of policies in place to ensure the protection of mature trees. However, the council also has a liability to ensure dangerous trees are felled promptly. Where this is necessary, they will be offset with new trees in the same location if suitable, or an alternative location with a greater viability to support a healthy trees. Protection of trees is also considered within planning alongside other local planning priorities including housing delivery within the city.
6) That the Council commits to ensuring that the Biodiversity Strategy is developed in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and, also, at least in alignment with Government targets to halt decline of species under the Environment Act 2021.	Agree	
7) That the Council takes account of the interconnectedness between the policies in the Local Plan and the Biodiversity Strategy when developing both documents and ensures that these links are emphasised and appropriately cross-referenced.	Agree	

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 15 March 2023  
**Report of:** Climate and Environment Panel  
**Title of Report:** Fleet Decarbonisation

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Jemima Hunt, Climate and Environment Panel Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice;
<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 Climate and Environment Panel met on 09 March 2023 to consider a report on [Fleet Decarbonisation](#). The report updated the Panel on the topic of fleet decarbonisation and next steps.

### **Summary and recommendations**

2. The Panel was pleased to note that electric vans and other Large Goods Vehicles are being used by Oxford Direct Services Ltd (ODS) and recognised that it would be difficult to decarbonise the whole fleet at this time. However, the Panel considered that greater attention should be given to exploring how ODS could move towards including large electric cargo bicycles in its fleet.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council should commit to working with ODS to explore how ODS could include electric cargo bicycles in its fleet.***

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**Appendix A**  
**Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of**  
**the Climate and Environment Panel of the Scrutiny Committee**

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Panel on 09 March 2023 concerning a report on Fleet Decarbonisation. 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 should commit to working with ODS to explore how ODS could include electric cargo bicycles in its fleet.	Yes	These discussions are already taking place.

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**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 15 March 2023  
**Report of:** Housing and Homelessness Panel  
**Title of Report:** Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present Panel of the Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Paula Dunne, Panel Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Deliver more, affordable housing; 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 Housing and Homelessness Panel met on 13 March 2023 to consider a report on the Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028. The report recommends that Cabinet notes the progress made to develop the Strategy and the Action Plan for Oxford following the statutory public consultation; recommends the adoption of the Strategy and its associated appendices; recommends to Council the adoption of the Strategy's Action Plan for 23-24; recommends to Council that authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Communities and People), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to update the Action Plan when required.

## Summary and recommendations

2. The Panel was grateful to Cllr Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing, to Amie Rickatson, Strategy and Service Development Manager, as well as to other officers for attending to present the report and to answer the Panel's questions.
3. The Strategy and Service Development Manager introduced the report and the Executive Director (Communities and People) drew the Panel's attention to the fact that its recommendations relating to the draft Strategy in October 2022 had been accepted and incorporated. Cllr Smith congratulated officers for the work that was evident in the Strategy and for the success of the public consultation which had seen over 100 responses received as well as 60 individuals, representing 27 different organisations, attend different stakeholder events.
4. The Panel commended the breadth and depth of the strategy and was pleased that its previous recommendations, on the draft Strategy, had been accepted. The Panel recognised that there were a great number of different elements to why particular targets were adopted and that the rationale behind each one was multi-faceted. However, the Panel noted that the Council states that "by the end of this strategy period, we are seeking to ... Let the majority of the Council's new affordable homes at a social rent level, approximately 40% of the market rent."
5. The Panel recognised that there was an element of elasticity in the definition of 'majority' but considered that consideration should be given to how the Council might be able to consider moving towards having a greater proportion of the Council's new affordable homes let at a social rent level than a simple majority.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council works with OX Place to consider how it might move towards having a higher percentage of new homes let at social rent level than a simple majority.***

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**Appendix A**  
**Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of**  
**the Housing and Homelessness Panel of the Scrutiny Committee**

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 13 March 2023 concerning the report on the Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agree?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<p>1) That the Council works with OX Place to consider how it might move towards having a higher percentage of new homes let at social rent level than a simple majority.</p>	<p>Partially</p>	<p>Every development by OXPlace seeks to balance the priorities given to the company by this council. These priorities are; the building of new affordable homes including most importantly homes for social rent, the building of homes with high standards of environmental sustainability, a financial return to the council to fund public services. All three of these priorities need to be carefully considered on a site by site basis when deciding on the maximum number of homes for social rent which can be delivered within the financial envelope of each OXPlace scheme.</p> <p>Our Local Plan 2016-2036 stipulates that any new development over 10 units are required to have 50% affordable units, of these 80% must be social rented. Following changes to the National Planning Practice Guidance, we amended this requirement to 75% social rented and 25% First Homes. This policy requirement for social rented units is one of the highest in the Country, demonstrating our priority to provide more homes at social rent.</p> <p>Planners are currently considering responses to the new Local Plan 2040 Preferred Options consultation and have undertaken recent work on housing viability. This new plan will set out future requirements for the level of social rented accommodation required for all new development schemes.</p>

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