

# Supplement for

# Cabinet

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

## Agenda Item 7 - Scrutiny Reports

### Contents

#### 7. **Scrutiny Reports**

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The Scrutiny Committee met on 6 November 2023. The following reports are expected and will be published as a supplement, together with any other recommendations from that meeting:

- Grant Allocations to Community and Voluntary Organisations 2024/25
- ~~FutureFit Oxford(shire) Project Grant Funding Bid – No Recommendations~~
- Central (City & University) Conservation Area Appraisal

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 November 2023  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations 2024/25

<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 Lucy Pegg, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Ajaz Rehman, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Support Thriving Communities
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Thriving Communities Strategy
<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 06 November 2023 to consider a report concerning Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations 2024/25. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 15 November 2023, recommends that Cabinet notes the implementation of the Oxford Community Impact Fund agreed by Cabinet on 15 December 2021 as part of the strategic grants review; notes the social value and economic impact of the fund; and agrees that the criteria and weighting for assessing Oxford Community Impact Fund grant applications in 2024/2025, as set out in paragraph 5 of the Cabinet report, with the additional requirement for applicants to comply with the safeguarding arrangements specified by the Council. The recommendations state that any such safeguarding requirements are to be determined by the Safeguarding Coordinator in consultation with the Head of Community Services.

2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Rehman (Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities), Ian Brooke (Head of Community Services) and Paula Redway (Culture and Community Development Manager) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

### **Summary and recommendations**

3. Councillor Ajaz Rehman, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities introduced the report, noting the increase in forms received by the Council, in response to the simplified forms, and in turn the amount of grants distributed to local groups.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including the questions relating to ensuring the funding was continuing to work with the Inclusive Economy Plan, and works with the Council's Safeguarding Policy, along with leverage between each of the community groups.
5. In particular, the Committee wanted to see a further breakdown of funding between the each of the community groups, and how much investment was received across the city.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council, within the report includes a breakdown between 'Fully Funded', 'Partially Funded (50%)' and 'lower funding'.***

6. The Committee also discussed proportionality of the funding, that safeguarding would continue to be crucial within the inclusive strategy, and to ensure all organisations that received funding would continue to meet the Council's requirements.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council, within the report, notes the minimum requirement for organisations that don't work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.***

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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 06 November 2023 concerning Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations 2024/25. 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, within the report, includes a breakdown between 'Fully Funded', 'Partially Funded (50%)' and 'lower funding'.	Yes	All Oxford Community Impact Fund grants where match funding was required to be reported (for Big Ideas) were funded in the 'lower funding' bracket (see appendix 4) with the exception of Cowley Road Works as they were unsuccessful in their Arts Council Funding bid. Whilst some didn't include specific figures on their returns, their accounts to 31 March 2022 clearly show the Oxford Community Impact fund contribution to be significantly less than 50%.
2) That the Council, within the report, notes the minimum requirement for organisations that don't work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.	Yes	Organisations that don't work with children, young people or vulnerable adults will be asked to confirm this in the application process. In doing so, they will be exempt from relevant aspects of the Safeguarding policy requirement as determined by the Safeguarding Coordinator in consultation with the Head of Community Services.

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**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 15 November 2023  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Central (City & University) Conservation Area Appraisal

<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 Lucy Pegg, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Oxford Local Plan 2016-2036, Policies DH1-DH7
<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 06 November 2023 to consider a report concerning the Central (City & University) Conservation Area Appraisal. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 15 November 2023, recommends that Cabinet adopts the Central (City & University) Conservation Area Appraisal and endorses the adopted Conservation Area Appraisal for use in informing development management decisions and as part of the evidence base for planning policy decisions.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Upton (Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities), Rachel Williams (Planning Policy and Place Manager) and Clare Golden (Team Leader, Urban Design and Heritage) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

## Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities introduced the report. The appraisal had been through public consultation three times before the final report was brought through Committee and informing any decisions referring to local planning policy.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to if the Council had any authority for planning applications relating to the replacement of certain 'historical' features across the City, with an example of certain stones used on unlisted historic pathways.
5. In particular, the Committee discussed the provision of retrofitting modern features, such as energy efficient, windows onto the historic buildings, keeping the character of the building while also meeting modern energy saving requirements.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council would encourage the use of modern windows and other retrofitting measures on historic buildings where appropriate, and the relevant documents are signposted within the report.***

6. The Committee also wanted the appraisal to include the notion that private green spaces are made more accessible to the public, and to ensure applicants were invited to work with the planning team in implementing this.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council amend the appraisal to welcome applications that would make private green spaces more accessible to the public.***

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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 06 November 2023 concerning the Central (City & University) Conservation Area Appraisal. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>1) That the Council would encourage the use of modern windows and other retrofitting measures on historic buildings where appropriate, and the relevant documents are signposted within the report.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Add to the third bullet point under Step 9: Sustainability and Climate Change in the Design Advice (page 95 of the appraisal; page 101 of the Cabinet Agenda Pack) as follows [new text in bold]:</p> <p>“As a broad principle, historic features should be retained wherever possible, this does not mean that buildings cannot be made more energy efficient however, for example historic window frames and glass should be retained because they contribute strongly to the character and appearance of the conservation and historic building, but options such as careful maintenance, draft proofing or secondary glazing can offer real but sensitive benefits. <b>Where buildings have poor performing modern, or unsympathetic replacement windows, consideration should be given to their replacement with new high-performance windows of a suitable appearance, such as double-glazed or vacuum-glazed timber sash windows. This can benefit both the building’s character and its energy performance.</b>”</p> <p>Also add a further web link to Historic England guidance: <a href="#">Historic England guidance on retrofitting</a> to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ page 95 of the Appraisal (page 101 of the Cabinet Agenda Pack) in the section on ‘Sustainability and Climate Change’; and:</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Also under suggestions for 'Further Reading' at section 8.3 of the Appraisal (page 108 of the Cabinet Agenda Pack)</li> </ul> <p>to ensure this advice note and expert guidance is easy to find.</p>
2) That the Council amend the appraisal to welcome applications that would make private green spaces more accessible to the public.	Yes	<p>Add an additional recommendation (a third bullet point for Section 7.3 in the Management Plan) page 69 of the Appraisal and page 75 of the Cabinet Agenda Pack), which concerns 'Streets, public spaces and green and blue space' as follows:</p> <p><b>'Support applications that would provide greater public accessibility to private green spaces'.</b></p>