

Supplement for

Cabinet

On **Wednesday 11 September 2024** At **6.00 pm**

Agenda Item 7 - Scrutiny Reports

Contents

7. **Scrutiny Reports** 3 - 20

The Scrutiny Committee will meet on 3 September 2024, the Finance and Performance Panel will meet on 4 September 2024, and the Climate and Environment Panel will meet on 10 September 2024. The following reports are expected, together with any other recommendations from those meetings:

- ~~Council Strategy 2024-28 Key Performance Indicators - no recommendations~~
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter/Pledges – Annual Update
- Treasury Management Annual Report 2023-24
- Integrated Performance Report Quarter 1 2024-25.

Any recommendations from Climate and Environment Panel on 10 September 2024 will be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting.

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: 11 September 2024
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Anti-Social Behaviour

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Katherine Miles, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Lubna Arshad, Cabinet Member for a Safer Oxford
Corporate Priority:	Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2024-28
Recommendation(s): 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 Scrutiny recommendations

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 03 September 2024 to consider an update on Anti-Social Behaviour. The Committee was recommended to receive a presentation followed by an opportunity for discussion; and agree any recommendations.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Lubna Arshad (Cabinet Member for a Safer Oxford) and Richard Adams (Community Safety Service Manager) for attending the meeting to present and answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Richard Adams, Community Safety Service Manager delivered a presentation which provided an overview of the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour service, relevant legislation and how the Council addressed reports of Anti-Social Behaviour.

4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to fly-tipping by HMO landlords and students; littering associated with the closure of recycling facilities; anti-social cycling using illegal e-bikes; enforcement; partnership working; noise nuisance; governance and transparency in relation to which agencies/sub-teams had responsibility for different aspects of anti-social behaviour, including reporting mechanisms; and resourcing.

5. In response to questions, the Committee noted that a key challenge within the Community Safety Service was the management and resourcing of long-term complex cases, as these cases required a multi-agency response and intensive ongoing support and relationship building. This stretched the resources of the teams involved. As a result, the Committee agreed to recommend that future capacity challenges and resource implications should be explored during future budget-setting rounds.

Recommendation 1: That the Council, in the context of budget-setting in future years, conducts a review of the future capacity challenges and resource implications of complex anti-social behaviour cases which the Community Safety Service manages or is involved in with partners.

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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 03 September 2024 concerning Anti-Social Behaviour. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council, in the context of budget-setting in future years, conducts a review of the future capacity challenges and resource implications of complex anti-social behaviour cases which the Community Safety Service manages or is involved in with partners.	Yes	The increasing number, and increasingly complex nature, of anti-social behaviour cases in the Council's housing stock, temporary accommodation provision and homeless pathways needs to be better understood and assessed against the capacity and skills of officers managing these cases.

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To: Cabinet
Date: 11 September 2024
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter/Pledges – Annual Update

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Katherine Miles, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working; Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies; Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and an Inclusive Economy
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Fair Economy
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2024-28
Recommendation(s): That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report	

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Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 03 September 2024 to consider an annual update report on the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Charter/Pledges. The report was the first annual report setting out an organisational audit against the OIEP pledges; the report was in response to a recommendation of the Committee in on 04 July 2023 when the OIEP Charter/Pledges was presented prior to Cabinet approval in July 2023. The Committee was recommended to note and comment on the report and agree any recommendations.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Susan Brown (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working), Councillor Nigel Chapman (Cabinet

Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies), Clayton Lavallin (Economic Development Team Leader) and Emma Coles (OIEP Manager) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Clayton Lavallin, Economic Development Team Leader introduced the report. The report provided an update on year one progress against the OIEP pledges and a full organisational audit against the complete list of possible pledges. This was in response to a previous recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on 04 July 2023.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to the use of data to evidence progressing pledges; the importance of disaggregated data in showing progress towards specific pledges; and social value in procurement exercises, particularly in relation to the Oxford Living Wage.
5. In particular, the Committee noted that while the Council had only formally committed to thirteen pledges out of a possible thirty-nine, the Council had made significant progress against another of other pledges that it had not signed-up to. In response to questions, the Committee was advised that only thirteen pledges had been committed to as the Council knew it could deliver against them within existing resources. However, the Committee agreed that the Council should sign-up to additional pledges where it was already meeting and/or progressing the requirements of those pledges beyond the thirteen already committed to, as it would strengthen the Council's commitment to driving an inclusive economy.

Recommendation 1: That the Council reviews the complete list of OIEP pledges and commits to additional pledges where it is advancing practices or meeting the requirements of pledges not currently committed to, to ensure that the Council's pledge commitments are aligned to existing and advancing organisational practices.

6. The Committee also discussed the importance of quantitative data in demonstrating progress against the various pledge commitments; including the use of disaggregated data to allow the Committee to drill-down into the detail in areas such as apprenticeships and ownership of small and medium sized enterprise (SME) Council suppliers (e.g. understanding the demographics behind an overarching number). The Committee agreed that it would be helpful if quantitative and relevant disaggregated data was included in future annual reports.

Recommendation 2: That the Council includes quantitative data in future OIEP Charter/Pledges annual update reports to evidence progress, including the use of disaggregated data on apprenticeships and SME Council suppliers to enable more detailed interrogation of the figures.

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The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 03 September 2024 concerning the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Charter/Pledges Annual Update. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council reviews the complete list of OIEP pledges and commits to additional pledges where it is advancing practices or meeting the requirements of pledges not currently committed to, to ensure that the Council's pledge commitments are aligned to existing and advancing organisational practices.		Council Officers from Oxford City Council, Oxford Direct Services (ODS) and OX Place will work with Emma Coles, Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Manager to identify pledges that we have performed well against in our annual audit so that more information can be provided about them alongside the 13 existing pledge commitments. A prerequisite for including this information will be the capacity to easily report on this within existing resource.
2) That the Council includes quantitative data in future OIEP Charter/Pledges annual update reports to evidence progress, including the use of disaggregated data on apprenticeships and SME Council suppliers to enable more detailed interrogation of the figures.		Council Officers in the Economic Development Team will request in future reporting from Oxford City Council service leads and Organisations (OX Place, Oxford Direct Services (ODS)) that quantitative data be supplied for each of the respective pledges audited and (wherever possible) to emphasise the need for disaggregated data in respect of apprenticeships and Small to Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs). This data will then be presented alongside the annual audit for fuller analysis and consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

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To: Cabinet
Date: 11 September 2024
Report of: Finance and Performance Panel
Title of Report: Treasury Management Annual Report 2023-24

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Panel of the Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor James Fry, Panel Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Treasury Management Strategy
Recommendation(s): That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report	

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Introduction and overview

1. The Finance and Performance Panel met on 04 September 2024 to consider the Treasury Management Annual Report 2023-24. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 11 September 2024, recommends that Cabinet notes the report.
2. The Panel would like to thank Councillor Ed Turner (Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management) and Nigel Kennedy (Head of Financial Services) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Ed Turner (Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management) introduced the report. The report set out the Council's Treasury Management activity and performance for the financial year 2023-24.

4. The Panel asked a range of questions, including questions relating to benchmarking against other local authorities; management accounting of interest in relation to Council loans to Council-owned companies and Joint Ventures; and external debt.
5. In particular, the Panel was interested in understanding how the Council's Treasury Management function compared to other local authorities in terms of return on investment versus level of risk.

Recommendation 1: That the Council produces a benchmarking report which compares the Council's Treasury Management function with that of other local authorities over time, to include data related to return on investment versus level of risk of investment strategy alongside an explanatory commentary, and shares this with the Finance and Performance Panel once available.

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Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of
the Finance and Performance Panel of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Finance and Performance Panel on 04 September 2024 concerning the Treasury Management Annual Report 2023-24. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council produces a benchmarking report which compares the Council's Treasury Management function with that of other local authorities over time, to include data related to return on investment versus level of risk of investment strategy alongside an explanatory commentary, and shares this with the Finance and Performance Panel once available.	Yes	A briefing note will be prepared for the next Panel meeting in December 2024.

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To: Cabinet
Date: 11 September 2024
Report of: Finance and Performance Panel
Title of Report: Integrated Performance Report Q1 2024-25

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Panel of the Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor James Fry, Panel Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2024-28
Recommendation(s): That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report	

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Introduction and overview

1. The Finance and Performance Panel met on 04 September 2024 to consider the Integrated Performance Report for Quarter 1 2024/25. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 11 September 2024, recommends that Cabinet notes the projected financial outturn as well as the position on risk and performance as at 30 June 2024.
2. The Panel would like to thank Councillor Ed Turner (Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management) and Nigel Kennedy (Head of Financial Services) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Ed Turner (Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management) introduced the report. The report provided an update on finance, risk and corporate performance matters as at 30 June 2024.

4. The Panel asked a range of questions, including questions relating to temporary accommodation demand and mitigations; the overspend on responsive and cyclical repairs; and the housing benefit subsidy.
5. In particular, the Panel discussed the financial impact on the Council of non-registered provider organisations being commissioned by the County Council to provide supported accommodation. The non-registered provider status meant that the Council could not claim housing benefit subsidy in relation to benefits paid to Oxford residents in supported accommodation provided by those organisations. The Panel

Recommendation 1: That the Council produces an analysis related to the Council's inability to claim housing benefit subsidy in respect of Oxford residents living in supported accommodation provided by non-registered provider organisations and the options available to address the related adverse variance within Council finances – and shares this report with the Finance and Performance Panel once available.

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the Finance and Performance Panel of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Finance and Performance Panel on 04 September 2024 concerning the Integrated Performance Report Q1 2024-25. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council produces an analysis related to the Council's inability to claim housing benefit subsidy in respect of Oxford residents living in supported accommodation provided by non-registered provider organisations and the options available to address the related adverse variance within Council finances – and shares this report with the Finance and Performance Panel once available.	Yes	A briefing paper will be prepared for the next Panel meeting in December 2024; we would like to mitigate this and will set out potential routes to doing so, but this is not something which can be achieved by Oxford City Council alone.

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