

Law and Governance

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To Members of the City Executive Board

08 July 2013

Dear Councillors

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD - WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2013

Please find attached the Scrutiny reports for the committee meeting above.

Kind Regards

William Reed
Democratic Services Manager

Agenda No Item

4. **Scrutiny Committee Reports (Pages 1 - 6)**

Report of Principal Scrutiny Officer on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee

The following scrutiny committee reports have are submitted to this meeting from the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2 July 2013:-

- Youth Ambition Strategy
- Low Emission Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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To: City Executive Board

Date: 10th. July 2013

Report of: The Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: YOUTH AMBITION STRATEGY

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To report the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the Youth Ambition Strategy.

Key decision: No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Mills

Executive Lead Member: Councillor Clack

Policy Framework: Strong and ambitious Communities

Recommendation(s): For the City Executive Board to say if it agrees or disagrees with the following recommendations.

Recommendation 1

To provide now a set of concrete outcome measures focused on the direct effects on the ambitions and pathways of the young people involved in this work.

Recommendation 2

To monitor and revisit regularly the type of activity provided to ensure that it is flexible, contemporary and engaging the right numbers, in the right place, at the right time.

Recommendation 3

To express the need for the provision of safe spaces for young people to express themselves as an overarching priority for all the schemes, actions and outcomes within this Strategy.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals for the Youth Ambition Strategy. They were supported in their debate by Ian Brooke and the Committee would like to thank him for his time and advice.
2. The Committee was please to see this Strategy taking shape and commend the Council for its investment in the young people of Oxford. A number of recommendations were made for the City Executive Board to consider.

Conclusions and Recommendations

3. The Strategy has been built around a needs analysis and consultation and this gives a sound base to move forward. The detail given in the Action Plan and Objective Setting focuses on process, finance, partnerships and schemes but gives little insight into the outcomes expected for young people to improve their chances and ambitions. The Committee want both the Council and young people to get good value for money from this investment and to be able to judge this in terms of the direct effects on individual young people.

Recommendation 1

To provide now a set of concrete outcome measures focused on the direct effects on the ambitions and pathways of the young people involved in this work.

4. The Committee discussed the range of activities preferred by young people and found the range and degree of support for some activities surprising. It was clear that the chart if produced area by area might look very different and the Committee was reassured to hear and read that doing what fits best area by area or even group by group was at the heart of the Strategy. Given that the provision of activities is an important tool for engagement and as a possible proxy to other support services this needs to be kept as flexible and contemporary as possible.

Recommendation 2

To monitor and revisit regularly the type of activity provided to ensure that it is flexible, contemporary and engaging the right numbers, in the right place, at the right time.

5. The recent revelations within the Bull Finch inquiry tell us that young people need safe spaces to express themselves. The Committee hope that this can be one of the priorities that threads through all the schemes, actions and outcomes within this Strategy.

Recommendation 3

To express the need for the provision of safe spaces for young people to express themselves as an overarching priority for all the schemes, actions and outcomes within this Strategy.

Comments from the Director and Board Member

6. We support the recommendations made by the Committee and will ensure that they are incorporated in the implementation stage.

Name and contact details of author:-

Name: Patricia Jones on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee
Job title: Principal Scrutiny Officer
Service Area: Law and Governance
Tel: 01865 252191 e-mail: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

List of background papers: None

Version number: 1

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To: City Executive Board

Date: 10th. July 2013

Report of: The Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: LOW EMISSIONS STRATEGY AND AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To report the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan.

Key decision: No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Mills

Executive Lead member: Councillor Tanner

Policy Framework: Cleaner Greener Oxford

Recommendation(s): For the City Executive Board to say if it agrees or disagrees with the following recommendations.

Recommendation

To support the setting of the Low Emissions Strategy and ambitions but for the City Executive Board to require early reference of the document to the Carbon and Natural Resources Members Board so that gaps on data, resources and financing can be discussed and a robust action plan produced.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals for the Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan. They were supported in their debate by Jo Colwell, Roger Pitman and Councillor Tanner and the Committee would like to thank them for their time and advice.

Conclusions and Recommendations

2. The Committee was pleased to see such ambitious documents and thought the Air Quality Action Plan in particular presented clear actions and measures to support outcomes.
3. The Committee was less clear that the Low Emissions Strategy contained enough detail on data, resources and financing to give confidence that it would meet its overarching targets and further would have benefited from the advice and input of the Carbon and Natural Resources Members Board .

Recommendation

To support the setting of the Low Emissions Strategy and ambitions but for the City Executive Board to require early reference of the document to the Carbon and Natural Resources Members Board so that gaps on data, resources and financing can be discussed and a robust action plan produced.

Board Member and Director Comments

4. The Board Member's focus is to report on progress associated with the Low Emission Strategy. The Carbon and Natural Resources Members Board will be a useful forum to discuss this in. The Board Member has requested a re-formatting of diagrams and tables within the document to provide greater clarity.

Name and contact details of author:-

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List of background papers: None

Version number: 1