

# Agenda

## Climate and Environment Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Wednesday 29 November 2023**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Zoom - Remote meeting**

**For further information** please contact:

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## **Committee Membership**

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth (Chair)

Councillor Emily Kerr

Councillor Katherine Miles

Apologies received before the publication are shown under *Apologies for absence* in the agenda. Those sent after publication will be reported at the meeting.

# Agenda

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<b>1 Apologies</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>3 Chair's Announcements</b>	
<b>4 Notes of the previous meeting</b>	9 - 14
<p>The Panel is asked to <b>agree</b> the notes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<b>5 Climate and Environment Panel Work Plan</b>	15 - 16
<p>The Panel is asked to consider the Work Plan and agree any amendments.</p>	
<b>6 Report back on recommendations</b>	17 - 32
<p>At its meetings on 13 September 2023 and 18 October 2023, Cabinet considered the following reports from the Climate and Environment Panel and made responses to the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City Wide Smoke Control Area Declaration</li><li>• HRA Energy Efficiency Projects 2023/24</li><li>• Air Pollution</li></ul> <p>Cabinet's responses to recommendations were presented to the Scrutiny Committee at its meetings on 10 October 2023 and 06 November 2023 for noting.</p> <p>The Panel is asked to <b>note</b> Cabinet's responses to its recommendations.</p>	
<b>7 Biodiversity Action Plan for Oxford City Council Parks and Nature Areas - September 2023 Review</b>	33 - 78
<p>At its meeting on 27 June 2023, the Panel agreed to add the following item to its Work Plan for the 2023/24 municipal year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Council policies, projects and actions</i></b> – <i>focus on two key</i></li></ul>	

*areas: parks and green space management and the operational/action plans that stem from strategies; and biodiversity net gain management.*

A review of progress against the Biodiversity Action Plan for Oxford City Council Parks and Nature Areas was undertaken in September 2023. The review is presented to the Panel in respect of its agreed focus on 'parks and green space management and the operational/action plans that stem from strategies'.

Cllr Chewe Munkonge, Deputy Leader (Non-Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks and Chris Bell, Green and Blue Spaces Development Manager, have been invited to present the report and answer questions. The Panel is asked to note and comment on the report and agree any recommendations.

## **8 Retrofit [presentation]**

At its meeting on 27 June 2023, the Panel commissioned an item on Retrofit and subsequently agreed a [scope](#) for the item at its meeting on 12 September 2023. Cllr Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy and Vikki Robins, Carbon Reduction Team Manager have been invited to present and answer questions.

The Panel is asked to receive a presentation followed by an opportunity for discussion; and to agree any recommendations.

## **9 Net Zero Masterplan**

The Head of Corporate Strategy has submitted the Net Zero Masterplan 2023-25 which sets out Oxford City Council's actions over the next two years to achieve its two carbon targets: a Net Zero Estate and Operations by 2030 and a Net Zero City by 2040.

**Note:** Actions have been sorted so that outstanding tasks are ordered by priority. There are two actions under 'a Net Zero City by 2040' highlighted in yellow which are awaiting an update prior to the Panel meeting on 29 November 2023. An overview of the highest RAG-rated priority actions will be provided at the meeting, alongside an update on progress since the Panel's last meeting.

The Panel is asked to consider the Net Zero Masterplan and agree any recommendations.

*As requested by the Panel at its meeting on 12 September 2023, Cllr Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice and officers have been invited for a discussion relating to plans to 'address issues around resourcing; reflecting on the financial realities of local government and any lateral insights of how to continue to*

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*progress the actions if budget bids were not successful'.*

## **10 Dates of future meetings**

The Panel is asked to note the dates and times of future meetings of the Climate and Environment Panel.

- 27 February 2024, 6pm
- 20 March 2024, 6pm

*Meetings will take place remotely via Zoom.*

## **Information for those attending**

### **Recording and reporting on meetings held in public**

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks those recording the meeting:

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- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recording may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

### **Councillors declaring interests**

#### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

#### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your\* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

#### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

#### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". The matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

#### **Members Code – Other Registrable Interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing\*\* of one of your Other Registerable Interests\*\*\* then you must declare an

interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members Code – Non Registrable Interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests, then you must declare the interest.

You must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room, if you answer in the affirmative to this test:

“Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.”

Otherwise, you may stay in the room, take part in the discussion and vote.

\*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member’s spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

\*\* Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person’s quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

\*\*\* Other Registrable Interests: a) any unpaid directorships b) any Body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority c) any Body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.