

Scrutiny Recommendation - October to November 2015

Planning Annual Monitoring Report – 2 November Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
<p>1. That the Council includes the following two new indicators when considering the effectiveness of planning policies contained within the Oxford Local Development Plan</p> <p>a) Number of units of affordable housing to rent built on Council owned land</p> <p>b) The amount of land freed up for affordable housing development through change of use</p>	Y	<p>Both recommendations are accepted on the understanding that point 'a' refers to affordable homes, which could include social rent and intermediate housing in line with the adopted policy. While it is important to have consistency in the indicators measured over time, it is clear that some current indicators are less useful than others not currently used. Before producing the next AMR the range of indicators will be reviewed, and amended where appropriate including the addition of the two suggested indicators. When adding new indicators the ease of producing retrospective data for trend analysis will be taken into account, as will a principle of not increasing the size and complexity of the existing AMR and the resources required to compile it.</p>	Cllr Hollingsworth & Mark Jaggard	Nov 2016
Arrangements for fitting Solar Panels – 8 th October Housing Panel				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
<p>1. That the City Council should make every effort to enter into a viable agreement with the Low Carbon Hub as soon as possible in order to maximise the available benefits of fitting solar panels on Council-owned housing stock.</p>	Y	<p>I agree with the recommendation and indeed officers are already looking at ways of working with the Low Carbon Hub to help install PV panels on Council homes.</p>	Cllr Rowley & Stephen Clarke	Feb 2016

Additional Licensing for HMOs – 8th October Housing Panel				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. That the City Council encourages landlords and agents offer longer term tenancies and rent level guarantees, and explores the option of including these as discretionary criteria within the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.	Y	The Council will endeavour to encourage landlords and agents to offer longer tenancies and affordable market rents wherever possible and investigate the option of including this as a desirable element of accreditation in consultation with landlords and agents at the next Landlord Information Exchange event planned for December 2015.	Cllr Turner & Ian Wright	April 2016
2. That the City Council considers whether there is anything that can be done to address the inequity whereby many tenants living in HMOs are unable to access free bulky waste collections.	Y	Officers will investigate the potential to increase the number of free bulky items collections for tenants living in HMOs and if feasible will report back to CEB at a future meeting.	Cllr Turner & Ian Wright	April 2016
City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order – 6th October Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. That the design and placing of signage is considered by a cross-party group of members and that every effort is made to remove obsolete signage across the city.	Y	I welcome this recommendation and will ask officers to convene a cross-party group of members to develop appropriate signage in suitable locations, and ensure obsolete signage is removed.	Cllr Sinclair & Richard Adams	March 2016
2. That full consideration is given to any further views expressed by Liberty in relation to the revised draft PSPO.	Y	A letter has been received from Liberty since the scrutiny meeting. The letter will be reported to the Board.	Cllr Sinclair & Richard Adams	Y
3. That the City Executive Board notes that there was no consensus in the Scrutiny Committee or PSPO Panel for the inclusion at this stage of the behaviours set out in sections 1a and 1e	Y	Noted.	Cllr Sinclair & Richard Adams	Y

of the draft PSPO.				
4. That the City Executive Board inserts the word “reasonably” before the word “perceived” in section 1a of the draft PSPO.	Y	Accepted.	Cllr Sinclair & Richard Adams	Y
5. That the City Executive Board should clarify and define the meaning of the word “near” in section 1a of the draft PSPO to protect and assist officers enforcing the order.	N	Not accepted. ‘Near’ is a word which is easily understood, which does not require further definition. It will be a matter of fact as to whether the prohibition is engaged.	Cllr Sinclair & Richard Adams	N/A
Financial Inclusion Strategy – Action Plan Update – 6th October Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. That the Action Plan should be kept under review so that the Council can be responsive to significant changes in circumstances (e.g. further welfare reforms, reduced children’s centre provision).	Y	The report delegates authority to update the Action Plan as and when required, which enables us to be responsive to new or changing situations. In such an event we can add or change actions in the plan. I review the plan on a monthly basis with officers to look at any significant variations and officers also review it on a monthly basis. We will report any significant variations under delegated authority.	Cllr Brown & Paul Wilding	Y
2. That the directory of affordable childcare should be shared with Councillors.	Y	There is no directory of affordable childcare. The availability of childcare is a constantly changing situation. The action in the plan that this relates to is to identify local providers of childcare. The County Council have a service which is able to tell you what is available at the time of contacting them. Anyone can access this, so we can provide the contact details. It is provided by the Family Information Service who can be reached on	Cllr Brown & Paul Wilding	Y

		08452 262636.		
3. That the Action Plan should contain a stronger emphasis on more joined up partnership working, for example with the health sector to support social prescribing.	N	Action 28 in the plan deals with this area, although the wording doesn't make this explicit. The action is being delivered through our participation in the social prescribing project being carried out by Bury Knowle Surgery.	Cllr Brown & Paul Wilding	N/A
4. That all frontline staff should receive training on recognising the indicators of financial exclusion.	N	The revision of the action plan explicitly excludes contact centre staff from this training as it has been deemed not appropriate. The time spent identifying indicators of financial exclusion on a phone call would be too onerous and would require additional resource to maintain the same level of service as calls would take longer to deal with. Instead the new action focuses on delivering this to teams who have longer periods of engagement with customers likely to be at risk of financial exclusion. This would include tenancy sustainment, energy advice officers and the welfare reform team.	Cllr Brown & Paul Wilding	N/A
5. That the City Council should monitor the accessibility of the private rented sector to people who are out of work and the use of the Lord Mayor's Deposit Scheme.	Y	The Housing Needs Team already produces performance data relating to this area which includes number of new starts in Home Choice, and deposits provided under the Deposit Scheme. Housing Scrutiny Panel reviews performance in this area including the number of households in temporary accommodation, which is a good indicator of the difficulty in accessing the PRS. Housing Scrutiny could request that other data is reported relating to access to the PRS if this would be helpful.	Cllr Brown & Paul Wilding	Y
6. That the City Council should bring	N	Recent policy changes from the government	Cllr Brown &	N/A

forward any plans that would assist households in taking advantage of higher feed in tariff rates.		<p>mean that drastic cuts in the housing revenue account budget will be required. This is subject to government confirmation but this is highly likely later in the autumn.</p> <p>This means that the Council will have to reassess its existing spending priorities between December and March so can no longer commit to many non-essential services. It is very likely that the major programmes with the housing stock such as energy efficiency and solar PV will be significantly affected.</p> <p>Tighter budgets mean that the Council will have to do more with less, and means we are unable currently to commit to any work other than those that are basic, cost effective and/or vital programmes of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loft insulation work to top up to about 270mm • Heating replacement programme • External insulation, double glazing and improved ventilation in Tower Blocks 	Paul Wilding	
Proposed Lease and Monitoring Arrangements for Community Centres – 6th October Scrutiny Committee 2015				
Recommendation	Agreed Y/N	Executive response	Lead Member & Officer	Implemented Y/N / due date
1. That the City Executive Board should consider deferring the decision on this report and taking it alongside the Community Centre Strategy decision, which is expected in November.	N	The report reflects the contents of the strategy report which will be brought in November. There is nothing within the leases report that is inconsistent with, or at odds with, the strategy report.	Cllr Simm & Ian Brooke	N/A

2. That the City Council should develop a “code of conduct” that sets out the expectations on Community Centre Associations and the types of support Associations can expect from the City Council. This code of conduct should be linked to the lease and monitoring arrangements for community centres.	In part	Many community associations will have their own Code of Conduct; this suggestion can be explored with community associations, either individually or through the Federation.	Cllr Simm & Ian Brooke	April 2016
3. That the report should provide more detail on the standard forfeiture (termination) provisions on tenant default or insolvency.	Agreed	Agreed, we will seek further clarification from Legal.	Cllr Simm & Ian Brooke	Dec 2016
4. That City Executive Board should make arrangements for independent legal advice to be available to Community Centre Associations.	Agreed	For those CAs moving from a licence to a lease, we will consider this during the period of discussion and negotiation. As there are areas of commonality in this process we can consider who would be the best source of advice of the CAs, for example, Community Matters. Associations with expired leases are being offered financial assistance towards seeking legal advice.	Cllr Simm & Ian Brooke	April 2016