

## Cabinet response to recommendations of the Finance Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

The document sets out the response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Finance Panel on 1 July 2019 concerning the Integrated Performance Report for Quarter 4 2018/19. Cabinet is asked to formally agree its response.

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<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agree?</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<p>Recommendation 1: That paragraph 7 of the report on the need to progress the work on establishing a Citizens' Assembly is expanded to reflect the breadth of work that will be enabled by the additional budget provision and to include additional resources specifically to support a scrutiny review, before the report is presented to Council on 22 July 2019. The Panel would suggest the inclusion of three additional bullet points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource, within the overall £200k budget, for a scrutiny review group focused on considering the Council's response to the Climate Emergency motion and the outcomes of the Citizens' Assembly.</li> <li>• Work together with existing Environmental Sustainability Team officers to identify possible work streams and additional funded officer time to focus on recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly that focus on emissions reduction.</li> <li>• Other minor interventions and quick wins emerging from the Assembly.</li> </ul>	Partly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget recommended for 2019-20 of £200k will be sufficient to get the project started with resource to establish the Citizens Assembly and to develop the detailed options for carbon reduction that it will consider – leading to recommendations for Council adoption. Future budgetary provision will be established through the Budget setting process in the light of other priorities of the Council. Further work will be undertaken to establish what budgetary provision should be made going forward. Finance Panel and Scrutiny Panel are at liberty to scrutinise any area of the Councils business through normal channels by requesting officers to undertake such work but given the severe financial constraint that the Council is working under there may not be financial capacity to dedicate a resource to scrutinise work on climate change over and above that which can be undertaken using the normal reasonable officer time.</li> <li>• Agreed</li> <li>• Agreed</li> </ul>
<p>Recommendation 2: That future integrated performance reports provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reasons for capital slippage on specific projects where this occurs;</li> </ol>	Agreed	Future reports to Cabinet will include additional information in these areas

<p>2. An explanation of accounting terms such as favourable variance;</p> <p>3. A summary of financing, including external funding streams.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 3: That monthly reporting on the progress of major capital schemes is made available to elected members, if they request it.</p>	<p>Partly</p>	<p>Information produced internally by officers is always available to elected members if requested. However, the additional rigour, control and input which goes into the presentation of a formal report to Cabinet is a much better reporting route to Members.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: That the Council revisits the case for pursuing the compulsory purchase of domestic properties that have been vacant for several years where this option has not recently been explored.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The Council will continue to explore whether or not CPOs should be used as part of the strategy to bring long term empty homes back into use</p>