

Scrutiny recommendation tracker 2019/20 – July 2019

Total recommendations	32
Agreed	15 (47%)
Agreed in part	14 (44%)
Not agreed	3 (9%)

10 July CABINET

Integrated Performance Report 2018/19 Quarter 4

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<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"> • 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. • 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. • Other minor interventions and quick wins emerging from the Assembly. 	Partly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Agreed • Agreed
<p>Recommendation 2: That future integrated performance reports provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reasons for capital slippage on specific projects where this occurs; 2. An explanation of accounting terms such as 	Agreed	Future reports to Cabinet will include additional information in these areas

favourable variance; 3. A summary of financing, including external funding streams.		
Recommendation 3: That monthly reporting on the progress of major capital schemes is made available to elected members, if they request it.	Partly	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.
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.	Agreed	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

Fusion Lifestyle Annual Service Plan

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
Recommendation 1: That the Council undertakes outreach work in the most deprived areas within the City to further encourage the use of local leisure facilities, and confirms that there will be a robust action plan for increasing participation in these communities. This, along with increasing BAME participation, should be considered a priority within the Fusion Lifestyle contract.	Yes	Fusion Lifestyle have a contractual responsibility to undertake this outreach work and as a council we will continue to support them and challenge them to achieve more in this area.

12 June CABINET

Seacourt Park and Ride Extension

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
Recommendation: That the Cabinet does not grant final project approval for the Seacourt Park and Ride Extension.	No	<p>The discussion at the Scrutiny Committee reflected previously stated opinions on this project. As the Chair of the Committee noted, some members simply don't accept the evidence submitted in relation to the need for the extension and its impact, and that continues to be the case.</p> <p>The report details the financial impact of the project over 30 years, but it is important to note that over the next ten years it is highly likely that the availability of public car parking in the city centre will be significantly reduced; it is also important to note that the lease on another of Oxford's park and ride car parks expires within the same period and will need to be</p>

	<p>renegotiated. Furthermore, while a substantial proportion of journeys to the city centre are made using the park and ride service, there are still many journeys in the city that are being made in the private car, all of which contribute to congestion and air pollution which seriously impacts on the health and well-being of the city's residents and workers. Finally, Cabinet is reminded that Seacourt is frequently operationally full, demonstrating a clear current need for additional capacity on the western approaches to the city.</p> <p>It therefore reasonably follows that there is a need for additional capacity in the park and ride system where it can be achieved. The proposed expansion at Seacourt Park & Ride will make a significant contribution in addressing this need. This is why the project has been repeatedly approved by a substantial majority of Full Council, including the allocation of the budget for the project.</p> <p>I therefore recommend that the Cabinet approves the project as outlined in the report.</p>
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Safeguarding Report and Action Plan

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Council revisits the safeguarding recommendation made by the Scrutiny Committee on 5 June 2018 concerning the number of school aged children that receive face to face safeguarding awareness training, and provides the Committee with further information on progress against the agreed action.</p>	<p>Partial</p>	<p>In considering Safeguarding issues, it is important to note the County Council Local Authority Designated Officer team (LADO) has responsibility for delivering safeguarding support into the Education system.</p> <p>Oxford City Council has a seat on the Oxford Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) board and also a seat on the sub group of the Board, overseeing Performance and quality assurance. This group has a rolling audit programme to oversee and scrutinise the safeguarding work being delivered across the sector and report back into OSCB. This includes all Oxfordshire schools both primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>Oxford City Council has limited funds for direct school engagement from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner. We have a programme where we are working with young people at risk of exclusion and/or reduced timetables as they have been identified as the most vulnerable to exploitation.</p>

		<p>We are currently working in The Oxford Academy, St Greg's and Oxford Spires.</p> <p>City Council Youth Ambition team also provide additional support to children within the school setting as part of 'our commitment to schools' offer. The topic areas that are covered with pupils include safeguarding awareness.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That the Council revisits the recommendations, and agreed actions resulting from the 2015/16 Guest House Scrutiny Review Group to clarify that actions are being pursued, and ensures that matters relating to guest houses are a feature of future safeguarding reports to Cabinet.</p>	Partial	<p>Hotel Watch, involving the Police, Council officers and sector representatives works with hotels and guest houses in the city to improve safeguarding practices. The Cabinet Lead Member will receive an update report on progress since 2015.</p>

29 May CABINET

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Council ensures that any application of the Exceptional Circumstances Relief Policy receives thorough councillor oversight and that a standard operating procedure is devised to ensure this process is in place. This process should protect the Council against unreasonable and frequent viability claims, and ensure that the relief scheme is only used in the most exceptional of circumstances.</p>	Y	<p>Under the Constitution the Cabinet (formerly CEB) can delegate executive decisions to the appropriate officer in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, which is what has been proposed here.</p> <p>However, as the name implies, it is anticipated that any application for use of the Exceptional Circumstances Relief would indeed be exceptional. Therefore, while acknowledging that this will add slightly more time to the decision-making process, it is recommended that the Cabinet do not delegate this responsibility but retain it, and should amend the recommendations of the report accordingly.</p> <p>Any such report to Cabinet would therefore be subject to oversight by the Scrutiny Committee in the normal way</p>

The future strategic direction for the Council's group of housing companies

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Council ensures that the feasibility assessment and design phases of future OCHL developments align with the Council's carbon neutral and environmental ambitions. These stages should also consider the need for appropriate disability access. More broadly, the environmental objectives of the Council should align with all aspects of OCHL's work.</p>	Y	<p>We are committed to moving towards carbon neutral homes in a way consistent with addressing the housing crisis in Oxford and respecting the wishes and needs of tenants; so zero-carbon homes should always be considered as part of any feasibility study. It is essential to consider the need for disability access in everything we do, and this is reflected in our existing commitment to building "lifetime homes" that can be adapted to meet residents' changing needs.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That the Council, through OCHL, establishes a standalone and unallocated funding pot to enable rapid property and land acquisitions. Consideration should be given to other ways that the same outcome might be achieved, such as through urgent decision procedures.</p> <p>201</p>	Y	<p>There are urgent decision procedures available that can be used to facilitate the acquisition of land for affordable housing. Often ordinary procedures are sufficient, as with the acquisition of new homes off-plan recently approved by Cabinet to be let through the HRA at social rent. Thanks to our ability to borrow prudentially we do have more "wiggle room" in our HRA budget than in previous years, so in my judgement establishing a separate funding pot for rapid property acquisition is unnecessary. Indeed, separating this from the rest of the HRA capital budget could well have the unintended consequence of reducing our flexibility in meeting unforeseen contingencies.</p>

Tourism Management Scrutiny Review Group

Recommendation	Agree?	Cabinet Member Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Council convenes with key partners (e.g. the universities and Experience Oxfordshire) to develop a shared vision for tourism in Oxford. This should also recognise the needs and wishes of residents, and be made public and promoted through the Council's media channels. Key principles of the vision should situate Oxford as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A city that welcomes all visitors (local, national and international) b) A city that aspires to have high quality, low carbon, transport facilities c) A destination which is best experienced through an overnight stay d) A gateway to other tourism destinations in the region 	Yes/in part	<p>The council can convene with partners. Given officers are about to procure support for the Oxford Economic and City Centre Vision and Plan, these commissions can be used to inform engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>We feel it is premature to make assumptions as to what the vision should be.</p> <p>The resources to deliver such a vision and for its communication beyond Oxfordshire are perhaps not available at present, so this will need consideration.</p>

<p>Recommendation 2: That the Council, through its membership on the Boards of Experience Oxfordshire and OxLEP, actively supports local efforts to prepare for the Tourism Sector Deal (such as bidding to become an official Tourism Zone), which would lever in investment to extend the tourism season and improve transport access for visitors to the City.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This can be supported through existing resource and partnerships</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: That the Cabinet reviews the process and assessment undertaken which led to the proposal to phase out funding to Experience Oxfordshire, and undertakes to work with partners to jointly ensure there is a suitable and sustainable funding model for destination management in the future.</p>	<p>Yes/in part</p>	<p>It was a budget decision made in February 2019 in accordance with the council's procedures. Councillors then assessed this alongside all other budget reductions and proposals.</p> <p>It is important we engage in conversation with all relevant stakeholders on finding the most appropriate funding model to permit a sustainable approach to tourism promotion and destination management. The city council is one of those stakeholders and we are willing to discuss the possibility of commissioning services from Experience Oxfordshire as a possible way of providing funding.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: That the Board member for Culture and City Centre becomes the Council's representative on the Board of Experience Oxfordshire, and consideration is given to how their portfolio title can better reflect their remit for tourism matters.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Good communication and consistency are the most important issues here rather than the person who takes on the role of representative. As Cabinet Member I have regular meetings with the Chief Executive of Experience Oxfordshire and I am not certain that having the Cabinet Member as EO Board member is essential.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: That the Council has a named officer or team to be recognised as the lead on tourism matters.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The team should be Regeneration and Economy (Economic Development and City Centre Management), also ensuring links with other relevant service areas</p> <p>However, many of the recommendations to follow could pose an unsustainable workload on the broader set of council officers affected. Additional resource would need to be identified or we prioritise the most effective and deliverable actions from the long list</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: That the Council continues to encourage employers within the hospitality and tourism sectors in Oxford to pay the Oxford Living Wage, including the universities and colleges. Further, that the Council's promotional activity around the Oxford Living Wage incorporates customer facing marketing, which encourages conscience driven spending with Oxford Living Wage accredited shops and services.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is already resourced in line with previous recommendations. It will be addressed specifically in the Living Wage City action plan being prepared over the summer, to be agreed with employers on the Living Wage City Group. Customer facing marketing is already part of the OLW plan.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: That the Council, having secured support from the County Council, develops an action plan to become a 'Coach Friendly' city, with key performance indicators and milestones, in accordance with the seven criteria set out by the Confederation of Passenger Transport. This should incorporate short, medium and long term strategic infrastructure plans for improving drop off and layover facilities</p>	<p>Yes/in part</p>	<p>Both Councils are committed to improving the coach operation for the benefit of residents and visitors. We recognise that effective management of coaches can assist in reducing congestion, improving air quality and safety. There are number of challenges that need to be addressed before the Council could meet the seven objectives set by the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT). However, we would be happy to engage the CPT in this process. It will probably require a joint city and county resource to be employed/identified for a defined</p>

<p>in the City, linking with key wayfinding routes and providing sufficient facilities for passengers and coach drivers. Key stakeholders including the bus companies and the DMO should be engaged with through this process.</p>		<p>period to be effective.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: That the Council makes representations to Oxfordshire County Council concerning the need to distinguish standalone transport and infrastructure plans for tourist coach access in future strategies and policy documents. Further, the Council takes an active role in raising the profile of the tourism sector within key strategic documents, such as the emerging Economic Growth Strategy and Local Transport Plan 5.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This can be done as part of the usual consultation process. Moreover, Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Council are currently reviewing the wider policy on coaches. The Council recognises that the tourism can bring benefits to a city, although this needs to be well managed in order to prevent a detrimental impact. Any policy adopted needs to ensure that tourism positively contributes to residents as well as visitors. Whilst the economic impacts must be appraised, social and environmental issues will also need to be carefully considered.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: That the Council reviews and updates the current drop-off and layover advice for coach operators, as set out on the Council's website, and commits to more frequent engagement with the Confederation of Passenger Transport and the Coach Tourism Association.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The layover information is currently being reviewed and will be issued to coach operators imminently. The Council would welcome the opportunity to engage with the CPT and will commit to doing so. However, it should be noted that the County Council are responsible for the management of on-street parking issues and therefore as a main stakeholder their participation would be required in this process.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: That the Council issues and resources a survey to tourist coach companies, in partnership with Experience Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council, to better understand; the number of coaches that enter the City, their movements, and barriers to making best use of existing facilities. This should broadly reflect the research approach taken in Cambridge.</p>	<p>Yes/ in part</p>	<p>This will be discussed with Experience Oxfordshire and Oxon County Council, to ascertain what information already exists, and what more is needed. We know from Experience Oxfordshire that decisions about destinations and the length of visits are made by tour operators several years in advance. Experience Oxfordshire is already making progress in influencing these early stages and encouraging visitors to spend more time in Oxford. We already know that the main barriers to coaches making better use of facilities is the short length of tourist visits to Oxford, currently an average of 90 minutes.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: That the Council remains involved in discussions with similar cities about the introduction of an overnight tourism levy, and supports national efforts to lobby for the ability to introduce such a levy. Any plan must capture all providers of commercial paid accommodation, not just hotels, and assurances are needed that the revenue generated will go towards improving the visitor experience. Consideration should be given to the Local Government Association's role in supporting this effort.</p>	<p>In part</p>	<p>We will continue to monitor the situation, liaise with cities and lobby where appropriate. We will build a greater set of background information and data. As Cabinet member I have already visited Edinburgh and discussed their proposed Transient Visitor Levy (TVL) with their officers and councillors.</p> <p>The principles suggested will be considered if and when a plan is developed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: That the Council takes an active role in promoting and supporting digital innovations and tourism products that benefit the City and its residents. For example, the Oxford Pass, Wayfinding apps, the Sociability App and Refill Oxford. Official partner status should be sought if considered appropriate.</p>	<p>In part</p>	<p>The City Council can take a partnership/coordination role in identifying the digital provision of information and apps for visitors and residents, with Experience Oxfordshire, who recently launched the Oxford Pass. Some of this work can be under the Smart Oxford banner but will need resourcing. Re marketing and promotion - only by using existing channels available to officers. Resources to set up new campaigns are not currently available. We are not the Visitor</p>

		promotion organisation but will work closely with stakeholders to identify opportunities to promote that are deliverable.
Recommendation 13: That the Council writes to local Members of Parliament, inviting the support of Experience Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council, to make the case for the Discover England Fund to continue beyond 2019. Consideration should be given to whether this action is time appropriate in light of any parallel bid to become an official Tourism Zone as part of the UK Tourism Sector Deal (see recommendation 2).	Yes	This will be coordinated with partners.
Recommendation 14: That the Council reviews its current role in the administration and development of an annual events calendar, and seeks opportunities to be proactive and strategic in shaping a calendar that will increase the City's appeal to regional domestic visitors.	N	<p>Early feedback from city centre businesses suggests interest in knowing more about, and learning earlier of the events calendar so that they can explore options to tie in with / prepare for what's occurring.</p> <p>The City Council events team is currently resourced to be reactive, and to focus more on resident events. Officers are bringing in an external auditor in October as part of an events management review to. In light of this, further recommendations may come forward, and may carry resource requirements. Opportunities to work more closely with key partners (County Council, EO) can also be explored further.</p>
Recommendation 15: That the Council undertakes to revive the Community Toilet Scheme with local businesses, and that it is explicitly within the remit of the Council's new City Centre Management function.	In part.	Experience suggests that in Oxford this is a challenging ask given the potential for ASB issues. The City Centre Manager will consider the options available and feed this into the City Centre Vision work..
Recommendation 16: That the Cabinet commissions an options report concerning the long term future provision of adequate public conveniences in the City Centre. This should be produced in consultation with Oxford Direct Services.	In part	This may be a much needed step, based on visitor feedback, and a help if there is to be an initiative to ask businesses to engage on this. Budget and management resource needs to be identified to allow effective options to be developed and any new provision should be based primarily on the needs of local people rather than visitors.
Recommendation 17: That provision is made in the Cabinet's draft budget proposals for 2020/21 to include an allocation for updating and/or upgrading the current static maps and signage in the city centre. This should specifically include creative signage between the Westgate Centre, the Covered Market and Cornmarket Street. An ongoing revenue allocation should be provided for their maintenance and review.	Yes/in part	<p>Agreed, with the proviso that consideration is given to options that use existing space / street furniture / buildings, that anything done on this is future-proofed and that the emphasis is on innovation and takes into account the need to limit 'street clutter'.</p> <p>Feedback from other cities suggests a combination of effective finger-post signage, visitor map availability, transport hub information and effective use of google maps would be the key.</p> <p>Project resource will needed, and physical and digital resources must be effectively integrated in the short and long-term.</p>

<p>Recommendation 18: That the Council considers the potential of the City's waterways as a visitor attraction and leisure asset in future policy making (e.g. planning and licensing) and investment decisions, and works to support the Oxford Waterways Project to create new tourism opportunities through regenerating and improving facilities (e.g. in particular, boating facilities).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Waterways officer resource is in place and the Oxford Waterways Project is due to publically launch in coming weeks. A key theme to the project is Tourism – exploring both how to use the waterways to attract new tourists to the city and also as a means of adding to the general attraction of the city. A significant challenge remains as to how to manage moorings and supply additional services for boats, and finding investment to support improvements in the physical environment.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19: That the Council reviews to what extent codes of conduct exist for managing the behaviour of students at language schools (including the management of large groups in public spaces), and seeks to ensure they are being used to safeguard visitors, and satisfy the behaviour expectations of residents.</p>	<p>In part</p>	<p>Significant resource issues if new policies are it be developed and delivered/ monitored effectively.</p>
<p>Recommendation 20: That the Council makes representations to Oxford University, welcoming greater publicity concerning public opening hours for the colleges, and other practical steps to improve resident and visitor awareness of, and access to, the colleges.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This would require a combined approach with Experience Oxfordshire and the Conference of Colleges but better awareness would be helpful.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21: That where business led opportunities arise; the Council should take a full and active role in leveraging in the influence of the business sector to improve the public realm and wider visitor offer.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As part of development proposals, accessing planning gain funds</p>

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