

To: Cabinet
Date: 11 March 2020
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Report of the Climate Emergency Review Group

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee's Climate Emergency Review Group
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Members:	Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee Councillor Richard Howlett, Chair of the Climate Emergency Review Group
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tom Hayes, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford (Cabinet lead)
Corporate Priority:	Clean and Green Oxford
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan 2016 – 20
Recommendation: That the Cabinet:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) notes the report, and 2) agrees to respond to the 56 recommendations in the report of the Climate Emergency Review Group at its 10th June 2020 meeting 	

Appendices
Appendix 1: Report of the Climate Emergency Review Group
Appendix 2: Consolidated recommendations of the Climate Emergency Review Group

1. The Scrutiny Committee established the Climate Emergency Review Group in October 2019. The report of the Climate Emergency Review Group was presented to the Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on 03 March 2019 for its agreement to submit the report to the Cabinet.
2. Before discussing the report the Scrutiny Committee heard contributions from the Chair of the Review Group, Councillor Richard Howlett.

3. Councillor Howlett thanked the Review Group members for their work, underlined the importance of the topic, and noted the contributions of external contributors to the Review Group. Councillor Howlett highlighted two particular elements of learning as being fundamental to the conclusions of the Review Group. Firstly, following a visit to Southmoor, seeing a developer being able develop net zero properties at a marginally lower price than houses being built simply to Building Regulation standards. Secondly, the idea of a 'comfort payment' used by Nottingham City Homes in its Energiesprong pilot to funnel wasteful payments to heat inefficient homes into improving energy efficiency of those homes instead.
4. The Committee discussed the report at length. The full record of the discussion can be found in the draft minutes of that meeting.
5. Particular praise was identified by the Committee for the degree of commitment, innovation and ingenuity shown by the Council in its response to the Climate Emergency, evidenced through both its Executive and Scrutiny functions. This was important due to the less ambitious position adopted by central government.
6. The Committee agreed a proposal to endorse the report with minor amendments for submission to Cabinet on 11 March 2020.
7. The report contains 56 recommendations. This represents a very broad set of recommendations, touching on almost every Cabinet portfolio. Within the set of recommendations made there are some significant ones. Due to the breadth and importance of the recommendations it has been suggested by Cabinet members and supported by the Scrutiny Committee that Cabinet not rush to make a response, but take sufficient time to give the recommendations due consideration. Consequently, the Cabinet is asked to note the report and to agree to make a response to its recommendations at its 10 June 2020 meeting.
8. The implementation of any agreed recommendations will be monitored by the Scrutiny Committee in the normal way, with a six and twelve month update report on progress.

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