

Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee made on 02/02/2021 concerning the Zero Carbon Council report

Response provided by Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford, Tom Hayes

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<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council develops the Carbon Management Plan to align with established 'net zero' measurement, reporting and target-setting standards and guidance (e.g. PAS 2060, Carbon Neutral Protocol, GHG Protocol Organisational and Scope 3 Standards, Science-based Target Initiative) to ensure that terminology is used correctly.	Not agreed	The basis for measurement in this plan is the same as on each previous occasion ie using the reporting required by central government in the form of the Green House Gas Report. The report gives a comprehensive view of the council's performance in the areas targeted in the plan. Maintaining the same measure also enables, like for like comparison across previous plan periods.
2) That the Council subjects the resulting report and the 'net zero' claim to independent audit	Not agreed	The Green House Gas report is already subject to scrutiny and validation by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. An additional audit would be an unnecessary burden in time and cost.
3) That the Council undertakes a carbon cost-benefit analysis to guide decision-making and to ensure that the quickest and most cost effective carbon reduction measures are pursued first.	Not agreed	This is already undertaken as part of the Salix assessments and floors and benchmarks are being built into the revised Asset Management Plan.
4) That the Council integrates its own strategy into that of the wider City recognising that though its policies, partnership working and influence the Council can impact more than 1% of the City's emissions.	Not agreed	This is already in hand

5) That the Council introduces environmental impact assessments into its standard Cabinet report template, with a particular focus on how the actions being proposed will help the Council move towards being zero carbon.	Not agreed	This issue was debated at the previous meeting of the Cabinet. An officer report on the means and resource implications of doing this in a meaningful way is in draft form.
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