

July Cabinet

No reports were responded to at this Cabinet meeting.

September Cabinet

Urban Forest Strategy

71

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>1) <i>That the Council reviews the policy tensions between garden space and electric charging and develops a considered position on their interaction, and that it reviews its other climate-related strategies for similar unanticipated tensions.</i></p>	In part	<p>There are many trade-offs associated with decarbonisation, at a household, city, national and international level. However, Oxford City Council is seeking to manage these through, <i>inter alia</i>, enabling on street EV charging through the GUL-e cable-gulley project, being developed jointly with ODS and Oxfordshire County Council. It is also seeking to increase tree cover across Oxford by encouraging planting where there is available land – most typically in residents <i>back</i> gardens, the grounds of colleges, businesses and other institutions, and where possible on streets and public land. The council will continue to monitor tree cover and biodiversity to see that the removal of front garden space by householders choosing to charge their vehicles, hasn't impacted these objectives.</p>
<p>2) <i>That the Council takes steps to ensure that with greater number of trees being planted, community engagement over proposals is treated as a matter of priority and local residents are given an opportunity</i></p>	Yes	

<i>to voice their views.</i>		
3) That the Council makes available to councillors and members of the public information on who is responsible for what within the Urban Forest Strategy, and help with understanding who to contact in different scenarios.	Yes	

Social Value in Procurement

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council works with other local authorities and institutions to develop a shared OxTOMs framework in the short term and a shared approach to social value in procurement locally in the longer term.	Agreed	
2) That the Council requests from its internal auditor data to allow it to benchmark the social value generated through its procurement against a wider pool of comparators	Agreed	

Aareon QL Implementation

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>1) That the Council in a future lessons learnt exercise, includes within its audit an estimate of the cost the indirect and opportunity costs arising from the implementation of the QL system on the Council and its companies</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We will of course thoroughly review all aspects of the QL changeover to make sure the same problems aren't experienced with future IT upgrades.</p>
<p>2) That the Council recognises the exemplary commitment of staff across multiple functions in managing and mitigating the challenges posed by the implementation and works with union representatives to find ways to ensure that those staff are not penalised for their commitment.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As far as we possibly can and of course always considering the preferences and well-being of individual staff members.</p> <p>I meet regularly with Unison and Unite as do members of CMT, and Union representatives are actively involved with current issues and future planning both within the Council and in ODS. Our offer in terms of pay, including overtime, and conditions is always negotiated seriously with the Unions. We're politically committed to this, but that aside, experience shows that public sector bodies can only move forward with the workforce "on board" in times of change and challenge.</p> <p>I've already thanked the Council and ODS staff members who have made sure our services and reputation are maintained, and I'd like to take this opportunity to put on public record our gratitude to everyone who has worked so hard on this. Our expectations of Council staff are informed by an understanding of how disrupted and stressful the past year and a half has been. Oxford is lucky to have dedicated public servants and despite difficult times, we want to make sure our relationship with the Council workforce reflects this and honours the dedication</p>

		Council workers bring to the job.
--	--	-----------------------------------

October Cabinet

Science Village

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>1) That, so far as is possible without compromising other key strategic objectives for the development, the Council affords the greatest possible weight to environmental standards and seeks that this importance is reflected at all stages of the development, including the agreement between partners and in the master developer agreement.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>The Council will be one of three partners who will be promoting the development of the site and for the development to progress it will need to be commercially viable; as the report sets out, different partners have different objectives, and it will be essential to achieve consensus about the degree to which these are pursued, which may require that a balance be struck between desirable elements and the essential infrastructure required for the site such as schools and road improvements as well as much needed affordable housing. It is also worth pointing out that South Oxfordshire District Council, as the planning authority, may also have requirements that the scheme and the partners will need to meet. But, as set out in the answer to recommendation 2 below, pursuing the highest possible environmental standards while being conscious of these constraints is the best way to mitigate against both the risks of changes to environmental standards and more importantly, against the risks of climate change itself.</p>

<p>2) That the Council recognises the risk of national or local energy efficiency building standards rising over the course of the development, determines a risk-adjusted baseline for energy efficiency standard for buildings on the development, and seeks to encourage partners of the business case for adopting a standard beyond current South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan standards.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>The detailed analysis of the scheme does currently include in the risk assessment the likelihood that nationally or locally set environmental standards will change, and that the timetable for any such changes is currently uncertain. The partners are aware that South Oxfordshire District Council has started worked on a new Local Plan, and has made clear its aspirations to set the highest possible environmental standards in that Plan. At this early stage of course it is not certain what those standards will be and when any new Local Plan might be adopted. Nonetheless it is the Council's view as a partner in the project that the best way to mitigate this risk is pursue standards that are not just beyond those in the Building Regulations, but more importantly beyond the more rigorous standards that are a requirement of the current South Oxfordshire Local Plan.</p>
<p>3) That the Council works with partners to seek to optimise social value generation throughout all the stages of the project.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>While pursuing additional measures that impact on costs and thus viability is subject to agreement and compromise between the partners, the pursuit of social value through the development is something that adds value rather than cost, and is something therefore that the Council will promote to its partners and in particular through the appointment of the Master Developer. This is a very significant development, with great opportunities for new jobs, training and skills for local people, and the City Council would like to see this sort of social value reflected not just in the outcome of the development, but as part of the criteria against which the appointment of the Master Developer is measured.</p>
<p>4) That the Council includes the Cabinet members for Planning and Housing Delivery and Finance and Asset Management as consultees to the delegations referred to in recommendations 1 – 3 the Cabinet</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Consultation with both Cabinet members will be added to the delegation recommendations in the report; this was a drafting error in the report, and Scrutiny are thanked for spotting it.</p>

report		
--------	--	--

Housing Performance Q1

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>1) That the Council, as Covid restrictions ease, increases the breadth and depth of its engagement with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum and other similar groups in shaping Council homelessness services.</p>	Yes	<p>Working with LEAF and others with lived experience to inform and help shape homelessness services is vitally important. The pandemic has made engagement more difficult, but has continued over the past year including: informing the specification for the new countywide rough sleeping and single homelessness service and Housing First support service, contributing to the developing Housing and Homelessness Strategy, and working with LEAF and King's College London to put together a team of peer assessors to conduct the qualitative evaluation of the Step-down housing service which is part of the Out of Hospital project.</p> <p>We are committed to continue to build on this engagement, including involving LEAF in the next stages of the development of the new Housing and Homelessness Strategy, and they will be a key component of the new countywide service with representation in the governance arrangements, and a partner in ensuring the voice of service users are heard in the ongoing monitoring and development of the services.</p>

November Cabinet

Anti-Social Behaviour

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>1) That the Council amends the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022-25 as follows:</p> <p>i) Principle three to read “Anti-social behaviour will be addressed firmly, fairly, proportionately and holistically”</p> <p>ii) That reference throughout the document to ‘customers’ is reworded around ‘citizens’</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	
<p>2) That the Council amends its Anti-Social Behaviour Procedure 2022-25 as follows:</p> <p>i) to include a paragraph on the diversionary activities the Council itself provides or in partnership to prevent anti-social behaviour</p> <p>ii) to address issues around invasive evidence gathering, and link to best practice guidance</p> <p>iii) to note negative impacts associated with anti-social behaviour-related evictions, and reference the Council’s commitment to using this power as a last resort</p> <p>iv) to alter s. 7.4 so it reads “All complex cases that involve homeless or vulnerably housed people”</p> <p>v) to reference the Council’s commitment to removing racist graffiti within 24 hours</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	

--	--	--

Discretionary Housing Payment Policy

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council includes a line within the HRA section of its proposed 2022/23 budget for DHP expenditure beyond the government grant.	Yes	There is a relevant budget line within the proposed HRA budget.

East Oxford Community Centre

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council sets down plans for measuring and assessing the effectiveness of carbon-saving measures delivered on the East Oxford Community Centre development, and their cost efficiency in reducing carbon emissions.	Yes	
2) That the Council, where possible, recycles materials recovered from the demolition of the East Oxford Community Centre site, particularly steel and wood.	Partially	We would recommend an action for us to develop a waste and recycling plan for demolition and look to recycle in line with this. However we also need to be careful to balance this recognising how recyclable some materials are and that we need to avoid high costs that are unaffordable within the approved budget
3) That the Council implements within three years of the new community centre being opened the preferred option for its management and	Yes	

operation		
4) That the Council includes within the risk register for this project those external risks to land values referenced in paragraph 52 of the Cabinet report	Yes	

EV Strategy

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) <i>That the Council amends paragraph 16 of the report to remove reference to the Council already being committed to Connecting Oxford, and states instead that the council has agreed to further scheme and business case development.</i>	No	This Council supports the introduction of Connecting Oxford and on 9 September 2020, Scrutiny requested: <i>That the Council continues to employ its best endeavours in working with its partners to realise the plans for the Zero Emissions Zone and Connecting Oxford.</i>
2) <i>That the Council, in its planning for the adequacy of future EV charging infrastructure, ensures that the incentivising impact of other policies on demand for electric vehicles, such as the ZEZ, is taken into account</i>	Yes	The EV Strategy and Implementation Plan is being commissioned to help inform the Council on how rising demand for EV charging in Oxford could best cover the years up to 2030 by which point, Oxfordshire County Council's modelling suggests the clear majority of private vehicles in the city will be EV. Demand for EVs is being driven by a variety of factors including an increased focus by vehicle manufacturers, technology improvement, environmental awareness, and the looming deadline of 2030 after which no new petrol or diesel cars can be sold in the UK. Locally, the ZEZ may also be a factor, and this will be taken into account in the EV Strategy.

<p>3) That the Council investigates the practicability of not partnering with or commissioning organisations relating to the EV strategy in which it would be unable to invest because of its ethical investment policy</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>4a) Electric vehicle charging is a rapidly growing market with different operators including both relatively small businesses and global corporations. The purpose of the EV strategy is to enable Oxford City Council to do more itself, in particular in the areas of the city which would typically be last in the queue to receive charging infrastructure—ours is an approach grounded in fairness and social justice.</p> <p>We also believe that engagement is key to shape partners' approaches because dialogue and the airing of differences can get us to a better place. It also ensures that citizens and communities do not lose out on the EV infrastructure that they are requesting in order to be part of a greener and fairer future. We all believe as local councillors that the City Council to which we are elected has an important voice to raise and we will continue to raise it to advance our values.</p>
<p>3b) That the Council amends its ethical investment policy to make explicit reference to exploitative mining practices and arms trading as proscribed activities.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>4b) This is not linked to the commissioning of an EV Strategy.</p>