

To: Cabinet
Date: 16 March 2022
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Recovery and Renewal Framework

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations concerning the Recovery and Renewal Framework report
Key decision:	Yes
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Liz Wade, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth, Economic Recovery, and Partnerships
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices
None

Introduction and overview

1. At its meeting on 07 March 2022, the Scrutiny Committee considered the Cabinet Recovery and Renewal Framework report.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Susan Brown, Cabinet portfolio holder for Inclusive Growth, Economic Recovery, and Partnerships for presenting the report and answering questions, and Caroline Green, Chief Executive, for supporting the meeting.

Summary and recommendation

3. Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth, Economic Recovery and Partnerships introduced the report. She highlighted that the Framework was very high level and was developed as a result of the joint working with other Oxfordshire councils during the pandemic. The purpose of the document was to better align the strategies being brought forward across Oxfordshire so that the councils could continue to work well together.
4. Caroline Green, Chief Executive added that the Framework was also proposed for adoption by other partner organisations, including OxLEP and health bodies. She said that the Framework was reflective of the close working relationships built through the pandemic, which brought multiple agencies together to focus on the response. The Chief Executive added that the Council wanted to build on the traction, which the Framework would facilitate and that consideration would be given to how the partnership reports back on the Framework.
5. Scrutiny questioning included discussion on topics such as reactions to child poverty, the pre-existence of health inequalities, and issues around where this work fits in relation to upcoming governance changes within the NHS.
6. Despite significant discussion on this topic, the Committee recognises that the document is a partnership document, and Scrutiny's views may well be closer to the Council's representatives on this partnership than those of other partner members. As such, it is understood that recommendations need to be made within the sphere of the possible, meaning those made are relatively straightforward and limited to three in number. These recommendations relate to i) ongoing monitoring of the impact of the Framework on the Council and partners, and ii) a textual amendment impacting the understanding of what the Framework is and is not.

Ongoing Monitoring

7. At present, the Recovery and Renewal Framework is light on how it intends to monitor whether it is working. There is a balance to be found, with monitoring sufficiently rigorous to maintain focus by partner organisations and maintain delivery momentum. On the other hand, it is important that monitoring is not allowed to become an industry of its own and get in the way of the intended outcomes of participating in the Framework. The Committee's suggestion is that a report should be produced after a year, with input from all relevant partners, detailing what has happened as a result of the establishment and participation in the Framework. This level of monitoring is far from intensive, which is commensurate with a venture establishing itself and its identity. However, it will nevertheless give a sense of whether it is making any difference, and knowledge that that question will be asked will help to keep the Framework from becoming crowded out by other priorities. The Committee's view is that this report is most suited to being considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board as a forum which

brings together partner relevant partners, but that it would also be something individual Scrutiny Committees may be interested to consider also.

Recommendation 1: That the Council requests that a report detailing what has happened as a result of the establishment of the Oxfordshire Recovery and Renewal Framework is produced in a year's time to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board, and also made available for Scrutiny Committee consideration.

8. On top of this report, the Committee is keen that the Council is able to show, after a year, that the Framework is delivering not only for Oxfordshire generally, but Oxford City specifically. To this end, it requests that a similar document is produced focusing solely on the impacts for Oxford City and its residents.

Recommendation 2: That the Council provides an update to coincide with the report requested in the recommendation above, reviewing what impact the Framework has had in facilitating partnership working to achieve the council's ambitions to consolidate recovery, address health inequalities and support renewal.

Amendment

9. On page 2 of the document there are a number of statements helping to define the Framework and its purpose. One of these is that the Framework is not 'a replacement for existing county-wide plans and strategies.' There is a slight inference in this that only what goes on at County level forms part of the Framework's aims. This is not the case. Indeed, the Council has a long list of policies and strategies it intends to develop which are city-focused but which clearly contribute towards the overarching aims of the Framework. The Committee's view is that the current wording is too narrow and should be amended.

Recommendation 3: That the Council suggests to partners that the Framework be amended to be clear that in addition to not replacing county-wide strategies, it does not over ride city/district level policies and strategies

Further Consideration

10. The Committee's wish to consider this further forms part of its recommendations.

Report author	Tom Hudson
Job title	Scrutiny Officer
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 252191
e-mail	thudson@oxford.gov.uk

Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee made on 07/03/2022 concerning the Recovery and Renewal Framework

Response provided by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth, Economic Recovery, and Partnerships, Councillor Susan Brown

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council requests that a report detailing what has happened as a result of the establishment of the Oxfordshire Recovery and Renewal Framework is produced in a year's time to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board, and also made available for Scrutiny Committee consideration.	Y	
2) That the Council provides an update to coincide with the report requested in the recommendation above, reviewing what impact the Framework has had in facilitating partnership working to achieve the council's ambitions to consolidate recovery, address health inequalities and support renewal.	Y	
3) That the Council suggests to partners that the Framework be amended to be clear that in addition to not replacing county wide strategies, it does not over ride city/district level policies and strategies	Y	Note that any changes suggested by councils will need to be agreed by all the chief executives. If it is not possible to secure agreement to the change, we will ensure it is clear that this is the City Council's view and basis for endorsement.