

Appendix A

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 08 June 2022 concerning Oxford's Economic Strategy. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Comment
1) That the Council seeks to more effectively engage with diverse communities as part of future consultation exercises, with a focus on using different methods of engagement to get responses from a wider demographic – and in particular increased responses from minoritised groups and young people.	<p>This feedback will be shared with the Officers advising on consultations to consider the best approach. We will consider how best to use the Resident's Panel to ensure a more diverse response in future. The resident's panel was sent the consultation in the knowledge it is representative of Oxford's population so there was a more diverse input into the consultation. Where new projects come forward from the OES that require engagement or consultation, targeted methods will be employed to ensure a broad response from minoritised groups and young people.</p> <p>Officers already engage with a range of employers regarding their workforce's needs, and we are working to further increase the diversity of our business networks. Through officers in Communities teams we identify community needs that they raise based on their resident engagement, and our engagement with members also provides us with valuable feedback from local communities. We also engage with communities when consulting on capital projects that are aligned with the OES and CCAP.</p>
2) That the Council clarifies the definition of affordable housing being used within Oxford's Economic Strategy.	The definition included in the OES will align with that in Oxford Local Plan 2036. See Glossary P.216
3) That the Council seeks to have Trade Union representation on the Economic Growth Steering Board.	Yes, this proposal is helpful as part of the wider diversification put forward in the OES and will be put to the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Board
4) That the Council makes explicit reference to Trade	This will be included in the redrafted OES on Page 24/5 of the Delivery

Unions within Oxford's Economic Strategy.	Plan
5) That the Council makes reference to the Third Sector within Oxford's Economic Strategy and ensures a bigger focus on the Third Sector's contribution to the local economy.	References to the third and social enterprise sectors are made throughout in the existing draft (p 3, 4, 8, 9, 16, 25, 33, 35, 39, 41, 48, 53 and 56). There are specific features on the social and third sectors on 33 and 35. There is a specific guiding principle under the Inclusive Economy pillar that states the OES should 'Support social enterprise, cooperative businesses and civil society sectors, and pursue a more prominent role in the city's future economy.' Officers will look for additional ways to further emphasise the importance of the sector's contribution in the Foreword, Executive Summary, and early sections of the document.
6) That the Council includes reference to biodiversity under the 'environmental success factor' outlined in Oxford's Economic Strategy.	The Local Plan seeks Bio-diversity net gain on major developments. There will be a metric in the Annual Monitoring Report for this related to our Environmental Policy.
7) That the Council develops an additional Key Performance Indicator ratio based on the number of working age people living in Oxford and number of jobs in the City for inclusion in Oxford's Economic Strategy.	This is already reported annually by NOMIS as 'Job Density'. Job density is defined as the number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population aged 16-64 in that area. For example, a jobs density of 1.0 would mean that there is one job for every resident aged 16-64. Oxford's job density dropped from 1.33 to 1.26 between 2019 and 2020. Cities typically have higher job density than rural areas for example, and are typically higher than regional and national averages. Oxford is the place of employment for a much larger area than its own boundaries and this will remain the case. All cities are centres of employment and in Oxfordshire, a very rural county, this is particularly the case.
8) That the Council seeks to develop a clearer way of demonstrating how competing priorities (economic vs. social and environmental) have been assessed.	Officers will consider the best approach to assessing the balance and synergies across each priority. We already do this for example, when developing the business case for capital projects.
9) That the Council makes explicit reference to Brexit and the challenges it brings within Oxford's Economic Strategy.	Whilst it is already mentioned on page 3 and 39, it is accepted Brexit's impacts should be emphasised and detailed further in the early sections on why the OES is needed and the issues faced.