

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 the Oxford Waterways Project. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council works with the university, colleges and adjacent landowners to encourage them to contribute to the Oxford Waterways Project, both in terms of financial and strategic contributions (e.g. considering how to utilise growth funding).	Yes	<i>The Council will reach out to relevant colleges/landowners that have a landowner responsibilities adjacent to the waterways, to invite them to join as a partner for the Oxford Waterways Project. Project partners can then look at strategic needs for Oxford's waterways that reflect the priority themes in the vision document.</i>
2) That the Council produces communications for Councillors and residents setting out the timeline for repairs to Waterways infrastructure.	Yes	<i>The Council is working up the scope and extent of survey work required; there is currently no centralised database of what the council owns along the waterways. There is an aim to provide Members and interested stakeholders with a timescale of the work programme for summer 2023.</i>
3) That the Council uses appropriate data which it is already collecting to lobby the Government to ensure it is holding water regulators to account on matters of water quality.	No	<i>Lobbying of the Government is not needed. DEFRA has already instructed the Environment Agency to test the newly Designated Bathing Water at the Wolvercote Mill Stream on a weekly basis. This data is published by the Environment Agency on the Bathing Water Profiles. Any enforcement action will be led by the EA or OFWAT, depending on which is appropriate.</i>
4) That the Council ensures the work of the Oxford Waterways Project is aligned with other work related to wildlife and wetland.	Yes	<i>The Waterways Project is tied into several strands of work that relate to wildlife and wetlands. The project has been successful in obtaining funding for ongoing restoration of Rivermead Nature Park fen, and is exploring further opportunities for more funding for the ongoing restoration and improvement of Oxford's fens to the west of the city.</i>

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