

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 16 November 2022  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund bid approval

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing; Councillor Imogen Thomas, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Pursue a zero carbon Oxford; Support thriving communities
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24
<b>Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.</b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

## **Introduction and overview**

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 07 November 2022 to consider a report on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund bid. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 16 November 2022, recommends that Cabinet grants approval to submit a funding bid in the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2.1 bidding round, seeking a government funding contribution towards a retrofit programme for around 300 council houses; delegates authority to the Head of Corporate Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, and the Head of Housing Services, to finalise the bid documentation for submission; recommends to Council that it grants approval for the release of HRA capital funding; delegates authority to the Executive Director (Communities and People) in consultation with the Head of Financial Services to spend the HRA funds; note that officers are developing plans

for tenants' involvement; and notes that officers have entered into contracts with consultants to develop the proposals and complete the associated documentation for submission.

### Summary and recommendations

2. Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. She explained that this was a key opportunity to receive much needed funding and that strong tenant involvement had been key in the development of the bid.
3. Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy, and Nerys Parry, Head of Housing Services, attended to answer the Committee's questions. The Head of Corporate Strategy explained that particular groups of houses in particular areas had been identified which would maximise the number of properties that could be retrofitted with the monies available. The Committee explored why it was not deemed appropriate to retrofit flats and was advised that it would increase the complexity of retrofitting owing to the fact that some individual flats in most Council blocks are leasehold properties.
4. The Committee explored why it was not considered appropriate to focus retrofitting on those properties with tenants in most economic need for the bid and suggested that it would be appropriate for the reasoning to be set out in the report, alongside whether consideration would be given to such targeting in future bids and programmes.

***Recommendation: That the Council gives consideration to setting out the reasoning for targeting according to type of housing rather than financial need of tenants and whether this is likely to be the case in the future.***

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