

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 14 December 2022  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Thriving Communities Strategy 2023-2027

Summary and recommendations	
<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>	Cllr Shaista Aziz, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities and Culture; Cllr Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks; Cllr Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All
<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>	

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

## Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 05 December 2022 to consider a report on the Thriving Communities Strategy. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 14 December 2022, recommends that Cabinet resolves to recommend to Council the adoption of the Thriving Communities Strategy 2023-27 as part of the Council's budget and policy framework, including that Council agree and adopt the Thriving Communities principles and to encourage partners to do the same; explore opportunities to improve the inclusivity and sustainability of community facilities and to review opportunities as they arise; continue to integrate Council services and seek out opportunities to better align work with partner agencies. The report also recommends that Cabinet resolves to agree

that an annual progress update should be produced for Cabinet and that the action plan should be regularly reviewed.

## Summary and recommendations

2. The Committee was grateful to Cllr Shaista Aziz, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities and Culture, to Cllr Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks, to Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services, and to Lucy Cherry, Leisure and Performance Manager, for attending to speak to the item and to answer the Committee's questions.
3. Cllr Aziz and Cllr Munkonge introduced the report and emphasised to the Committee that the Council understood that many in the City were struggling to survive let alone to thrive in the second most unequal city in the UK. The Committee's attention was drawn to the Thriving Communities principles including doing things with people rather than to them.
4. The Committee commended the ambition and wide-ranging nature of the strategy and recognised the flexibility of the work being proposed. The Committee recognised that, whilst there were new ways of working proposed, there would also be continuities. The Committee considered that consideration should be given to highlighting what changes the Council was planning to implement more clearly so that people were more readily able to appreciate developments.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council states explicitly in the Executive Summary where changes have been made to our principles or ways of working, by contrast with those existing principles or ways of working that we intend to reaffirm or restate.***

5. The Committee recognised the intention to work more closely with partners across the City in order to provide better services for residents. However, whilst recognising the high-level nature of the strategy, the Committee considered that it would be beneficial to provide some more detail on that partnership working.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council provides greater clarity around partnership working and distribution of work in the strategy by explaining clearly which partners are involved in particular projects and what the nature and level of that collaboration is.***

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