

Appendix 1

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 Budget Review Group and endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee on 01 February 2023 concerning the Scrutiny Budget Review 2023/24. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council continues to dedicate funding to the work of the archive and maintains the post of professional archivist to ensure that this statutory duty is satisfactorily complied with alongside highly qualified volunteers.		
2) That the Council provides an up-to-date, confidential explanation to all Members of the options available to the Council to achieve the savings that would arise from ODS depot consolidation.		
3) That the Council provides a statement setting out the options regarding the acquisition of a new cemetery site without which there would be a significant revenue shortfall.		
4) That the Council updates the estimates during the period of the MTFP of the income and expenditure, including capital, on the Covered Market to take account of the slippage in the plans to fill the empty units and in the plans to start evening openings with music to promote footfall.		

5) That the Council does not commit the windfall gains, arising from the deferral of the Fairer Funding Review and the receipt of additional grants, for spending which would be recurring.		
6) That the Council mitigates the pressure on residents arising from the current financial and economic circumstances and provides clear, concise information on the funding schemes available to help residents – including the provision of assistance to those who need it when applying for support.		
7) That the Council re-assesses the assumptions being made about bad debt provision relating to commercial property.		
8) That the Council diversifies its investment portfolio away from commercial property towards the regeneration of Council-owned properties which are eligible for Public Works Loan Board funding, and considers other types of investments and assets, including potential investment in renewal energy projects within Oxfordshire.		
9) That the Council re-evaluates its assumptions around reduction in use of park and rides as a result of changes in charges to create a more realistic picture of what both income levels and usage would look like with different fees.		
10) That the Council considers how patients who need to drive to the midwifery services at Florence Park might be supported with regard to parking charges.		

11) That the Council provides sensitivity analysis of the net revenues to the Council from the operation of the current ZEZ and its proposed expansion during the period of the MTFP in order to justify current assumptions.		
---	--	--

This page is intentionally left blank