

To: Cabinet
Date: 8 February 2023
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Implementing the Covered Market ‘Masterplan’

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships; Cllr Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery; Cllr Ed Turner, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 01 February 2023 to consider a report on Implementing the Covered Market ‘Masterplan’. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 08 February 2023, recommends that Cabinet resolves to: approve the covered Market Masterplan and concept proposals; delegate authority to the Executive Director Development, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, and the Cabinet members above to finalise the scope of works, undertake the necessary procurements, enter into contracts for the regeneration of the Covered Market within the agreed budget; authorise, subject to Council approval of the budget, a capital budget of £6.87m

to deliver the project; and approve the payback of previously spent feasibility funding into the feasibility budget.

Summary and recommendations

2. The Committee was grateful to Cllr Susan Brown, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships, for attending to present the report as well as to Ted Maxwell, Economy, City Centre and Green Transport Lead, and to Emma Gubbins, Corporate Assets Lead, for attending to answer the Committee's questions.
3. Cllr Brown introduced the report and explained to the Committee that this project was both exciting and intended to be of enormous benefit to the Covered Market. The number of workstreams was intended to ensure the Market could address the challenges it was facing and to preserve its status as Oxford's jewel in the crown well into the future.
4. The Committee commended the ambition of the Masterplan and was keen that its ambitions should be realised. The Committee noted that the project team and key stakeholders had agreed a set of six ambitions under the following headings: inclusivity; sustainability; evolution; increase footfall; heritage; distinctiveness. The Committee noted that the section on inclusivity arising from Option 3: Major Change on page 22 of Appendix 2: Outline Business Case described it as contributing to "the inclusivity objective by remodelling the Market's public bathrooms and making them more physically accessible and accessible to people of all genders."
5. The Committee recognised that the plan was currently at concept stage but considered that it would be appropriate for the Council to consider the provision of gender-neutral lavatories in its plans.

Recommendation 1: That the Council considers the provision of gender-neutral lavatories in its plans for when the public lavatories at the Market are improved.

Report author	Richard Doney
Job title	Scrutiny Officer
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	07485 311341
e-mail	rdoney@oxford.gov.uk