

To: Council

Date: 17 July 2023

Report of: Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2022/23

Title of Report: Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To provide Council with a summary of Scrutiny activity during the 2022/2023 municipal year
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2022/23
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That Council resolves to note the update report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Breakdown of Scrutiny recommendations 2022/23

Introduction

1. This report provides a summary of Scrutiny activity during the 2022/23 municipal year.
2. During 2022/23 the Scrutiny Committee held 10 meetings; the Finance and Performance Panel held 4 meetings, the Housing and Homelessness Panel held 3 meetings; the Climate and Environment Panel held 1 meeting (plus 2 additional informal meetings); and the Budget Review Group held 4 meetings. The Companies Scrutiny Panel joined 7 Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meetings.

Scrutiny Committee

3. The membership of the Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23 was as follows:
 - Cllr Dr Christopher Snowton (Chair)
 - Cllr Lizzy Diggins (Vice Chair)
 - Cllr Lubna Arshad

- Cllr Nadine Bely-Summers (*replaced by Cllr Sandy Douglas on 20 March*)
 - Cllr Tiago Corais
 - Cllr Barbara Coyne
 - Cllr Chris Jarvis
 - Cllr Edward Mundy
 - Cllr Lucy Pegg
 - Cllr Mike Rowley
 - Cllr Roz Smith (*replaced by Cllr Mohamed Altaf-Khan on 18 July*)
 - Cllr Marie Tidball (*replaced by Cllr Anna Railton on 03 October and subsequently Cllr Jemima Hunt on 28 November*)
4. At its first meeting of the municipal year, on 08 June 2022, the Committee reconstituted the following Scrutiny standing panels and review groups for 2022/23:
- Finance and Performance Panel
 - Housing and Homelessness Panel
 - Companies Scrutiny Panel
 - Budget Review Group
- The Committee also agreed to consider proposals for the establishment of a new Climate and Environment Panel at a subsequent meeting.
5. At its meeting on 07 November 2022, the Committee approved the constitution of the Climate and Environment Panel. The Panel's remit included consideration of climate and environmental issues and decisions, progress and performance monitoring; and monitoring delivery of existing strategies, policies and projects.
6. The temporary focus of the Committee's work on considering Cabinet reports rather than Scrutiny-commissioned work, adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, continued for the most part during the 2022/23 municipal year. In September 2022, the Committee held a site visit to the Covered Market, which it is anticipated will be repeated if and when required, as Committee business dictates going forward.
7. A breakdown of Scrutiny recommendations and whether they were agreed, agreed in part, or not agreed is set out at **Appendix A**.

Finance and Performance Panel and Budget Review Group

8. The Finance and Performance Panel membership during 2022/23 was as follows: Cllr James Fry (Chair), Cllr Chris Jarvis, Cllr Tom Landell Mills [*replaced by Cllr Dr Christopher Smowton on 01 February 2023*] and Cllr Amar Latif. The membership of the Budget Review Group mirrored the membership of the Finance and Performance Panel.
9. The Finance and Performance Panel met 4 times during the municipal year to consider finance and budgetary issues and decisions, review the Council's budget position and monitor quarterly performance of Scrutiny-selected Key Performance Indicators.
10. The Budget Review Group met 4 times during January 2023. The work of the Budget Review Group concluded with the submission of a report containing 11 recommendations to Cabinet, which was then subsequently presented to Council for noting in February 2023. Of the 11 recommendations, 10 were agreed in full and 1 was agreed in part.

Housing and Homelessness Panel

11. The Housing and Homelessness Panel membership during 2022/23 was as follows: Cllr Paula Dunne (Chair), Cllr Lizzy Diggins, Cllr Laurence Fouweather, Cllr Jabu Nala-Hartley, Cllr Rosie Rawle and Cllr Jo Sandelson.
12. The Housing and Homelessness Panel met 3 times during the municipal year to consider strategic housing and landlord issues and decisions, homelessness, housing services performance and interaction with the Tenant's Forum. During 2022/23, the Panel welcomed 3 co-opted tenant ambassadors as non-voting members.

Climate and Environment Panel

13. The Climate and Environment Panel membership during 2022/23 was as follows: Cllr Jemima Hunt (Chair), Cllr Paula Dunne, Cllr Emily Kerr and Cllr Katherine Miles.
14. The Climate and Environment Panel met informally twice, once for a briefing by the Council's Scientific Adviser and once for a brainstorming session suggesting ideas for the work plan for the 2023/24 municipal year. The Panel held its inaugural public meeting on 09 March 2023.

Companies Scrutiny Panel

15. Revised arrangements were established for the Companies Scrutiny Panel in the 2022/23 municipal year, whereby members of the Panel were invited to attend meetings of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group (SJVG) as non-voting members, with a view to providing more effective and efficient Scrutiny oversight of the shareholder function.
16. The Companies Scrutiny Panel joined 7 SJVG meetings as non-voting members during the municipal year. Commercial confidentiality prevents further reporting on those meetings.

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Appendix A: Breakdown of Scrutiny recommendations 2022/23

Meeting date	Committee/Panel	Report title	Number of recommendations made	Agreed	Agreed in part	Not agreed
08 June 2022	Scrutiny Committee	Oxford's Economic Strategy – Consultation Report and Recommendations	9*			
		City Centre Action Plan (Draft) – Consultation Report and Recommendations	4*			
		Waterways Update	4	3		1
05 July 2022	Scrutiny Committee	Oxford City Council Safeguarding Report 2021/22	1	1		
		Oxford City Council's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy	3	1	1	1
		Growth Fund Cycle Routes	2	2		
02 August 2022	Scrutiny Committee	Asset Management Strategy 2021-2031	6	4	2	
06 September 2022	Scrutiny Committee	Oxford Local Plan 2040 Preferred Options Regulation 18 Consultation Document	12	12		
		Lease of Council Office Accommodation at St Aldate's Chambers	1	1		
06 October 2022	Housing and Homelessness Panel	Draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	5	5		
11 October 2022	Scrutiny Committee	Development Brief for Botley Road Retail Park	2	2		
		UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan	3*			

*Cabinet response did not indicate whether recommendations agreed, agreed in part, or not agreed.

07 November 2022	Scrutiny Committee	Procurement Strategy 2022-2025	6	6		
		Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1	1*			
		West End and Osney Mead SPD	7*			
05 December 2022	Scrutiny Committee	Thriving Communities Strategy 2023-2027	2	2		
		Grant Allocations to Community and Voluntary Organisations 2023/24	1	1		
		Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement 2021/22	1	1		
		Workplace Equalities and Action Plan	4	4		
16 January 2023	Scrutiny Committee	Disciplinary Policy	1	1		
01 February 2023	Scrutiny Committee	Implementing the Covered Market 'Masterplan'	1	1		
		Budget Review Group Report	11	10	1	
06 March 2023	Scrutiny Committee	Annual Update of the Council's Business Plan	3	3		
		Integrated Care Strategy Update	5	4	1	
		Integrated Performance Report for Q3 2022/23	1	1		
09 March 2023	Climate and Environment Panel	Development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Oxford	7	3	4	
		Fleet Decarbonisation	1	1		
13 March 2023	Housing and Homelessness Panel	Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	1		1	
24 April 2023	Housing and Homelessness Panel	Tenancy Agreement	1	1		
			106	70	10	2

**Cabinet response did not indicate whether recommendations agreed, agreed in part, or not agreed.*

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