

Appendix A
Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of
the Climate and Environment Panel of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Panel on 27 June 2023 concerning the Biodiversity Update presentation delivered at the meeting. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council ensures the inclusion of its function as both a residential and institutional landlord within the biodiversity baseline assessment exercise.	Yes	It is vital that when considering the Council's duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity that its function as a landowner forms part of that consideration. This must extend to all property owned; while it may be easier to consider in relation to large plots of green space or agricultural land, biodiversity should be considered in all contexts.
2) That the Council seeks to collaborate and exchange knowledge with other local landowners and institutions in the interests of promoting biodiversity citywide.	Yes	The Biodiversity Strategy will be a key vehicle for knowledge exchange, both the production of the document - which will require extensive engagement - and also likely its implementation.
3) That the Council suggests a dedicated biodiversity workstream be added to the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership's existing workstreams.	Yes	N/A
4) That the Council continues to seek out emerging biodiversity best practice in other local authorities.	Yes	All councils are experiencing the same shifts in how to consider biodiversity, deriving from new responsibility relating to biodiversity net gain, an enhanced biodiversity duty, and new reporting requirements. Sharing and

		understanding best practice will be important to maximising the most of limited ecological resources at all Councils.
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