

To: Cabinet
Date: 13 December 2023
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Local Government Association Corporate Peer Review: Council Action Plan

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Pegg, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council
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 04 December 2023 to consider a report concerning the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Review: Council Action Plan. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 December 2023, recommends that Cabinet approves the Council's Action Plan in response to the LGA Corporate Peer Review undertaken in July 2023 and notes the progress made in relation to the Peer Review recommendations to date.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Brown (Leader of the Council), Caroline Green (Chief Executive) and Lucy Cherry (Policy and Partnerships Officer) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council introduced the report. The report provided an update on the Council's Action Plan in response to the LGA Corporate Peer Review feedback and recommendations received in July 2023.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to prioritisation of actions within the action plan; any challenges foreseen in relation to addressing the Peer Review Team's recommendations; project lifecycles; and working with local anchor institutions to further the aims of the City.
5. The Committee discussed the importance of the Council working together with local anchor institutions and, in particular, the need for open and honest conversations with those anchor institutions that challenge organisational assumptions and consider the aspirations of Oxford more holistically, rather than on a singular organisational basis. It was noted that the Corporate Strategy 2024-28 was currently being drafted and the Committee agreed that this work could usefully feed-in and be placed at the heart of the updated Corporate Strategy.

Recommendation 1: That the Council places engagement with local anchor institutions at the heart of the Corporate Strategy 2024-28, in particular the need to hold open and honest conversations about the overall vision and aspirations for Oxford to enable organisations to work together to drive forward that collective vision of the type of city Oxford should be.

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