

Appendix A

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 Scrutiny Committee on 04 March 2024 concerning the Oxfordshire Food Strategy – City Action Plan. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council engages with local food larders with a view to improving the variety of fruit and veg available, having regard to the outcome of the recent study undertaken at Oxford City Farm in relation to mothers and the impact of the cost of living crisis.	Yes	The Council has been supporting the local food larders by initiatives such as funding fridges and fridge-freezers, with campaigns to donate food produce, by providing a low cost community van to help with logistics, through supplying Household Support Fund when available and through our partnership work with SOFEA on the food pipeline. We will continue to explore opportunities to support food larders and help increase the range of fruit and vegetable offered.
2) That the Council reviews its policy in relation to the management of leftover food from Town Hall events so that it does not go to waste.	Yes	The Town Hall management team are working with the current caterer on reducing food waste and further opportunities around this. Currently the caterer works with the customer in advance on their food requirements, trying to ensure that minimal cooked food is left over and that all uncooked food will be re-used within their business.
3) That the Council promotes reducing food waste and encouraging diet change as the most impactful factors from a climate perspective, as well as reducing food miles.	In Part	We believe that this is mostly covered in the City Food Action Plan within the third item under the heading of 'Build vibrant food communities with the capacity and skills to enjoy food together'. The lead organisation is GFO and the Council can provide a supporting role.
4) That the Council, working with the community, explores options for the collection of food waste from larger generators of food waste within the city and distribution among food larders; and adds this to the City Action Plan.	No	Whilst this is a positive aspiration, there is a real risk that this is something that becomes particularly resource intensive given the scale of the ask both to the Council and to the wider system. As such it is likely to put

		delivery of the action plan at risk.
5) That the Council re-evaluates the priority areas of the city where activity will take place set out in the City Action Plan, which are currently set at the ward level, with a view to setting priority areas at a sub-ward level to more accurately reflect levels and pockets of deprivation across the City.	In Part	For some actions a citywide focus is appropriate, however for others a much more targeted approach is already advocated. For example, under 'Tackle food poverty and diet-related ill-health' the outcome on item 1 is 'Better understanding of the drivers of food insecurity at a hyper-local level enables targeted interventions and reduction in food insecurity'. We will continue to target resources to where they are most needed where we have capacity to enable it.