

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 17 April 2024  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Oxford City Council Annual Business Plan 2024-25

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Lucy Pegg, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24
<b>Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.</b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

## Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 11 April 2024 to consider a report concerning the Oxford City Council Annual Business Plan 2024-25. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 17 April 2024, recommends that Cabinet agrees the Annual Business Plan Priorities 2024-25 and notes progress made in delivery against the actions set out in the Annual Business Plan 2023-24.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Susan Brown (Leader of the Council), Mish Tullar (Head of Corporate Strategy) and Clare Keen (Policy and Partnerships Officer) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

## Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council introduced the report. There had been a significant amount of engagement in relation to the Annual Business Plan 2024-25,

alongside consultation on the draft Corporate Strategy 2024-28, all of which had been cross-party. The Annual Business Plan was not hugely different from previous iterations, as the Council was still working towards the same broad aims; the list of actions was shorter, however, following feedback from the recent Peer Review.

4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to local grid constraints and subsequent impact on the deliverability of zero carbon homes; robotic process automation; mid-year progress reporting against the action plan; and the absence of specific actions relating to social rent within the ‘Good, Affordable Homes’ priority.
5. In particular, the Committee was surprised that the overarching priority of ‘Good, Affordable Homes’ specifically mentioned an aim to ‘increase the number of new homes for social rent’, yet the year one actions did not contain any actions specifically working towards that aim.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council includes specific year one actions within the ‘Good, Affordable Homes’ priority related to driving forward the Council’s aim to increase the number of new homes for social rent.***

<b>Report author</b>	Alice Courtney
Job title	Scrutiny Officer
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 529834
e-mail	<a href="mailto:acourtney@oxford.gov.uk">acourtney@oxford.gov.uk</a>