

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 20 March 2024 concerning the Tree Planting item presented 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 produces a guidance document and accompanying flow chart which clearly sets out the process for the planting of new street trees on public land, including but not limited to the mapping of existing empty tree pits within the City; responsibility for the replacement of dead or damaged trees; and a breakdown of the costs for planting and maintaining new street trees, with information as to how those costs might be met by different organisations, groups and/or individuals.	In Part	The creation of a simple guidance document that explains how groups and individuals could support the funding of new trees on public land, including new street trees would be welcomed. However, such work should be taken forward in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, which has overall responsibility for street trees and empty tree pits. Officers will engage with colleagues at the County Council to discuss how such a guidance document could be commissioned.
2) That the Council produces a guidance document for the planting of new trees, and associated costs, on private land which is aimed at a diverse audience, including community groups, schools, private landowners and landlords.	Yes	An accessible guidance document for others to use to inform tree planting on their own land will be created as part of a suite of Council communications around the 2024/25 tree planting season.

3) That the Council, when it reviews its policies, explores how it could incentivise, promote and encourage the planting, retention and renewal of trees through those policies – particularly within Planning and Licensing.	Yes	This will be considered as part of the Council’s review and updating of its existing Tree Management Policy.
4) That the Council actively encourages tree planting within and around new community buildings and spaces to ensure alignment of these new projects and developments with the City’s wider environmental policies.	Yes	The Council’s draft Local Plan 2040 will require that all major developments should plant more trees, hedges and other greenery to meet new minimum standards. It also increases the level of Biodiversity Net Gain for new housing and business development from 5% to 10%.