

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 02 July 2024 concerning the Oxford City Council Corporate Strategy 2024-2028. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>1) That the Council includes a priority within the strategy to have an age and child friendly city, noting that the detail would sit in other supporting strategies such as Oxford's Economic Strategy, the City Centre Action Plan and the Thriving Communities Strategy, to ensure that inclusivity of all ages is at the forefront of the Council's approach.</p>		<p><i>Officers are currently working with partners in the city to examine the opportunity of becoming an Age Friendly City. If a decision is taken to seek accreditation this will be added to the strategy.</i></p> <p><i>While the Council has limited capacity to support additional work when it is also managing significant budget pressures, Councillor Louise Upton and 2 council officers have been awarded places on a residential course at LSE for intensive training on how to make a city work for young children (95 cm tall, hence the name Urban95) and their care-givers. This can inform future work in this area.</i></p> <p><i>The Council has a strong record on supporting children and young people and creating child-friendly spaces and activities. Examples include the provision of 87 play areas and recreation grounds across the city, the work of our Youth Ambition team to provide regular and summer holidays for some of our most disadvantaged young people, and leisure discounts including free swimming for under-17s and an expanded free swimming lessons provision.</i></p>

<p>2) That the Council includes specific reference within the strategy to the work of the Child Poverty Review Group and adoption of the Socio-Economic Duty to demonstrate the Council's commitment to working to reduce inequality at every level.</p>		<p><i>A reference to adoption of the Socio-Economic Duty has been added to the draft Council Strategy 2024-28. A reference to the work of the Child Poverty Review Group would not be appropriate, as this is a forward-looking document that doesn't seek to replicate information published elsewhere on how proposals were developed.</i></p>
<p>3) That the Council makes more explicit reference within the strategy to activity which is funded versus activity that is dependent on securing funding; and references prioritisation processes to ensure that activity is undertaken on the basis of having maximum impact when considering cost/benefit and value for money.</p>		<p><i>A reference to the Council's ability to meet its 2030 and 2040 Net Zero targets being subject to additional external funding has been added to the draft Council Strategy 2024-28. The Strategy's sister document, the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan is the Council's main tool for prioritising spend. It uses the Council Strategy as the basis for that prioritisation process together with associated consideration of cost/benefit and value for money.</i></p>