

To: Cabinet
Date: 11 September 2024
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter/Pledges – Annual Update

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Katherine Miles, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working; Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies; Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and an Inclusive Economy
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Fair Economy
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2024-28
Recommendation(s): 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 Scrutiny recommendations

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 03 September 2024 to consider an annual update report on the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Charter/Pledges. The report was the first annual report setting out an organisational audit against the OIEP pledges; the report was in response to a recommendation of the Committee in on 04 July 2023 when the OIEP Charter/Pledges was presented prior to Cabinet approval in July 2023. The Committee was recommended to note and comment on the report and agree any recommendations.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Susan Brown (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working), Councillor Nigel Chapman (Cabinet

Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies), Clayton Lavallin (Economic Development Team Leader) and Emma Coles (OIEP Manager) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Clayton Lavallin, Economic Development Team Leader introduced the report. The report provided an update on year one progress against the OIEP pledges and a full organisational audit against the complete list of possible pledges. This was in response to a previous recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on 04 July 2023.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to the use of data to evidence progressing pledges; the importance of disaggregated data in showing progress towards specific pledges; and social value in procurement exercises, particularly in relation to the Oxford Living Wage.
5. In particular, the Committee noted that while the Council had only formally committed to thirteen pledges out of a possible thirty-nine, the Council had made significant progress against another of other pledges that it had not signed-up to. In response to questions, the Committee was advised that only thirteen pledges had been committed to as the Council knew it could deliver against them within existing resources. However, the Committee agreed that the Council should sign-up to additional pledges where it was already meeting and/or progressing the requirements of those pledges beyond the thirteen already committed to, as it would strengthen the Council's commitment to driving an inclusive economy.

Recommendation 1: That the Council reviews the complete list of OIEP pledges and commits to additional pledges where it is advancing practices or meeting the requirements of pledges not currently committed to, to ensure that the Council's pledge commitments are aligned to existing and advancing organisational practices.

6. The Committee also discussed the importance of quantitative data in demonstrating progress against the various pledge commitments; including the use of disaggregated data to allow the Committee to drill-down into the detail in areas such as apprenticeships and ownership of small and medium sized enterprise (SME) Council suppliers (e.g. understanding the demographics behind an overarching number). The Committee agreed that it would be helpful if quantitative and relevant disaggregated data was included in future annual reports.

Recommendation 2: That the Council includes quantitative data in future OIEP Charter/Pledges annual update reports to evidence progress, including the use of disaggregated data on apprenticeships and SME Council suppliers to enable more detailed interrogation of the figures.

Report author	Alice Courtney
Job title	Scrutiny Officer
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	07483 010160
e-mail	acourtney@oxford.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank