

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 10 September 2024 concerning the Annual Air Quality Status Report. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council writes to Central Government to make representations in relation to securing future additional local government funding to adequately resource the Council's statutory air quality obligations.	Yes	A letter will be written to DEFRA seeking a reversal of its April 2024 decision to withhold Local Air Quality Grant Scheme funding - the first time the Scheme has been withheld since its inception in 1997.
2) That the Council develops a clear plan to mitigate against reversing the improvements in air quality achieved as a result of the Botley Road closure, when the road is reopened.	In part	Oxford City Council will continue to deliver its Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2025, which has seen a significant improvement in air quality across the city to date, working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, the Highways Authority and other relevant stakeholders. Any future air quality measures to be delivered in the city (past 2025) will form part of the statutory process of developing the city's future air quality action plan (2026-2030). This work will start in 2025 and will involve engagement and partnership work with relevant external and internal stakeholders and public consultation for the agreement of the next set of air quality measures and initiatives for the city.
3) That the Council explores investment in air quality display boards to disseminate key messages to the public related to air quality.	Yes	Oxford City Council officers are working in partnership with Oxfordshire County and District Council officers and will explore whether live data on the www.oxonair.uk website could be linked with highways traffic display boards.

<p>4) That the Council considers setting a limit for the number of vehicles it licenses in the city (i.e. Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Oxford City Council currently is in the process of reviewing Hackney Carriage Quantity Control Policy, which limits the number of Hackney Carriages (Taxis) to 107. However, Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCV) are also subject to Emission Standards requiring all HCV to be ULEV's by January 2026, currently 33 of those vehicles already meet these criteria.</p> <p>The Council has no legal power to limit the number of Private Hire Vehicles licensed in the district. PHV's are subject to five (5) year age restriction for licensing of new vehicles, as well as subject to the ZEZ pilot requirements, which are expected to continue with the expansion of the ZEZ.</p>
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