**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 14 January 2025 concerning the HRA Rent Setting for 2025/26. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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| ***Recommendation*** | ***Agree?*** | ***Comment*** |
| 1. That Officers include a modelling of the impact of limiting garage charge increases to CPI + 1% in the final report presented to Cabinet. | Yes | The proposed increase in the charge for garages equates to £0.78 per week at 4.1% and will generate an additional £8,274 per annum for the HRA. For comparison purposes, if the garage charge was increased by 2.7% this would increase the weekly charge by £0.54 and generate an additional £5,516 per annum for the HRA, a difference of £2,772. |
| 1. That the report, and any future iterations, includes a section reflecting on trends in the private rental market, with any relevant anticipated changes for the year ahead. | Yes | According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) data, in the 12 months to December 2024 private sector rents in Oxford rose by an average 8.6% meaning the average rent increased from £1,648 to £1,789 per month (£412.85 per week). See Chart Below. |