

Appendix 2

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Budget Review Group of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Budget Review Group, endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2026, concerning the Scrutiny Budget Review 2026/27. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

| <i>Recommendation</i> | <i>Agree?</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| 1) To freeze the garden waste concessionary rate in this year and instead raise the standard rate by 5.2% (an additional 0.2% on the consultation budget) in order to cover the income that would have been generated by the proposed concessionary rate rise. | | |
| 2) That cancellation form for garden waste collection and other paid Council services include reason-based tickboxes for discontinuing the service, to enable the Council to understand better whether a decline in usage is driven by costs, service performance, or other factors. | | |
| 3) To assess the cost of offering compost bins at a discounted rate to support residents in composting on their own site, particularly for those who find an offsite garden waste collection service unaffordable. | | |
| 4) That HMO licence fees incorporate a pre-payment (or a levy) to cover bulky waste disposal to help offset costs incurred by the Council to remediate flytipping, and that a mechanism be introduced where HMO licensing services notify ODS of forthcoming end-of-tenancy periods. This allows timely collection of bulky waste and reduce | | |

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| instances of fly-tipping of mattresses and other broken furniture. | | |
| 5) That the Council works jointly with the County Council (as the highways authority), neighbouring districts, and ODS to coordinate the gritting of well-used pedestrian and cycle routes when icy conditions are forecast, including the ring-road cycleway and southern bypass, and manage the associated costs through cross-authority cooperation. | | |
| 6) That the Museum of Oxford offer paying customers options to make entry more attractive. In particular, by offering joint MOX/Café tickets that provide a hot drink as well as entry to the Museum to have the added benefit of increasing the number of customers at the café; in addition, that paying customers receive a 10% discount on purchases in the MOX shop with a wider range of products to make gift purchasing in the shop cheaper than in souvenir shops. | | |
| 7) That the closure of the Oxpens and/or Worcester Street car parks is pushed back for one year to preserve revenue, unless development is imminent. | | |
| 8) That Council introduce a permitted long-stay parking option at Park & Rides, such as one or two weeks, designed to encourage parking outside the city centre such as for tourists staying for several days in city centre hotels, with pricing set above standard short-stay charges; and for this rate to be adjustable if there proves to be more demand to manage the spaces taken by long-term users, preventing displacement of spaces needed for regular Park & Ride users. | | |
| 9) That Council counteracts the loss of officer capacity for twinning by supporting voluntary groups maintaining vital | | |

twinning links by creating a £20,000 annual budget, managed by the Civic Office, to be used to support these links.

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