

Recommendations and updates from other committees to Cabinet 30 September 2021



Listening Learning Leading

Please find below updates from other committees to South's Cabinet meeting on Thursday 30 September. Where the committees made recommendations to Cabinet, these are highlighted in yellow.

Joint Scrutiny Committee

The committee met on 14 September. Under discussion was:

- a paper from the committee's **retrofitting homes** task group. The committee was concerned that the government's green homes grant scheme had not been taken up and set up a task and finish group to investigate why, and how the district councils could utilise such schemes more productively. The group had produced a report, looking at retrofitting homes to save carbon emissions and lower running costs for homes. **The committee is seeking views from the Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee before making recommendations to Cabinet.**
- The joint committee considered the **strategic property review** and **highly commended the report and its recommendations to Cabinet.**
- The committee discussed the **contractors' performance for the car park management contract**. The committee advised the Cabinet member that it was generally content with the performance of the contractor. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**
- The committee discussed the **contractors' performance for waste and recycling contract**. The committee advised the Cabinet member that, generally, the contractor had performed well during the 2020 calendar year, a difficult year with the Covid-19 pandemic. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**
- The committee also discussed the **garden waste service** contract position in confidential session, prior to the debate at the Council meeting on 24 September. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**

South Scrutiny Committee

The committee met on 20 September. Under discussion was:

- **Quarter 1 performance management report - the committee agreed to note the report and asked Cabinet members to consider their comments.** In summary, the committee felt there needed to be more quantitative data. Cabinet member Andrea Powell explained that as monitoring continues, the reports will be a management tool in order to improve and add more quantitative key

performance indicators (KPIs) as time goes on. The Cabinet member encouraged councillors to respond with ideas for KPIs. This would help challenge the findings and make improvements. Cabinet member clarified that the timeliness of reporting will improve, with an aim of six weeks after a quarter ended. The committee highlighted a need for financial measures, constraints and specifics. It was responded that it was hoped to link reporting to budget updates. The committee was pleased that the diversity and inclusion strategy was in progress. The committee asked questions on specific items in the report, which were answered at the meeting. Broadband was a concern for some, and it was important not to stall on improvements. On littering, the number of penalty notices seemed low. Cycle paths were discussed, including the importance of creating a linked network, and poor public transport in rural areas meant a continued reliance of private vehicles. Committee asked that Cabinet members for each strand of the corporate plan priorities could be present for these items when the monitoring reports were presented in future, in order to get immediate answers to questions. There was also discussion around the challenges of improving an already good recycling rate.

- The committee also discussed items of confidential business, which will be reported under the exempt session of the Cabinet meeting.

Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee

Committee members met informally on 27 September to discuss the following but made no recommendations to Cabinet.

- The committee considered themes 1 and 3 of the **Q1 performance management** report and gave some feedback to Cabinet member and head of service. In general, the committee was in support of more metrics. Some comments were raised that didn't apply to the Quarter in question but related to using influence to help get things done (e.g thames water sewage output into river which is not in our control). **No recommendations to Cabinet.** Going forward, the committee may decide to look at 2 quarters at a time, starting with Q2 in January 2022.
- **Tree planting on council land** – the committee supported the proposed policy, and suggested that in future consideration should be given to influencing the protection of trees on private land. Other discussion was about data collection on trees planted, trees felled due to danger, and trees felled due to development. The definition is not confined to trees and could involve asking farmers to measure hedgerows. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**
- The **retrofitting homes report** from the Joint Scrutiny Committee's task and finish group was welcomed. The Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee discussed lobbying to make the upfront costs of retrofitting more affordable or trying to get more demand by publicising more. The repayment scheme for renewable heating ends in April 2022, with no apparent replacement. Officers were working in partnership on this topic throughout the county. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**

- **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group update from Councillor Sue Cooper.** Councillors were urged to look out for a consultation in November on an county council report on a transport and connectivity policy. An officer climate change group was being set up, with partnership working across local councils. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**
- **Pathways to zero carbon Oxfordshire report** – this mirrored the work being undertaken by this council: a new design guide, new local plan, and corporate plan. A local nature partnership was being set up at present. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**
- The **Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Fund** – the committee discussed the exclusion of fossil fuel investments. The officer at the pension fund would provide a detailed presentation to all districts separately. A policy was agreed June 2020 and would be reviewed next year. **No recommendations to Cabinet.**

Joint Audit and Governance Committee

The committee met on 28 September to discuss the **treasury management outturn report for 2020/21**. The committee was **content with the report** and was **satisfied that the treasury activities had been carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy**.

Democratic Services

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