

Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Proforma

Under section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must require the Cabinet or local authority to respond to a report or recommendations made thereto by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such a response must be provided within two months from the date on which it is requested and, if the report or recommendations in questions were published, the response also must be so.

This proforma provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of a meeting of the body to which the report or recommendations were addressed.

Issue: Response to the Recommendations of the Carbon Reduction Targets Working Group

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Sudbury

Date recommendation/report published: 19th July 2022

Response to report:

Please see below responses to the recommendations made in the report of the Carbon Reduction Targets Working Group.

Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
1. The council continue to work to understand and quantify its emissions, particularly supply chain emissions.	Accepted	The council is working to continually improve both the accuracy and scope of its internal carbon emissions reporting. Historically, the council has not committed to reducing its supply chain (scope 3) emissions and our current reporting of such emissions is therefore very limited. More recently, the council has made progress on addressing its scope 3 emissions, including by:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing, through the Strategic Plan 2022-25, to set science-based emission reduction targets for our major suppliers. • Undertaking a high-level expenditure-based assessment of the emission hotspots in our supply chain to focus our decarbonisation efforts. • Securing resources to appoint a new role focussed on supply chain decarbonisation. <p>Looking ahead, we expect to make further progress to address our supply chain emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are committed to expanding our greenhouse gas reporting data to include data taken from our major suppliers. • A supplier engagement exercise will commence in 2022, with the aim to report a wider range of supply chain emissions in greenhouse gas reports the following year.
<p>2. The council continue to provide leadership through its focus on reducing its own carbon emissions, develop a route map to a zero-carbon Oxfordshire and engage other organisations and the public in respect of why they should, and how they can, reduce their emissions, including by sharing the learning generated by the council's decarbonisation initiatives.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>In addition to its internal carbon reduction workstreams, the council also works on programmes and partnerships aimed at achieving net zero emissions across Oxfordshire. This work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, • Workstreams to enable electric vehicle charging. • Supporting the retrofit of homes in Oxfordshire. • The council is supporting the Community Action Group partnership, which enables communities to

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		<p>undertake their own projects on environmental issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, we are a leading member of the Environmental Advisory Group, involved in the creation of a joint route map to net-zero emissions which uses the findings of the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report. This piece of work is due to complete in Q3 2022. • We are leading on the development of a new website and a range of communications activity is being developed in partnership with all of Oxfordshire's councils to provide residents with information to support climate action.
<p>3. The council continue to educate staff and service providers on the importance of carbon and emissions accountability and seek improvements and feedback to improve, accelerate and engage staff wherever possible.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>To improve education and outreach on the importance of carbon emissions and increasing accountability the council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolled out a mandatory e-learning module on Climate Action to all its staff. Since rollout last year, 4247 officers have been trained on the module, representing 62 per cent of all council staff. • The council also provides more in-depth training to interested teams of staff through the nationally recognised Carbon Literacy Project, which adopts a peer-to-peer approach to learning. Following this approach, we have trained 5 existing staff as trainers to deliver this programme and approximately 105 staff have received training.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 2022 Service and Resource Planning budget, additional resource was agreed to support supply chain emissions reduction and community outreach on climate. Recruitment will take place in Q3.
<p>4. The council closely monitor the financial saving generated by initiatives which reduce energy use and carbon emissions; and such financial savings be reinvested in further such initiatives.</p>	<p>Partially accepted.</p>	<p>The council has an internal carbon management delivery group which plans and tracks the delivery of carbon savings associated with the council's own estate. The group will also commit to explore how they can also track and report financial savings.</p> <p>The Leader has stated that to tackle the climate emergency, investment will be required which is over and above the direct savings realised from energy savings. It should therefore be noted that there will not always be the opportunity to achieve financial savings on all aspects of the climate action programme. In addition, the financial savings achieved from measures that reduce energy use may be obscured by overall increases in energy costs and should instead be recognised as avoided increases in costs.</p> <p>Where opportunities exist for new work programmes that deliver financial savings, SLT will be asked to consider ringfencing of these savings on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>New energy efficiency projects will be monitored on an ongoing basis to verify that the project is delivering projected energy and emission savings. Our in-house</p>

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		energy monitoring and targeting mechanism has been developed to capture both energy and cost savings.
5. The council report publicly on its carbon emissions and progress against its carbon targets at least quarterly so that the public can hold decision-makers to account	Partially accepted	The data underpinning our greenhouse gas reporting is drawn from a variety of sources. Due to the lag in receiving some of the data, we propose to increase the reporting frequency to every 6 months while we continue to improve the availability of data and assess the value of reporting more frequently.
6. The carbon emissions of maintained schools and the council's supply chain be included in the dashboard once reliable data are available.	Partially accepted	<p>A dashboard is being developed to monitor the energy usage (gas, electricity, oil) of maintained schools as well as fuel used by the grey fleet. Data on energy generated through installed PV generation at maintained schools will also be included on the dashboard.</p> <p>We are evaluating the potential to increase the use of automatic meter readers (AMR) at maintained school that would enable more accurate energy-use data to be included on the dashboard.</p> <p>As Recommendation 1, we will increase the range of supplier emissions included in our annual Greenhouse Gas report. It is unlikely to represent value for money to obtain the data to report more regularly at this stage. However, we will include consider regular availability of data in future contracts.</p>
7. The council continue to drive reductions in the carbon emissions of maintained schools and academies in Oxfordshire.	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools (ACES) Programme launched in August 2022 and provides a range of support to both OCC

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		<p>maintained schools and academies to implement measures to reduce their carbon emissions and energy use. The programme will also enable the council to identify additional support requirements for schools whilst also optimising other ongoing OCC initiatives to enable schools to implement carbon saving measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCC will later this year (September – October) be undertaking condition surveys for 105 maintained schools, as well as 50 detailed energy surveys to more accurately identify school’s investment needs. This will support the Schools Structural Maintenance Programme as well as when applying for additional grant funding for energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. • Through successfully bidding for grant funding from the government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), the council has secured around £930,000 for 9 OCC maintained schools to implement heat decarbonisation measures. Schools on the councils Schools Structural Maintenance Programme (SSMP) have been prioritised for this funding to ensure that fossil-fuel based boilers are replaced with low-carbon alternatives such as heat pumps. The council expects to bid for additional funding for OCC schools in future PSDS rounds. • The development of a low-cost loan for OCC maintained schools to implement energy efficiency

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		measures is ongoing, with funding being requested through the Budget Priority Reserve.