

Divisions Affected: N/A

**CABINET
19 July 2022**

Oxford 'Street Voice' Citizens' Jury Update

**Report by Corporate Director
Customers and Organisational Development**

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**
 - a) Note the independent research project undertaken by the consortium of researchers from Oxford University (annex 1) and request that Overview and Scrutiny consider a dedicated event in September 2022 to consider the findings in committee.
 - b) Formally record its thanks to the residents who participated in the Jury and commit to consideration of and response to the recommendations from the Jury and any subsequent Overview and Scrutiny Committee considerations.

Executive Summary

2. In November 2021 a group of researchers from Oxford University approached the county council to discuss their aspiration to undertake a deliberative engagement activity (Citizen's Jury) to explore urban transport and health matters within Oxford City.
3. The project was called Street Voice – A Citizens' Jury on Transport, Climate Change and Health in Oxford. The University identified Headington as their preferred locality as an area clearly with the city but not part of pre-existing low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) pilot scheme.
4. The scope of the research was not the consideration of specific transport policies, schemes or LTNs rather a wide exploration of transport planning, climate and health issues and the interdependencies between them. The research question (and sub-questions) posed were:

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'How can we travel where we need to in Oxford in a way that's good for health and the climate.

- *What do people who live in, work in or visit Oxford need so that they can move around safely and easily?*
- *How are people's travel needs best balanced with the need to promote health and fairness and tackle climate change?*
- *What can Oxfordshire County Council do to help achieve these aims?'*

Background

5. Oxfordshire County Council officers worked with the research team to enable the Jury to take place. This included providing technical specialists to act as a witness for the Jury on matters relating to the role of local government in terms of budgets and decision making and the process of transport planning.
6. The selection of the 16 Jury members from the Headington area was wholly undertaken by the University research team and officers did not participate in the design of the research or the deliberations of the Jury.
7. Political Group Leaders prior were briefed (prior to the commencement of the research) and there was cross-party representation on the advisory group that oversaw the design and development of the Jury (including the divisional member). To ensure the objectivity of the research and any subsequent decision making no elected members participated in the deliberations of the Jury or attended the sessions.
8. Oxfordshire County Council has committed to receiving the recommendations and findings from the research and to considering them in public. The Cabinet is keen to ensure that overview and scrutiny have the opportunity to consider the findings and as such have requested that overview and scrutiny members consider adding this to their work programme at a dedicated event in September 2022. Researchers and participants in the programme could be invited to attend and contribute to scrutiny discussions prior to further Cabinet consideration.
9. The Citizens' Jury was convened over several weekends in June and July 2022 and the first paper was received by the council from the research team just prior to the publication of the Cabinet agenda. It is recognised that a full response and consideration has not yet been undertaken and the Cabinet is committed to this, including by inviting scrutiny views as set out above.
10. Full details of the project are available on the dedicated research website [Street Voice: A Citizens' Jury to find common ground on solutions to the impact of travel on health and climate change in Oxford – Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation \(gchu.org.uk\)](https://www.gchu.org.uk/street-voice) which is run by the Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation, Kellogg College and Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Services.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

11. The research findings will be considered as part of the ongoing development of county council plans and policies.
12. Oxfordshire County Council has a stated priority set out in the corporate strategy to 'play our part in a vibrant and participatory democracy. In February 2022 the council adopted a new consultation and engagement strategy which provides the framework to supports innovative and new ways to undertake public engagement and consultation, this activity falls within the scope of that strategy.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by:

Bick Nguyen-McBride, Assistant Finance Business Partner – Commercial Development, Assets and Investment, and Customers, Organisational Development and Resources

Legal Implications

14. There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. The County Council follows the requirements for formal public consultation and engagement with regards to the development of its plans and strategies using the Let's Talk Oxfordshire Website as a key platform. This Citizens' Jury does not replace the formal consultation required for the development of plans and strategies.

Comments checked by:

Anita Bradley, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Staff Implications

15. There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

16. Equality and inclusion impacts were core to the research questions considered within the deliberations of the Citizens' Jury.

Sustainability Implications

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17. Sustainability, health and environmental impacts were core to the research questions considered within the deliberations of the Citizens' Jury.

Risk Management

18. As Oxfordshire County Council is not the commissioner or conductor of the research risks associated with the project are held by the University research team. The most significant areas of risk are ensuring that the requirements for formal consultation are not impacted by this research and that decision making remains objective. Steps have been undertaken to ensure that elected members are not directly involved in the research to ensure objectivity.

Consultations

19. The activities of the Citizens' Jury do not replace the formal or statutory consultation requirements associated with the development of policies, plans and strategies. Deliberative engagement activities such as these form part of background and development of strategy and service design.

Claire Taylor
Corporate Director – Customers and Organisational Development

Annex: Oxford 'Street Voice' Citizens' Jury – First Output report
Report from the Research Group, July 2022.

Background papers: Link to the Research Group Street Voice Website.

[Street Voice: A Citizens' Jury to find common ground on solutions to the impact of travel on health and climate change in Oxford – Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation \(gchu.org.uk\)](#)

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