

**Action and Recommendation Tracker
Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Eddie Reeves, Chair | Tom Hudson, Principal Scrutiny Officer, tom.hudson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The action and recommendation tracker enables the Committee to monitor progress against agreed actions and recommendations. The tracker is updated with the actions and recommendations agreed at each meeting. Once an action or recommendation has been completed or fully implemented, it will be shaded green and reported into the next meeting of the Committee, after which it will be removed from the tracker.

KEY	No progress reported (R)	In progress (Y)	Complete (G)
------------	---------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------

Recommendations:

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Last reviewed	R/Y /G	Update/response
28/04/23	Consultation and Engagement Strategy	That at its next annual refresh of the Communications and Engagement action plan the Council strengthens its roadmap for how it will leverage its partnerships to increase the breadth of engagement by including (but not limited to) a) Creating SMART targets for partnership working b) Committing to undertake engagement processes which are representative by design	Susannah Wintersgill	11/04/24	Y	<p>Partially Accepted <i>The council already undertakes some representative engagement activity, such as the annual residents' survey. Further representative exercises will be commissioned where appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>For budget consultation and engagement exercises, the council has for a number of years used a range of participatory and representative methods to increase the breadth of engagement, from deliberative discussion days and representative surveys to market stall events, large scale public debates and open online feedback forms. Deliberative techniques are also used to engage</i></p>

KEY	No progress reported (R)	In progress (Y)	Complete (G)
-----	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Last reviewed	R/Y /G	Update/response
						<p><i>children and young people, such as our full-day sounding board events.</i></p> <p><i>The consultation and engagement team work closely with partners on a range of activity. However, as part of the next annual refresh of the action plan, we will look to strengthen targets around partnership working</i></p> <p>Update: Over the course of the year we have extended the range of partners we work including the university, voluntary and community sector capitalising on relationships formed elsewhere in the organisation. The following are just a selection of: multiple examples SEND local area partnership Oxfordshire Conversations events for parents and carers, the Health and Wellbeing two phase consultation and engagement, budget consultation outreach discussions, upcoming EDI focus groups . The creation of SMART targets around consultation and engagement difficult, owing to their subject-dependent nature.</p>
21/07/23	Workforce Strategy	That the Council develops specific workstreams within its Workforce Strategy, backed by targets, around attracting and supporting spouses and partners of military personnel to work for the Council, including steps taken to reinvigorate its existing commitments.	Cherie Cuthbertson	11/04/24	Y	<p>Accepted</p> <p><i>Oxfordshire County Council is committed to supporting our Armed Forces and the Armed Forces Covenant. Together, we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our workforce strategy action plan, we have identified initiatives which support the Armed Forces.</i></p>

KEY	No progress reported (R)	In progress (Y)	Complete (G)
-----	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Last reviewed	R/Y /G	Update/response
						<p><i>Plans are being produced which will involve project teams with appropriate stakeholders with robust timelines for delivery and where appropriate, agreed targets. We have also committed to undertaking a comprehensive review of our current initiatives to ensure we understand what is working well and what we could do differently. This includes a review of our 'buddying' system and training on the Armed Forces Covenant as well as how we advertise and engage partners of military personnel for short- and long-term contracts of employment within OCC.</i></p> <p>Update: This review is ongoing and seeks to ensure that whatever is implemented adds the most value to services personnel.</p>
29/09/23	Social Value	That the Council clarifies the objectives it wishes to achieve through its social value policy, choosing measures and weightings which support those objectives.	Melissa Sage	11/04/24	Y	<p>Partially Accepted</p> <p><i>To establish the current set of TOMs, workshops were held across two days (one session focused on Economic and Social themes, the other session focused on the Environmental theme) to select relevant TOMs with the service areas from all across the Council, which delivered both the Master and Light set of TOMs.</i></p> <p><i>Once these were established, certain TOMs were prioritised to support the Council's stated aims and objectives. Some of these TOMs are weighted medium (x2) or high (x3), meaning the financial proxy values are doubled or tripled in the background calculators that affect a bidder's final quantitative score. This incentivises bidders to choose some of the prioritised measures to</i></p>

KEY	No progress reported (R)	In progress (Y)	Complete (G)
-----	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Last reviewed	R/Y /G	Update/response
						<p><i>make up their overall social value bid response. Measures have been selected for prioritisation because they are aligned with the Council's key priorities, aims and strategic frameworks such as Climate Action and Including Everyone. This means that we are already supporting the Council's stated objectives in an appropriate, fair and proportionate way.</i></p> <p><i>Specification remains the key element for ensuring that contracts place social value at the heart of their delivery.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the procurement social value policy, a wider organisational policy will be designed that will establish an agreed definition of social value to inform agreed measures in all decision making.</i></p> <p>Update: As can be seen above, the majority of this has been covered off through actions taken. In relation to the wider social value policy, a report from work undertaken with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies is expected in September and will outline next steps.</p>
		That the Council provides as part of its response to this recommendation a written outline of the next steps it intends to take develop and finesse its social value policy.		11/04/24	Y	<p>Accepted <i>There will be a regular review of the procurement social value policy to ensure still appropriate and applicable. This includes a regular review of the TOMs as they are updated and refreshed nationally.</i></p> <p><i>Further work is to be completed with an organisational wide approach to social value that goes beyond procurement and aims to support decision making at all levels. The policy will seek to provide an agreed</i></p>

KEY	No progress reported (R)	In progress (Y)	Complete (G)
-----	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Last reviewed	R/Y /G	Update/response
						<p><i>definition of social value so that there is consistency in our expectations of social value with agreed measures for monitoring and evaluation purposes.</i></p> <p>Update: As referenced in the recommendation above, the work on wider social value is expected to reach its next step in September with the production of a report arising from the Council's work with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies.</p>
19/07/24	Community Wealth Building and Wider Social Value	That the Council works with the Local Government Association to open discussion with central government to clarify s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972.	Emily Urquhart	17/12/24	G	<p>ACCEPTED The Council will approach the LGA and work with them to understand the latest research and best practice around Section 123.</p> <p>Since the Local Government Act was passed in 1972, government has developed a broader definition of the term 'value', such as that outlined in the Social Value Act 2012. This Act allows for the consideration of social value alongside monetary value when considering public procurement. However, there is currently no similar legislation with regards to land/asset disposals. The Council will therefore work with the LGA to understand how the implementation of Section 123 could develop in line with this broader definition of value.</p>
		That the Council consults on its draft update of the CAT policy with Locality Groups.		17/12/24	G	<p>ACCEPTED Officers will approach Locality Groups at the appropriate time to offer an opportunity for feedback</p>

KEY	No progress reported (R)	In progress (Y)	Complete (G)
-----	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------

Actions:

Meeting date	Item	Action	Lead	Last reviewed	R/Y/G	Update/response
29/09/23	Social Value	Members to be provided the data on the number/value of contracts run by the Council which are subject to social value weightings vis a vis those which are not. Similar data around the number and value of contracts above and below £100k also to provided.	Melissa Sage	11/04/24	Y	Update: Owing to the nature of the data collected this is proving more challenging than anticipated. However, it is still being worked on, though it is likely to require greater use of assumptions than previously envisaged.