



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing Paper

Subject: Working Groups update

If in attendance at the meeting on 28 November, the chair or an alternative representative from each group will be invited to give verbal updates.

Climate Action

Isabel Creed - Chair
John Broad
Patrick Clarke
Ian Middleton
Rebecca Biegel
John Donaldson
Simon Holland
Sean Woodcock
Andrew McHugh – as Portfolio Holder, Cleaner and Greener Communities

The Climate Action group met on 15 November, to discuss updating the Terms of Reference for the group in light of the approval of the Climate Action plan by Executive on 6 November 2023.

The revised Terms of Reference are currently being finalised, and the Monitoring Officer has agreed they can be published as a supplement to the agenda. The Committee is requested to approve the revisions.

The next meeting of the group will be arranged in due course.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) – joint group with Personnel Committee

Gemma Coton – Chair, and Personnel nominated member
Patrick Clarke
Lynne Parsons
Rob Pattenden
Chukwudi Okeke – Personnel nominated member
Chris Pruden – Personnel nominated member
Sandy Dallimore – as Portfolio Holder, Corporate Services

The EDI group met on 7 November, and agreed that meetings remaining for the 2023/24 municipal year would focus on one action plan per meeting, in the following order; Inclusive Workforce, Inclusive Communities and Inclusive Services.

The Council's outreach to community groups was discussed, and a proposed recommendation from Cllr Parsons relating to promoting volunteering amongst young people was agreed. The proposal will be reflected in recommendations made by the group on the Inclusive Communities action plan.



The group will meet again on 12 December, and the focus will be on the Inclusive Workforce action plan.

It is anticipated that updated action plans for 2024/25 will be submitted to Personnel Committee in January 2024 (Inclusive Workforce), Overview & Scrutiny (Inclusive Services and Inclusive Communities) in March 2024, and Executive in April 2024.

Food Insecurity

Rebecca Biegel – Chair

Patrick Clarke

Isabel Creed

Chukwudi Okeke

Bryn Williams

Dorothy Walker

Phil Chapman – as Portfolio Holder, Healthy and Safe Communities

The Food Insecurity group met on 14 November, and discussed the data dashboard for current projects of food vouchers, Banbury food hub, village updates and growing spaces. Food provision partners in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington are continuing to refer residents in need for £50 food vouchers. Banbury food for charities are working with local partners to facilitate discussions regarding Oxford Food Hub's expansion to the Cherwell district.

Cherwell Collective manage 12 spaces across Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington for the Harvest@Home initiative. They have secured Brighter Futures funding to expand their provision in Banbury. The council is creating a database and community involvement leaflet to help residents connect with local growing spaces.

Regarding food grants, £45,000 has been allocated to support local groups on the new, broader scheme. Grants of up to £3000 are being offered to organisations that provide or assist in the provision of food or developing community food activities involving cooking, growing or nutrition/food education. The grants went live at the start of November and four applications have been received so far.

Work continues on the Cherwell Food Action Plan, with officers working to ensure the targets in the plan are achievable.

The group will meet again on 9 January.

Completed by: Emma Faulkner, Principal Officer – Scrutiny & Democratic Lead

Date: 17 November 2023

Presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 28 November 2023