

**Response from the meeting of Cabinet on the O&S Committee's Comments
and the Equalities Task & Finish Group – 8 March 2023**

Item 4 – Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked officers for their work on the report. The Committee supported the changes to the wording relating to the UK Risk Rating*. The Committee noted that further consideration should be given to Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) criteria and other countries for investments in the next Council.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 7 – Equalities Task & Finish Group

The Task & Finish Group presented its recommendations in a report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 7 February 2023. These then went to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting 8 March 2023.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 11 – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review 2023

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted that this had been an important and substantial amount of work and thanked officers.

The Committee asked that the new Council should consider how finance, particularly Housing finance, should be scrutinised to be effective.

How finance should be scrutinised would be added to the Committee's Work Programme for consideration by the next Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 12 – Barford Youth and Community Centre Grant Application

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the grant and welcomed the installation of photovoltaic cells at an earlier stage of the project.

Back in October 2022, when the Council was considering biodiversity, the Motion that was agreed contained the sentence "biodiversity net gain should be maximised in all developments that WDC has a financial interest in".

The Committee therefore recommended to Cabinet that officers be asked to determine an appropriate phrase for a condition to be attached to the grant application that ensures that the requirement for biodiversity net gain to be maximised is part of the grant condition.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the following recommendation:

“that the Programme Director for Climate Change agrees an appropriate condition to be included in the grant agreement that requires the project to deliver climate change and biodiversity measures, which support the Council's agreed plans and ambitions for the District”.

Item 13 – Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended to Cabinet that the Chairs of Scrutiny are included in the review process of the first draft of the report.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the following recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

“that the Chairs of Scrutiny are included in the review process of the first draft of the report”.

Item 19 – Contract Dispute – Dictate2Us Transcription Services

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked officers for their work on the report and recognised that the issues had been taken seriously.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended to Cabinet that a learning and action plan should be developed and formalised and brought before Scrutiny for consideration to ensure that the likelihood of this situation re-occurring is reduced.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the following recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

“that a learning and action plan should be developed and formalised and brought before Scrutiny for consideration to ensure that the likelihood of this situation re-occurring is reduced”.