

## CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Tuesday 31st May 2022

**Title:** **Open Spaces Strategy, Committee Objectives and Work Programme for the Municipal Year**

**Contact Officer:** Town Clerk/RFO – Sharon Groth

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### BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to

- a. review the Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan for areas under the responsibility of this Committee and where necessary review the timescale if commencement of completion dates has slipped; and
- b. give consideration to this Committees objectives/priorities in order for the Town Clerk to come up with a manageable programme of works, so that she can deploy the necessary resources appropriately.

### OPEN SPACES STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Appendix A provides an extract from the adopted OSS relating to this Committees responsibilities. Members will notes that some a dependant on the new position of Park Ranger being filled, and it is hoped that an appointment will be made shortly as interviews are scheduled for 26th May 2022.

With the above in mind a couple of timescales have slipped – Members may wish to realign these completion dates.

### CAPITAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE PROJECTS 2022/23

The attached appendix (B) details the projects funded (or not) during the budget setting cycle.

Again, some of these projects are dependent on other stakeholders – such as Oxfordshire County Council, or the Park Ranger taking up post.

As well as the projects listed in appendix b – the Council does have funds held in its Earmarked Reserves set aside for Climate & Biodiversity – this amounts to £48,050. It should be noted that some of this funding is ring fenced for the management plan for the Lake & Country Park, as well as the bank erosion works,

There is also funding set aside towards electric vehicles which currently stands at £14,200 – and will be topped up from the renewals fund when vehicles are disposed off/written off.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

## RISK

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

When considering its priorities the committee should be mindful of all resources – financial as well as human resources – and the competing demands from other Committees. There needs to be a clear programme of works to ensure that the council is realistic in what it can achieve in the next 12 months. Failure to have a plan could result in wasted resources and undeliverable projects.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are detailed above and also in the attached appendices.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report and consider the Committees objectives/priorities for the coming municipal year.