

Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

Under section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must require the Cabinet or local authority to respond to a report or recommendations made thereto by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such a response must be provided within two months from the date on which it is requested¹ and, if the report or recommendations in questions were published, the response also must be so.

This template provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of a meeting of the body to which the report or recommendations were addressed.

Issue: Capital Asset Disposal Process

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Dan Levy, Cabinet Member for Finance

Date response requested:² 23 January 2024

Response to report:

Enter text here.

Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
That the Council develops a more detailed framework or policy around the outcomes it	N	There are existing policies and frameworks in place to deal with the disposal of capital assets.

¹ Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received

² Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received

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<p>wishes to see when disposing of capital assets</p>		<p>A proactive programme supports the council's financial sustainability. The disposal of assets and related capital receipts are forecast in the look-forward budget, which the Cabinet approves. Capital receipts from disposal, when realised, are used by the council for the delivery of services (i.e. outcomes) as per the approved budget.</p> <p>The council is legally required under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to dispose of land for the best consideration reasonably obtainable. An agreed disposal process has already been established that will consider a range of uses for each site. There is a clearly defined process and Governance structure that relates to disposing of all capital assets.</p> <p>A key decision is required to be made regarding any site or building where the value could exceed £1m or where the sale is of wider public interest, making any potential disposal public knowledge.</p> <p>There is also agreed governance in place, whereby decisions to support and approve an Officer's recommendation are delegated up to £1m. Any decision to sell a site for a value in excess of £1m needs to be approved by Cabinet.</p>
<p>That the Council amends the strategic objectives it seeks to achieve through an asset disposal to include cooperative housing within objective 2, and that the</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>When disposal is being reviewed, all options are considered within our statutory obligations to get the best value; as influenced by the limited ability to take social value into account, we would welcome bids from cooperative housing groups.</p>

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<p>Council undertakes to engage with cooperative housing providers.</p>		<p>It would be inappropriate to prioritise one specific use within a sector.</p> <p>When a site is put on the market, all interests and offers are considered and appraised prior to a recommendation. However, any recommendation must meet our legal requirements to seek the best consideration and the needs of the council to be financially sustainable.</p> <p>The delivery of social/affordable housing is not a statutory function of the County Council. The responsibility lies with Oxford City Council and the District Councils. The City and District Councils are made aware of the assets we are seeking to dispose of, and we are involved in regular dialogue with them regarding these sites. Many of the sites have been inspected by representatives from City /District Councils, and opportunities have been considered, which have led to sales being agreed upon.</p>
<p>That the Council conveys information about potential asset disposals to opposition parties at an earlier point and consults with them over potential uses and helpful community contacts.</p>	A	<p>For all significant sales, a key decision about disposal needs to be made. Details are advertised, and once the matter has been determined, the disposal becomes public knowledge.</p> <p>As part of the existing disposal process, the member for the division where the site is located is advised of the proposed disposal and has the opportunity to comment and pass the information on to community contacts so that these opportunities can be pursued, often ahead of the agents being instructed and marketing commencing.</p>

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