

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 question 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: Community Asset Transfer Policy and Leases to VCS Organisations

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

Date response requested:² 17 December 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 ensures that local members are involved with next-step discussions with	Accepted	Local members will be advised of all interest received in Oxfordshire CC owned vacant properties from the VCS sector

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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VCS groups and the social value provided by these organisations be considered as part of the discussions.		
That the Council improves communications around empty properties, including: i) sharing with members a clear statement of the aspiration and timeline for disposing of properties listed for disposal, ii) a quarterly report/update summarising recent events and developments with Council land/property ensuring all parties are kept up to date, and iii) regular updates for those residents neighbouring vacant Council properties to keep them up to date with ongoing developments and plans.	Accepted	A quarterly schedule of vacant property owned by Oxfordshire CC will be circulated to members stating the aspiration and proposed future use, with an indicative timescale for disposal. Immediate neighbours and stakeholders will also continue to be updated of the progress of each disposal, where feasible.
That the Council develops processes for sharing with both members and sister organisations in the county, i) lease requests by VCS organisations, ii) land available for VCS leases, and iii) any planned leases.	Accepted	When received lease requests will be shared with members, as well as with sister organisations and contacts within the One Public Estate network. Property and land available for VCS leases will be included in the quarterly member reports, as will proposed leases.