

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: **Local Government Reorganisation – One Oxfordshire Proposal**

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Liz Leffman, Leader of the Council

Date response requested:² 13 November 2025

The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 12 November 2025 to consider the above report and made the following recommendations. A report explaining its rationale will be provided in due course.

Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)

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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<i>1. That the Council should ensure that future public communications regarding Local Government Reorganisation are engaging, accessible, and interesting.</i>	Accepted	Cabinet endorses this recommendation. We ran a comprehensive, multi channel engagement exercise earlier this year, in line with government guidelines, to raise awareness about local government reorganisation and gather the public's early views about the proposal for a single county unitary. This included a statistically representative residents' survey; an open survey; a series of focus groups; and sounding boards with young people. We will build on the lessons learned from that exercise to shape future communications and engagement around LGR, including the future statutory consultation, ensuring communications are engaging and accessible. We await engagement with Government on the timings of the statutory consultation and will play a full, supportive role to Government in delivering the consultation.
<i>2. That the Council should give greater attention to neighbourhood governance, and particularly to Area Committees, within its submission to Government.</i>	Accepted	The Cabinet agrees with this recommendation in full. Further detail, drawing on best practice from elsewhere, will be published as part of the proposal.
<i>3. That the Council should ensure that Full Council is given the opportunity to express its view on Local Government Reorganisation during the statutory consultation.</i>	Accepted	The Cabinet agrees with this recommendation in full. It is proposed that Council is engaged during the statutory consultation phase.