

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: **Devolution**

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

Date response requested:² **09 December 2025**

Response to report:

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

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Response to recommendations

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
1. That the Leader seeks agreement from other Councils to list append a list of member councils at the bottom of the Expression of Interest letter to the Secretary of State and Cabinet amends its report to detail the names of the Councils who will form the Devolution Board.	Partially accepted	<p>The Cabinet report has been amended to reference those Councils signing the expression of interest.</p> <p>On the basis that other Councils have already signed off the existing Expression of Interest letter, it would be necessary those Councils to re-agree any amendment and so will not be pursued. However, the Leader will seek to ensure there is greater clarity over membership in future joint communications.</p>
2. That the Cabinet amends its report to ensure consistency across the report and Expression of interest letter of the significant benefits accruing from devolution.	Accepted	<p>The Cabinet report has been amended to make the changes requested at the Scrutiny meeting.</p>
3. That the Leader seeks clarity from partners over how stakeholders - including elected members, businesses, and the public – will be informed of outcomes and progress relating to devolution.	Accepted	<p>Regular updates will be provided to members through member briefings and Scrutiny attendance, as has been done in advance of decisions being made by Cabinet.</p> <p>A communications strategy is being developed to inform stakeholders how they will be kept up to date with progress towards devolution.</p>

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4. That the Cabinet recognises the high degree of uncertainty within the devolution process for staff, businesses and other key stakeholders and commits to clarifying details as soon as they are announced.	Accepted	The Cabinet recognises the importance of its decisions to the staff, businesses and other stakeholders and commits to being open and transparent regarding its decisions.
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