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 requested[1] 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: Infrastructure Funding Statement and s.106 Funding Review Report

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy

Date response requested:[2] 25 February 2025

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)
1. That the Council should publish an outline of the milestones identified as requirements for the success of the project with associated deadlines.	Accepted	A series of milestones are in place for delivery by the end of March - Production of pre-capital pipeline

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

		- Creation of first draft of dashboard for presentation to Members - Creation of initial accelerated S106 delivery programme (clustering & delivery of schemes) - Production of end to end S106 Process Map/associated Standard Operating Procedures (Phase 1) A full update will be presented to the April Scrutiny Meeting
2. **That the Council should identify who is ultimately responsible for driving the success of the improvement project and by what measures they will be held accountable to ensure effective utilisation of funds.**	**Accepted**	The Director of Economy and Place is the Senior Responsible Officer for the programme. Revised accountability measures will be designed into the updated corporate outcomes framework.
3. **That the Council undertakes the Local Government Association's Planning Advisory Service self-assessment toolkit – 'Improving the governance of developer contributions in order to evaluate and improve current practices.'**	**Accepted**	This will be incorporated into the process workstream within the wider s106 programme which is redesigning OCCs current s.106 processes and structure.
4. **That the Council commits to working closely with district councils and other partners to ensure there are holistic plans in place for infrastructure needs.**	**Accepted**	A revised Oxfordshire Strategic Infrastructure Strategy has been commissioned by the County Council in partnership with district councils.
5. **That the Council take steps to correct any favourability biases in project planning and delivery to ensure a pragmatic and realistic approach.**	**Accepted**	The creation and management of a pre-pipeline and pipeline of works will be overseen by a cross service delivery team (including place shaping and infrastructure delivery). This will actively remove any favourability bias by categorising and batching schemes where possible to drive efficiency. Delivery

		team identified and potential routes to market being investigated (eg Term Service Contract) to minimise delays in engagement.
6. **That the Council uses the Government Office for Science's The Futures Toolkit in order to ensure its plans and policies are robust and realistic.**	**Partially Accepted**	Programme Team to review and consider toolkit as part of future place shaping strategy and policy development which would then feed into the pre-capital pipeline discussions as noted above.
7. **That the data dashboard is launched without further delay to ensure that members can monitor s.106 funds and projects.**	**Accepted**	The project team is working on developing a beta 1 version of a dashboard for members to be delivered end of 2024/25.
8. **That the Council should implement a risk rating for s.106 moneys being reclaimed if they are not spent in time so that issues can be addressed proactively.**	**Accepted**	The transformed capital pipeline will enable far greater scrutiny of s.106 availability and project delivery, including flags for timeframes.