

## 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<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23

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

**Date response requested:**<sup>2</sup> 19 December 2023

### Response to report:

### Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
<b>1. That the Council is mindful to build in as much flexibility as possible to its s.106 agreements at negotiation and agreement stages.</b>	Accepted subject to compliance with	This action is being progressed within the S106 review workstream to review standard wording of agreements to, wherever possible, include appropriate flexibility for future agreements. Please note that there will always be scenarios whereby planning obligations are secured for specific items of

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

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	statutory provisions	infrastructure albeit officers are cognisant of the need for flexibility where possible.
<b>2. That the Council holds conversations with non-CIL collecting district councils in the county to emphasise the benefits of collecting CIL funding over s.106 contributions.</b>	Accepted	<p>It is recognised there are benefits of operating CIL, albeit there will always be a need to operate a dual system with s.106 agreements for specific requirements needed to enable the grant of planning permission. Notwithstanding this, officers continue to discuss proposals for CIL implementation with Cherwell District and West Oxfordshire District Councils. The decision to implement CIL is a matter for those councils but it is expected in both cases that consultation on draft charging schedules will be held in 2024.</p> <p>In addition, discussions are underway to discuss the County's existing CIL arrangements with Oxford City, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils. There is a long-established process in place with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils for how the County accesses CIL monies to help support delivery of strategic infrastructure, which has recently been enhanced to speed up the transfer of monies through a less onerous approach to funding agreements between the Councils</p> <p>There is not the same structure in place for how the County accesses CIL collected in Oxford City. This is recognised as a priority for the County to resolve with contact made with City Council officers to review this as they progress their new Local Plan and CIL Charging Schedule in 2024.</p>
<b>3. That the Council's progress review of s. 106 funded infrastructure projects provide, for each project, an easy to read summary of the barriers, constraints and trigger points it is subject to.</b>	Accepted	<p>This work is ongoing as part of the S106 review project with the information currently held within the Council's planning system being linked to Microsoft Power BI, which is a relatively new platform that allows self-service access for users to find information relating to developer contributions by service and division area. The functionality of this technological enhancement</p>

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		remains in development, but it is anticipated that this will be made available for County Councillors to be able to review available funds and progress.
<b>4. That the Council involves local members throughout the full process of infrastructure delivery in their areas via, in the first instance, its Locality meetings.</b>	Accepted	Members are recognised as needing to be regularly informed about infrastructure delivery in the divisions they represent. As mentioned above, an enhancement for how information is accessed and discussed with officers is in development. The Locality meetings will continue to have due oversight on infrastructure planning and delivery going forward. By way of an initial update, Annex A provides a summary of s.106 monies available by service area within each Locality Area and which will form the basis of further discussion with regard to delivery at the next round of Locality meetings
<b>5. That the Council improves the involvement and communication between all stakeholders in the infrastructure delivery process, particularly between the negotiation and delivery teams, and the delivery teams and the wider Council.</b>	Accepted	This is an ongoing action that forms a key part of the S106 Project Review. The specific action in this regard is a process mapping review that will identify not only the most effective way of negotiating and collecting developer contributions but also how stakeholders are engaged in the process. The process mapping review will take place through Spring 2024.
<b>6. That the Council invests in its infrastructure delivery, including project management, to enable it to reach a high level of efficiency and effectiveness, reducing delays or the threat of handing back developer contributions for undelivered infrastructure.</b>	Partially Accepted subject to corporate resource planning	This is an ongoing action that is being addressed in part through the implementation of the recent Environment and Place directorate reorganisation, which added resource in its infrastructure delivery functions. Recruitment to these posts is ongoing and once completed is expected to increase the levels of efficiency required to address this recommendation.
<b>7. That the Council leads on improving strategic coordination between tier 1 and tier 2 authorities in the county via the</b>	Accepted where	Since the December 2023 meeting, county officers have taken a lead role in progressing the procurement to update OXIS as part of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory

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<p><b>Future Oxfordshire Partnership to embed necessary infrastructure requirements for the achievement of the LTCP targets in the next iteration of the OXIS.</b></p>	<p>possible to do so</p>	<p>Group workstream. The project brief has been agreed and subject to procurement input expected to go out for tender in Spring 2024. Delivery against key strategies such as LTCP will be an integral part of the OXIS project.</p>
<p><b>8. That a back-casting exercise from 2030 in reference to the OXIS refresh be undertaken and the required investment in infrastructure to achieve LTCP targets to be compared with current plans and the OXIS be updated as necessary.</b></p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The consultant for the OXIS update will take forward this action once appointed.</p>
<p><b>9. That the Council develops a pipeline of infrastructure projects, particularly around Active Travel.</b></p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This is being actioned through the Capital Programme and supporting capital boards that have been set up to develop a pipeline of infrastructure projects that is aligned to the Council's corporate priorities.</p>
<p><b>10. That the Council undertakes an audit of its spending on pavements, street-lighting and other walking infrastructure.</b></p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>This action has not progressed due to current resource pressures. This action will, however, be referred to the corporate audit team to take forward as part of their future work programme.</p>