

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: Community Wealth Building and Wider Social Value

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Nathan Ley, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety

Date response requested:² 15 October 2024

Response to report:

The Community Wealth Building action plan for 2024/25 outlines a large range of actions which support progress across all five pillars of community wealth building. The pillars of community wealth building draw attention to the mechanisms of economic activity in a place (such as employment, procurement, asset management), and set out ways that these mechanisms can be used to redirect wealth back into local communities. Oxfordshire County Council's community wealth building approach recognises that the concept of generating 'social' value can apply across council activity, and that supporting local economic development also supports our place to be fairer, healthier and greener.

The review of the Community Asset Transfer policy(s) held by the council is one action in an extensive list of community wealth building actions. The purpose of this review is to improve the CAT process, clarifying roles and responsibilities and increasing

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

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transparency. This will ultimately bring some benefit both to prospective community tenants and to the council officers who manage CATs.

Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
<p>That the Council works with the Local Government Association to open discussion with central government to clarify s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Council will approach the LGA and work with them to understand the latest research and best practice around Section 123.</p> <p>Since the Local Government Act was passed in 1972, government has developed a broader definition of the term 'value', such as that outlined in the Social Value Act 2012. This Act allows for the consideration of social value alongside monetary value when considering public procurement. However, there is currently no similar legislation with regards to land/asset disposals. The Council will therefore work with the LGA to understand how the implementation of Section 123 could develop in line with this broader definition of value.</p>
<p>That the Council consults on its draft update of the CAT policy with Locality Groups.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Officers will approach Locality Groups at the appropriate time to offer an opportunity for feedback.</p>