

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: **Rail Strategy**

Lead Cabinet Member(s): **Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet member for Place, Environment, and Climate Action**

Date response requested:² **17 June 2025**

Response to report:

We welcome the input and comments received by Scrutiny and set out responses to the recommendations below.

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 integrate the Futures-led Foresight approach into the Rail Strategy modelling, to ensure it aligns with	Partially accepted	The rail strategy will have a vision-led approach. It will consider how rail can best support the Council's nine priorities through its themes of improving connectivity and enhancing infrastructure,

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

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the approach of the LTCP and to ensure and enable long-term strategic planning.		climate action, and rail as placeshaper. Rail demand and economic assessment undertaken for the strategy will be at a strategic level, and the strategy will outline if more detailed modelling and assessments may be needed to support particular interventions and projects that are expected to be identified in the work.
2. That the Council should support private-public finance upskilling and apply lessons from the funding of the Elizabeth Line.	Accepted	The Council's rail strategy will include input from its Head of Future Economy and from its appointed specialist rail consultants on innovative methods of securing funding and investment, including from the private sector and informed by experience elsewhere including the Elizabeth Line - to support improvements to the County's rail infrastructure and services. Additionally, the strategy will consider potential future opportunities for the Council to take a greater role in sponsoring rail infrastructure and service development.