

## 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:** School Catering Services and Corporate Cleaning Contract

**Lead Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Dan Levy, Cabinet member for Finance, Property, and Transformation

**Date response requested:<sup>2</sup>** 16 September 2025

### Response to report:

*Enter optional 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 outline the specific measures it has taken to ensure that rural schools are protected and that all schools will receive high quality catering services.	Accepted	The Council will be sourcing providers with our values and a proven track record of supporting diverse school communities and has included requirements for contingency planning to ensure continuity of service. These measures align with sector best practice, <u>which recommends clustering schools for procurement to increase purchasing power and ensure that smaller</u>

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

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		<u>schools are not left behind when local authority provision changes.</u> Support and a monitoring program regarding progress will be provided through the school forum.
2. That the Council should set out the specific steps it will take to ensure that the rights and interests of existing staff members will be protected, and that trade unions will be consulted and engaged throughout the process.	Accepted	The Council will protect staff rights by ensuring all affected employees transfer under TUPE regulations, maintaining their pay and conditions. Trade unions will be consulted from the outset and throughout the process, with regular meetings to address concerns and ensure staff voices are heard. These commitments will be built into provider contracts and monitored by the Council.