

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: Verge and Vegetation Management

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Andrew Gant, Cabinet member for Transport Management

Date response requested:² 18 November 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 increase communications, consultation, and engagement about the benefits for biodiversity of verge and vegetation management to ensure that members and	Accepted	This is something that we will continue to work with our Ecology Colleagues to promote the biodiversity plan and raise awareness through web and other communication channels such as OALC sessions.

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

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residents, as well as parish and town councils, understand the rationale.		
2. That the Council should commit to progressing the digitisation of an online platform setting out the status of verges and vegetation across the county.	Accepted	Digitisation of this data is required and there are a range of benefits of doing this. The process for achieving this is not quick and there will be costs involved for both the surveying and purchase and operation of the asset record system. It is anticipated that this a 12month programme.
3. That the Council should explore the possibility of increasing the number of places where 'cut and pile' is undertaken	Partially accepted	The policy acknowledges that this would be incremental and needs to reflect budget position. Consideration for required budgetary increase will be undertaken through the annual budget setting process.
4. That the Council should undertake a review of the amount paid to parish and town councils to assess whether it would be appropriate to increase the amount	Accepted	A review will be undertaken including reflection of expectations due to the new policy. If this exceeds the budget allocation, then any increase will require budget approval through the annual budget setting process.
5. That the Council should commit to the possibility of a second cut when weather conditions have resulted in unexpectedly high growth.	Partially Accepted	Additional cuts are, and will continue to be, carried out but only when there is a safety or accessibility need, such as at junctions and visibility splays. A second cut beyond this is not considered a priority and would not be in line with the existing policy. It would require additional budget which would need approval through the annual budget setting process. Nothing has been included for year 2026/27 as this will also require a policy change.