

## 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:** **Minerals and Waste Planning**

**Lead Cabinet Member(s):** **Cllr Laura Gordon, Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment**

**Date response requested:<sup>2</sup>** **19 June 2026**

### Response to recommendations:

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Accepted, rejected or partially accepted</b>	<b>Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)</b>
1. That the Council should develop and implement proportionate and meaningful KPIs for Minerals and Waste monitoring and enforcement activity, recognising case complexity, and report back on the	Accepted	It is agreed that proposed indicators and reporting arrangements will be developed for Minerals and Waste monitoring and enforcement activity as part of the council's business and budget management arrangements. In developing these measures, officers will ensure that they are proportionate, meaningful and recognise the complexity of minerals and waste cases, including

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

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<p>proposed measures and reporting arrangements.</p>		<p>long operational lifespans, specialist monitoring requirements and the need for appropriate case-by-case regulatory judgement. The indicators will be framed to complement, rather than duplicate, existing national planning performance monitoring for county matters.</p>
<p>2. That the Council should ensure that its ongoing organisational reorganisation and workforce planning explicitly assess whether Minerals and Waste planning functions are adequately resourced, including succession planning for specialist roles, to meet statutory duties and the 30-month plan-making timetable.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Minerals and Waste functions will be fully considered through organisational restructuring, workforce planning and Local Government Reorganisation to ensure the continued delivery of statutory functions. Resource requirements for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan over the 30-month plan-making period have been assessed and are being built into service reorganisation and workforce planning, including specialist capacity, resilience and succession planning. Proposed new posts required to support delivery have been approved for recruitment ahead of the formal completion of the wider reorganisation, with implementation activity underway to support Gateway 1 and the subsequent statutory plan-making timetable. Once the future authority arrangements are confirmed, a further review of Minerals and Waste responsibilities, staffing, specialist skills and succession planning will be undertaken to ensure sufficient capacity and resilience in any future unitary council structure and/or Mayoral Authority.</p>
<p>3. That the Council should strengthen and standardise liaison arrangements for major Minerals and Waste sites, including where appropriate through planning obligations, and improve officer support and briefings for councillors who chair or attend liaison groups.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>Officer support and briefings will be strengthened for councillors involved in Minerals and Waste site liaison arrangements, particularly where a new councillor is taking on a chairing or representative role, and briefings will be offered before councillors chair their first such meeting or when otherwise requested. Officers will continue to work with the Portfolio Holder and provide regular updates on Minerals and Waste planning matters, including issues arising from major sites where appropriate. Liaison meeting arrangements are, however, primarily a matter for the Planning and Regulation Committee or delegated</p>

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		<p>decision-maker when determining individual planning applications. The Council cannot require a site operator to enter into, or attend, liaison arrangements unless this is secured through an appropriate planning condition or a planning obligation under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Any planning condition must meet the relevant national policy tests, and any planning obligation must be necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind. The proposed action is therefore to strengthen briefing and support arrangements while retaining lawful case-by-case decision-making for any condition or planning obligation.</p>
<p>4. That the Council should reinstate regular reporting of formal Minerals and Waste enforcement activity and outcomes to the Planning and Regulation Committee, to support effective oversight of this non-executive function.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member will liaise with the Chair of the Planning and Regulation Committee on the reinstatement of regular reporting of formal Minerals and Waste enforcement activity and outcomes. Officers intend that the next such report will be provided to the Planning and Regulation Committee meeting on 7 September 2026. Reporting arrangements will be framed to support appropriate oversight of this non-executive function without drawing the Committee into operational enforcement management, noting that significant or sensitive matters can also be escalated through existing management, legal and member briefing routes where appropriate.</p>
<p>5. That the Council should review and update its online information on Minerals and Waste planning responsibilities, policies and enforcement arrangements, to improve accessibility and clarity for members and the public.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Officers will review the relevant website information and guidance to ensure that Minerals and Waste planning responsibilities, policy documents, planning application processes and enforcement information are clear and accessible for members, applicants, operators and the public. This information is already reviewed regularly, including at least annually as part of the Council's website management arrangements, and is considered up to date. A further review will be carried out, staff resources permitting, by 30 September 2026. This work will also be aligned</p>

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		<p>with the wider Minerals and Waste Local Plan programme, including digital plan-making, consultation, engagement and presentation of information, with further updates made as the Local Plan programme develops. It should be noted that whole scale revisions to the planning web pages will not be timely given pending Local Government Reform deadlines which will require new website or websites to be developed in full.</p>
<p>6. That the Council should consider commissioning an independent review of Minerals and Waste planning processes, including a sample review of enforcement practice, the use of extensions and section 73 applications, and the adequacy of resources to discharge the Council's statutory responsibilities.</p>	<p>Rejected</p>	<p>No further action proposed. Current planning practices within Oxfordshire County Council are considered to be functioning well and the County Planning Authority continues to meet national planning performance expectations. The service also undertakes high-quality specialist planning work for neighbouring authorities and partners, reflecting the strength of its professional expertise. An externally commissioned review is therefore not considered necessary or proportionate at this time. In addition, Local Government Reorganisation will inevitably require a wider review of planning governance, operating models, resourcing, delegations and committee arrangements across Oxfordshire. It would therefore not be timely to commission a separate external review of the County Planning function immediately ahead of that wider structural review. Any process improvements identified through Local Government Reorganisation, the Minerals and Waste Local Plan programme, or normal service management will be taken forward through existing governance and management arrangements.</p>