

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 Asset Transfer Policy**

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

Date response requested:² **21 April 2026**

Response to report:

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

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Response to recommendations

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
1. That the Cabinet amends the CAT policy to make explicit reference to the sale of land	Partially accepted	The policy as already makes explicit reference to the sale of land, defining in section 1.0 CAT as “transferring the ownership of <u>land</u> or buildings”. However, on the internet page where CAT / Community Leases are linked, we will give a further brief explanation which defines each term, which will make another explicit reference to this.
2. That the Cabinet provides in the CAT policy fuller explanation of the approach taken in relation to transfers of dilapidated buildings	Partially accepted	The condition of the building that we transfer via a CAT will be considered as part of the terms of the transfer / sale. Our approach to the state of the building would be dependent on the terms of the sale. With a Community Lease, this would be different as we would only lease out assets if they were in a fit state.
3. That the Cabinet provides within the policy greater detail of the legal framework and process surrounding the transfer of ownership	Rejected	The CAT Policy already references the legal framework that enables us to proceed with a CAT (found in Section 1.1 “The National Policy Context”), referencing The Local Government Act 1973 and General Disposal Consent (England) 2003. Our internal process for a CAT is set out in Section 3.0 “The Application Process”. We believe that these sections already provide sufficient detail.

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4. That the Cabinet reviews the operation of the Community Asset Transfer and Community Leasing Working Group with a view to increasing the resourcing to support it, broadening the membership to include Finance, Legal and Public Health colleagues, and making the regularity of its meetings more flexible.	Accepted	We have added in Public Health to the Terms of Reference as a member of the Community Asset Transfer and Community Leasing Working Group. This member will be an appropriate officer as nominated by the Director of Public Health. Finance and Legal colleagues will naturally already be involved in the process of carrying out a CAT or Community Lease.
5. That the Cabinet ensures the property team works with relevant other Council departments to develop common definitions of ‘social value’ across teams	Accepted	We will contribute to any Council work around developing a common definition of ‘social value’, and will feed back any lessons we learn from the CAT / Community Leasing process.
6. That the Cabinet provides clarification over its social value priorities, to enable proactive place-shaping with regards to land and assets	Accepted	We will incorporate any clarification we are given regarding social value priorities and update our assessment criteria to reflect them accordingly.
7. That the Cabinet ensures the property team are aware of and, as far as possible, in alignment with approaches taken by Oxfordshire’s district and city councils with a view to avoiding creating inconsistencies following the upcoming unitarisation(s) under Local Government Reorganisation	Partially Accepted	The Community Asset Transfer and Community Leasing Working Group will be informed of the district and city approaches, although the approach taken will differ at times in reflection of OCC’s differing property and asset portfolio.
8. That the Cabinet ensures that there is a consistency of approach towards leases and transfers granted under the proposed	Accepted	The CAT and Community Leases are designed to create a consistent approach to all community tenants. We have written the current “rent holiday” tenants to work with them over the next year,

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policy and existing leases when they come up for renewal		and we will continue the same, equal approach to all leases when they come up for renewal.
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