**Appendix A**

**Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee**

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 02 August 2022 concerning the Asset Management Strategy 2021-2031. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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| ***Recommendation*** | ***Agree?*** | ***Comment*** |
| 1. That the Council ensures that, when the next iteration of the strategy is consulted on, it is sent directly to parish councils and community associations for their input – in a more user friendly format. | Y | We will endeavour to make more ‘user friendly’ but this is by necessity a wide ranging strategy which is somewhat unwieldy. We will also encourage elected members to share the strategy with stakeholders who might be interested. |
| 1. That the Council explores opportunities to draw out and consider issues relating to the environment and biodiversity within the strategy, to ensure they are given equal weight to economic issues. | In part | We have amended the wording on biodiversity to be clear we strive for biodiversity gain. Given much of the focus of the strategy is on the Council’s commercial property portfolio, achieving a strict balance between the three elements identified by the committee is not feasible. However, decision process will of course consider social, environmental and economic impacts of decisions. |
| 1. That the Council addresses and emphasises the topic of ‘climate resilience’ within the strategy. | Y | We have amended the wording to emphasise. |
| 1. That the Council explores ethical investments as part of its asset portfolio. | Y | The council already has an ethical investment policy in the Treasury Management Strategy. A reference has been added in this plan. |
| 1. That the Council formally reports on the degree to which Council income is reduced as a result of its policy of selecting tenants of district retail parade units for social reasons (e.g. community health), rather than necessarily selecting the first or highest offer. | Partial | Estate shops are currently let on the open market. We can report on bids and any judgements where the highest bid may not be taken; from past experience, the differences between bids are quite small given the nature of these assets. A range of reasons might be taken, including the financial standing of the proposed occupant, as well as achieving a good range of uses to the benefit of local communities. |
| 1. That the Council reports on the quantitative outcome where the strategy states numerical goals, rather than simply stating whether the goal was met or not. | Y | We have added specific quantitative outcomes to the document. |