

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.
2) 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.
3) That the Council addresses and emphasises the topic of ‘climate resilience’ within the strategy.	Y	We have amended the wording to emphasise.
4) 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.
5) 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.
6) 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.