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 2 December 2024 concerning the Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023-24. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
 That Cabinet ensures that comprehensive data on unmet student accommodation demand from universities, alongside details of sites identified or proposed by these institutions to address their accommodation requirements, are included in future reporting of the Authority Monitoring report. 	No	We already publish the numbers of students at both universities that are living outside of university-provided accommodation.
		This is to ensure that Policy H9 of our current Local Plan, which seeks to restrict the number of students that each university is permitted to have living outside of university provided accommodation is adhered to.
		Although we ask the universities, as part of the evidence base work for the Local Plan, about their intentions for land use on their sites, we do not actively monitor their accommodation requirements through the AMR.
2) That Council works with University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University to ensure that their land holdings, including those located at or near city boundaries, are used effectively to meet unmet accommodation demands; and that Council encourages universities to share their plans for leveraging these land assets for this purpose.	Yes	We continuously engage with both universities to encourage them to share their plans and to house as many students as possible on their own land holdings.
		The only lever we have is Policy H9 which specifies that if a university exceeds the threshold numbers for students living outside of university-provided accommodation, we will withhold planning permission for any new/redeveloped or refurbished academic, research or administrative accommodation

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