

Issued: Tuesday 27 August 2024  
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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday 4 September 2024 at 5.30pm.**



Giles Hughes  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillors: Andrew Beaney (Chairman), Joy Aitman (Vice-Chair), Thomas Ashby, Adam Clements, Julian Cooper, Steve Cosier, Rachel Crouch, Genny Early, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon, Paul Marsh, Stuart McCarroll, Michele Mead, Elizabeth Poskitt, Carl Rylett, Sandra Simpson, Ruth Smith, Alistair Wray, Liam Walker, Mark Walker and Alex Wilson.

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Executive, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted. By participating in this meeting, you are consenting to be filmed.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Democratic Services officers know prior to the start of the meeting.

# AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence and temporary appointments.  
The quorum for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is 6 members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations from Members of the Committee on any items to be considered at the meeting.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 12)**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held Wednesday 17 July 2024.

4. **Announcements from the Chair**

To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. **Participation of the Public**

To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure, anyone who lives in the district or who pays council tax or business rates to the Council is eligible to read a statement or express an opinion at this meeting. You can register to speak by sending your written submission of no more than 750 words to [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk) by no later than 10.00am on the working day before the meeting.

6. **Development Management Improvement Programme – Progress Update (Pages 13 - 24)**

Purpose:

To report progress with the implementation of the Development Management Improvement Plan (DMIP) and outline areas of current/future improvement.

Recommendation:

That the Committee Resolves to:

1. Note the existing/proposed improvements to the Development Management process, alongside the direction of travel for future improvements post repatriation of the Planning Service to WODC.

Invited:

Councillor Hugo Ashton, Executive Member for Planning  
Phil Shaw, Business Manager Development & Sustainability

7. **Responding to External Consultations (Pages 25 - 28)**

Purpose:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested detail on how West Oxfordshire District Council assesses which external consultations it responds to.

Recommendations:

That the Committee resolves to:

1. Note the content of the report;
2. Agree any recommendations it wishes to submit to the Executive.

Invited:

Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council  
Giles Hughes, Chief Executive Officer  
Astrid Harvey, Strategic Policy and Partnerships Officer

8. **Financial Performance Report 2024-25 Quarter One (Pages 29 - 46)**

Purpose:

To detail the Council's financial performance for Quarter One 2024-2025.

Recommendations:

That the Committee notes the report, and agrees any recommendations it wishes to make to the Executive on 11 September 2024.

The Executive is recommended to resolve to:

1. Note the Council's Financial Performance for Quarter One 2024-2025;
2. Recommend to Council that an additional £750,000 should be included in the revised Capital Budget for 2024/25 as set out in 2.25 in the report.

Invited:

Councillor Alaric Smith, Executive Member for Finance  
Madhu Richards, Director of Finance  
Georgina Dyer, Chief Accountant

9. **Service Performance Report 2024-25 Quarter One (Pages 47 - 106)**

Purpose:

To provide details of the Council's operational performance at the end of 2024-25 Quarter One (Q1).

Recommendations:

The Committee notes the report and agrees any recommendations it wishes to make to the Executive on 11 September 2024.

The Executive is recommended to resolve to:

1. Note the 2024/25 Q1 service performance report.

Invited:

Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council  
Giles Hughes, Chief Executive Officer  
Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst

10. **Proposed Reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the Planning System (Pages 107 - 144)**

Purpose:

To consider a number of proposed changes to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to agree West Oxfordshire District Council's response to those proposed changes.

Recommendation:

The Committee notes the report and agrees any recommendations it wishes to make to the Executive on 11 September 2024.

The Executive is recommended to resolve to:

1. Note the content of the report including the summary overview of the proposed changes to national planning policy;
2. Delegate responsibility to the Planning Policy Manager, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, to agree, finalise and submit the suggested draft consultation response attached at Annex A.

Invited:

Chris Hargraves, Planning Policy Manager  
Councillor Hugo Aston, Executive Member for Planning

**11. Report Back on Recommendations**

For the Committee to note the Executive's response to any recommendations arising from the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

There were no recommendations to the Executive arising from the previous Committee meeting.

**12. Executive Work Programme (Pages 145 - 154)**

Purpose:

To give the Committee the opportunity to comment on the Executive Work Programme.

Recommendation:

That the Committee agrees which items on the Executive Work Programme should be subject to pre-decision scrutiny and the priority order of those items.

**13. Committee Work Programme (Pages 155 - 158)**

Purpose:

To provide the Committee with an updated Work Programme for 2024/25.

Recommendation:

That the Committee notes and comments on the work programme.

(END)