

8 April 2025

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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 Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 16 April 2025 at 5.30 pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors: Andrew Beaney (Chair), Joy Aitman (Vice-Chair), Thomas Ashby, Mike Baggaley, Adam Clements, Julian Cooper, Steve Cosier, Genny Early, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Levertton, 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 and Temporary Appointments**
To receive any apologies for absence and temporary appointments.
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 - 14)**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2025.
4. **Report back on recommendations**
For the Committee to note the Cabinet's response to any recommendations arising from the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
5. **Chair's announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
6. **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 by no later than 10.00am on the working day before the meeting.
7. **The Nature Recovery Plan (Pages 15 - 24)**
Purpose
To update on the delivery of the Nature Recovery Plan

Recommendation
That Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to:
 - I. Note and report and agrees any recommendations it wishes to submit to the Executive
8. **Community Safety Partnership (Pages 25 - 40)**
Purpose
To note the activities of the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership during 2024/2025 and the latest insights around crime and the fear of crime in West Oxfordshire and the county as a whole.

Recommendation
That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to:
 - I. Note the report

9. **Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Function (Pages 41 - 68)**

Purpose

To present the findings of a self-assessment survey carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of the transition from a structure of three overview and scrutiny committees to a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to:

1. Note the report and consider any additional improvements not mentioned in the report.

10. **Committee Work Programme (Pages 69 - 86)**

Purpose:

To formulate a provisional work programme for 2025/26, having regard to the TOPIC criteria and the suggestions put forward by officers and members.

Recommendation:

That the Committee resolves to:

1. Agree the provisional work programme for 2025/26.
2. Agree the inclusion of any additional suggestions into the work programme.
3. Note the suggested Task and Finish reviews for 2025/26.
4. Note the provisional programme of member briefings and suggest any further briefing topics.

11. **Executive Work Programme (Pages 87 - 98)**

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.

(END)