

Tuesday, 27 January 2026

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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 Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 4 February 2026 at 5.30 pm.**



Giles Hughes  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors: Andrew Beaney (Chair), Genny Early (Vice-Chair), Adam Clements, Steve Cosier, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Paul Marsh, Stuart McCarroll, Michele Mead, Ruth Smith, Mark Walker, Alex Wilson and Alistair Wray

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. The quorum for the Committee is four 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 - 10)**  
To approve the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 7 January 2026.
4. **Chair's announcements**  
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 [Public Participation Rules](#).

The deadline for submissions is 2.00pm, two clear working days before the meeting.

6. **Budget 2026/27 & medium term financial strategy (Pages 11 - 118)**  
Purpose  
This report provides an update on the developing budget for 2026/27 following the provisional government funding settlement announcement on 17 December 2025.

To consider:

- 1) The Draft Base Budget for 2026/27
- 2) The Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- 3) The Draft Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31
- 4) The Capital Strategy 2026/27
- 5) The Investment Strategy 2026/27
- 6) The Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27

#### Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to:

- I. Note the report and agree any recommendations it wishes to submit to the Executive.

7. **West Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Plan (Pages 119 - 134)**  
Purpose  
To provide a progress update on the delivery of the Council's Nature Recovery Plan (2024 – 2030) and an outline of the requirement to publish a report on the implementation of the Council's statutory biodiversity duty for the reporting period 12th February 2024 to 1st January 2026.

Recommendation

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to:

1. Note the progress made in delivering the Nature Recovery Plan (2024 – 2030);  
and
2. Note the requirement to publish a report on the Council's implementation of the statutory biodiversity duty within 12 weeks of the end of the reporting period (26th March 2026).

8. **Supporting mental health initiatives (Pages 135 - 142)**

Purpose

To update on activities undertaken by the Council to promote good mental health.

Recommendation

That the Scrutiny committee resolves to:

1. Note the report.

9. **Report back on recommendations (Pages 143 - 144)**

For the Committee to note the letter sent in response which was sent to the Oxfordshire County Council Consultation on proposals in regard to Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service.

10. **Updates from Task and Finish Groups**

For the Chairs of Task and Finish Groups to provide any verbal or written progress updates.

11. **Committee Work Programme (Pages 145 - 150)**

Purpose:

For the Committee to review and note its work programme.

Recommendation:

That the Committee notes and comments on the work programme.

12. **Executive Work Programme (Pages 151 - 162)**

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)