

Tuesday, 24 February 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 March 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 - 12)**
To approve the minutes of the Committee meeting held 4 February 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. **Report back on recommendations (Pages 13 - 14)**
To note the Executive's response to the Committee's recommendations on Mental Health Initiatives and Nature Recovery.
7. **National Planning Policy Framework: Proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system (Pages 15 - 34)**
Purpose
To consider the Council's response to the Government's consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other aspects of the planning system.

Recommendation
That the Executive resolves to:
 - I. Note the content of the report and agree that the suggested draft consultation response attached at Annex A is submitted to Government.
Annex A- to follow
8. **2025/26 Quarterly Finance Review Q3 (Pages 35 - 52)**
Report to follow.
9. **2025/26 Quarterly Service Review Q4 (Pages 53 - 118)**
Purpose
To provide details of the Council's operational performance at the end of 2025-26 Quarter Three (Q3).

Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to:

1. Note the report and agree any recommendations to the Executive.

10. **Approach to commissioning 3 year SLA 2027 onwards (Pages 119 - 128)**

Purpose

To outline the principles, application process and timeline for the commissioning of three-year Service Level Agreements for Community Grants covering the period 2027-2030.

Recommendation

That the Committee resolves to:

1. Note the report and agree any recommendations to the Executive.

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

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

12. **Committee Work Programme (Pages 129 - 142)**

Purpose:

For the Committee to review and note its work programme.

Recommendation:

That the Committee

1. Notes the work plan for 2025-26
2. Recommends the 2026-27 work plan to the incoming committee

13. **Executive Work Programme (Pages 143 - 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.

(END)