



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
1 JUNE 2026 – 31 MAY 2027

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Council currently operates the Strong Leader and Executive form of governance. The Council has appointed one Overview and Scrutiny Committee which has the power to investigate Executive decisions and any other matters relevant to the district and its people, making recommendations to the Council, Executive or any other Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council.

Overview and Scrutiny Activities

The Committee may undertake its functions through the following types of activities:

- Holding the Executive to account as a critical friend
- Pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions before they are taken
- Considering any “call-in” of an Executive decision that has been made but not yet implemented
- Contributing to policy development
- Undertaking task and finish reviews to explore particular issues in depth
- Scrutiny of the Council’s annual budget proposals
- Performance review and monitoring
- Being a convener and engaging with external organisations
- Scrutiny of the Council’s crime and disorder functions

Work Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates a work plan which is agreed annually but provides for flexibility to enable the Committee to respond to emerging issues or priorities. The work plan will include a mix of Executive reports that have been selected for pre-decision scrutiny, and reports on other Council services, topics or issues which have been specifically requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In setting and reviewing its work plan, the Committee will be mindful of the constraints of the organisation and may prioritise based on the following considerations (TOPIC criteria):

Timeliness: Is it timely to consider this issue?

Organisational priority: Is it a Council priority?

Public Interest: Is it of significant public interest?

Influence: Can Scrutiny have meaningful influence?

Cost: Does it involve a high level of expenditure, income or savings?

Principles of good scrutiny

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has developed four principles of good scrutiny which are reflected in statutory guidance:

- Provide constructive “critical friend” challenge
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public
- Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
- Drive improvement in public services

Proposed working groups

Title	Purpose	Membership	Status	Target completion date
Mental Health	Tbd- Scope and purpose to be confirmed at first meeting of the working group	Tbd – Annual Council		

Item	Executive Member	Lead Officer	Report commissioned by
3 June 2026			
New crowdfunding platform programme	Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities - Cllr Rachel Crouch	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
Procurement and Contract Management Strategy	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Ciaran Okane, Senior Business Partner – Procurement Ciaran.Okane@publicagroup.uk	Executive
Approval of Regulation 19 Draft Submission Local Plan for Public Consultation	Executive Member for Planning - Cllr Hugo Ashton	Andrew Thomson, Planning Policy Manager Andrew.Thomson@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive Council
Investment Property Portfolio Annual Report 2025/26	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Madhu Richards, Director of Finance, Madhu.Richards@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8 July 2026			
Leisure Update	Executive Member for Leisure and Carterton Area Strategy - Tim Sumner	Rachel Biles, Leisure Strategy Manager rachel.biles@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 September 2026			
2026/27 Quarterly Finance Review Q1	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
2026/27 Quarterly Service Review Q1	Leader of the Council - Cllr Andy Graham	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk	Executive
Youth Development Work	Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities - Cllr Rachel Crouch	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
14 October 2026			
Local Government Reorganisation Update	Leader of the Council - Cllr Andy Graham	Phil Martin, Director of Place phil.martin@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4 November 2026			
Community Grants - determination of 3 year SLA final awards	Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities - Cllr Rachel Crouch	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
2 December 2026			
2026/27 Quarterly Finance Review Q2	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive

2026/27 Quarterly Service Review Q2	Leader of the Council - Cllr Andy Graham	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk	Executive
Local Plan Annual Monitoring 2025/26	Executive Member for Planning - Cllr Hugo Ashton	Andrew Thomson, Planning Policy Manager Andrew.Thomson@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
6 January 2027			
Council Tax Support 2027/28	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Mandy Fathers, Business Manager - Environmental, Welfare & Revenue Service mandy.fathers@publicagroup.uk	Executive Council
Draft Budget 2027/28 Version 2	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
3 February 2027			
Nature Recovery Plan Progress Update	Executive Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery - Cllr Andrew Prosser	Melanie Dodd, Senior Biodiversity Officer melanie.dodd@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Budget 2027/28 and Medium Term Financial Strategy	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive Council

3 March 2027

2026/27 Quarterly Service Review Q3	Leader of the Council - Cllr Andy Graham	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk	Executive
2026/27 Quarterly Finance Review Q3	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
Community Safety Partnership Annual Update	Councillor Rachel Crouch, Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 April 2027**To be Scheduled**

Private Estate Management in New Developments	Executive Member for Planning - Cllr Hugo Ashton	Chris Hargraves, Head of Planning chris.hargraves@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Waste Collection Quality Management	Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for Environment.	Si Pocock-Cluley, Environmental Services and Waste Transformation Lead si.pocock-cluley@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee