



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
1 JUNE 2026 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

**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

**Current and planned working groups**

Title	Purpose	Membership	Status	Target completion date
Mental Health Working Group	Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.
Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.
Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.	Tbd.

Item	Executive Member	Lead Officer	Report commissioned by
<b>3 June 2026</b>			
New crowdfunding platform programme	Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities - Cllr Sandra Coleman	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
2025/26 Quarterly Finance Review Q4	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
2025/26 Quarterly Service Review Q4	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Gemma Moreing, Business Information and Performance Lead gemma.moreing@publicagroup.uk	Executive
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
<b>8 July 2026</b>			
Leisure Update	Executive Member for Arts,	Rachel Biles, Leisure Strategy	Overview and Scrutiny

	Culture and Sports - Cllr Tim Sumner	Manager rachel.biles@westoxon.gov.uk	Committee
Approval of Regulation 19 Draft Submission Local Plan for Public Consultation	Executive Member for Planning and Infrastructure - Cllr Liz Leffman	Andrew Thomson, Planning Policy Manager Andrew.Thomson@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive Council
<b>2 September 2026</b>			
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	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Gemma Moreing, Business Information and Performance Lead gemma.moreing@publicagroup.uk	Executive
Youth Development Work	Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities - Cllr Sandra Coleman	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Woodford Way Update	Councillor Geoff Saul, Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety	Phil Martin, Director of Place phil.martin@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
<b>14 October 2026</b>			

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
<b>4 November 2026</b>			
Community Grants - determination of 3 year SLA final awards	Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities - Cllr Sandra Coleman	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
<b>2 December 2026</b>			
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	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Gemma Moreing, Business Information and Performance Lead gemma.moreing@publicagroup.uk	Executive
Local Plan Annual Monitoring 2025/26	Executive Member for Planning and Infrastructure - Cllr Liz Leffman	Andrew Thomson, Planning Policy Manager Andrew.Thomson@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
<b>6 January 2027</b>			
Council Tax Support 2027/28	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Mandy Fathers, Business Manager - Environmental, Welfare &	Executive

		Revenue Service mandy.fathers@publicagroup.uk	Council
<b>3 February 2027</b>			
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
<b>3 March 2027</b>			
2026/27 Quarterly Service Review Q3	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Gemma Moreing, Business Information and Performance Lead gemma.moreing@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; Mental Health Champion	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 and Infrastructure - Cllr Liz Leffman	Chris Hargraves, Head of Planning chris.hargraves@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Recycling	Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for Environment.	Si Pocock-Cluley, Environmental Services and Waste Transformation Lead si.pocock-cluley@westoxon.gov.u	Overview and Scrutiny Committee