

Minute supplement:

Responses from officers to questions raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 June 2026 on the Quarterly Service Performance Report 2025/26 Quarter 4.

1. Fly tipping - Why is the enforcement rate low for Q4?

In Q4, 2 FPNs were issued, one of which was supported by CCTV evidence. While the number of FPNs is relatively low, this reflects a broader shift towards prevention, intelligence-led enforcement and partnership working rather than a reduction in activity.

Targeted camera surveillance in hotspot areas such as Eynsham has delivered significant impact, contributing to a 96% reduction in fly-tipping in that location, with further cases progressing from CCTV evidence. Additional surveillance operations are ongoing across key locations, supported by increased signage and planned expansion.

The team has continued proactive multi-agency work, including planning further joint stop-and-search operations with Thames Valley Police, HMRC, Cherwell and the Environment Agency to tackle illegal waste carriers along main highways. Work is also underway with Police and OCC to address traveller-related waste issues and identify preventative approaches.

Enforcement activity remains strong across a range of offences, including formal warnings for duty of care breaches, FPNs issued for abandoned vehicles, littering and Duty of Care offences, and progression of more serious cases through interview under caution (IUC). This includes cases relating to waste offences and scrap metal dealing.

In parallel, officers are maintaining a visible presence in communities, delivering parish-level environmental crime presentations, working closely with housing associations and landowners to address nuisance waste, and collaborating with Thames Water to reduce incidents at key infrastructure sites.

Preparatory work continues for further enforcement tools, including a dog fouling PSPO, alongside ongoing monitoring of suspected illegal waste sites.

An additional officer joining the team will further strengthen capacity and support increased enforcement outcomes moving forward.

2. Fly tipping – What work is being done with Oxfordshire County Council to manage issues?

The work being done with OCC is closer communication between officers on dealing with traveller sites across the district. This includes both registered and unauthorised sites. Types of collaboration are assisting OCC with ongoing fly tipping issues at a registered traveller site and joint visits to illegal encampments that appear in the district where waste accumulates in significant amounts. The latter often includes linking in with TVP.

In addition the service is providing information to OCC during joint agency enforcement meetings, about issues with the new booking system at Dix Pitt. Potential links with cases of fly tipping are being examined, however to date the data doesn't clearly show a defined or significant increase in comparison to previous years.

3. Fly tipping – Has fly tipping increased or has reporting become more accurate?

The volume of fly tipping reports fluctuates during the year, normally in the winter months there is an increase in reports compared to spring months where there the number of reports reduce. A reduction in reports may result in less evidence of fly-tipping perpetrators, which directly impacts on the formal action that can be taken.

Recently it has been noticed less of the reported fly tips contain actionable evidence. More duplicate reporting of fly tipping has occurred since issues like Kidlington came into the news. The Alloy software system should resolve this issue with a change in reporting systems. The testing phase of the fly tipping reporting side process has identified there will be a positive effect on reporting and data quality.

4. Leisure visits - Could GLL be asked to look at data capture and whether all leisure centre visits are being recorded?

We are currently working with GLL to transition data collection from a spreadsheet based system onto a new PowerBi platform. Ultimately this will enable greater detail to be found when reviewing data and provide more insights for the management of the leisure service. Whilst this platform is being built we have a limited capacity to 'drill down' into data at a site by site level – although we can, and will, still receive total usage figures that can be reported and monitored. We are hoping to have the detailed data available soon – and will then recommence reporting on site by site usage details.

5. What lessons could be learnt from the successful Nature Recovery Growth bid?

There is a members' briefing on the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) on 4 June from 5:30pm.

Oxfordshire County Council are the Responsible Authority for the LNRS, and they have been given funding by Defra for this year to focus on the transition to delivery. Work is ongoing with this, but progress has been made on identifying strategic projects that could be supported by OCC and the funding they've received, plus TVERC are offering LNRS reports as part of their data services to various groups, including communities, and the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment have recently launched a new Species Recovery Fund to support LNRS species. WODC agreed funding for nature recovery as part of the budget for 2026-27, so me and my team are actively engaged in managing projects to implement the Council's Nature Recovery Plan and use this new funding towards key actions, including enhancing council-owned land, organising events and providing advice and support to schools and town/parish councils/meetings.

The ecology team are reviewing the Council's Nature Recovery Plan 2024-2030 to update and amend according to recent developments, including the publication of the LNRS and to improve the key performance indicators for monitoring success.