



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 1 SEPTEMBER 2026 – 31 DECEMBER 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	Tbd	Tbd		tbd
Management companies	Tbd	Tbd		tbd
Neighbourhood Governance	Tbd	Tbd		tbd

Item	Executive Member	Lead Officer	Report commissioned by
8 July 2026			
2 September 2026			
Leisure Update	Executive Member for Arts, Culture and Sports - Cllr Tim Sumner	Rachel Biles, Leisure Strategy Manager rachel.biles@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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
14 October 2026			
Woodford Way	Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety - Cllr Geoff Saul	Phil Martin, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service phil.martin@westoxon.gov.uk	Executive
4 November 2026			
Local Government Reorganisation Update	Leader of the Council - Cllr Andy Graham	Phil Martin, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service phil.martin@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Community Grants - determination of 3 year SLA	Executive Member for Stronger,	Heather McCulloch, Community	Executive

final awards	Healthy Communities - Cllr Sandra Coleman	Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	
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
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	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
6 January 2027			
Council Tax Support 2027/28	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Mandy Fathers, Head of Environmental Protection, Revenues and Benefits mandy.fathers@publicagroup.uk	Executive Council
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

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Recycling	Executive Member for Environment - Cllr Alistair Wray	Si Pocock-Cluley, Environmental Services and Waste Transformation Lead si.pocock-cluley@westoxon.gov.u	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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	Executive Member for Finance - Cllr Alaric Smith	Gemma Moreing, Business Information and Performance Lead gemma.moreing@publicagroup.u	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	Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety - Cllr Geoff Saul	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 April 2027

To be Scheduled