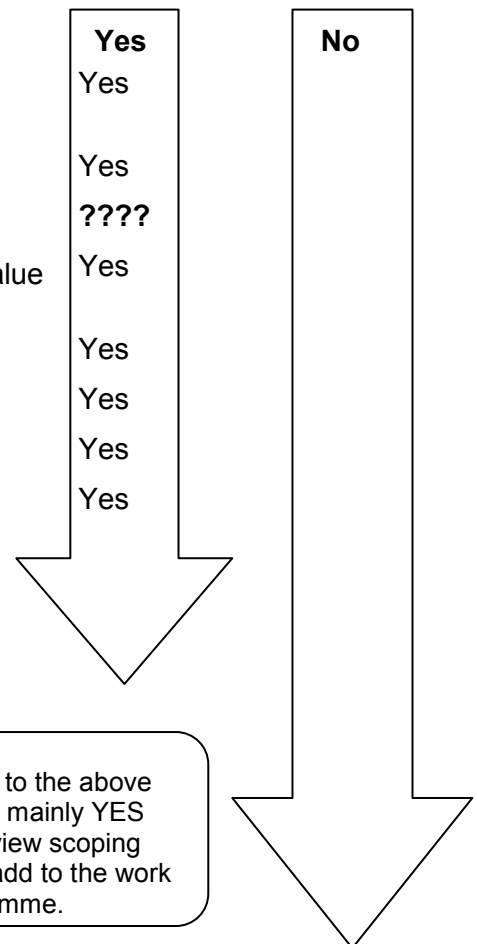


**Deciding when to scrutinise  
 - prioritisation checklist**

- Does the issue have a potential impact for the population of Cherwell?
- Is it an issue of community concern?
- Does the issue match the strategic aims of the council?
- Will the scrutiny activity improve the overall performance and value for money provided by the council?
- Is it likely to get results?
- Is it an issue of concern to partners and stakeholders?
- Are there adequate resources to do the scrutiny?
- Is the activity timely?



If the answers to the above questions are mainly NO refer the issue back. No further action required.

**Deciding when to scrutinise  
 - scoping the review**

<p><b>Topic</b> Name of Scrutiny Review</p>	<p>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</p>
<p><b>Rationale</b> Key issues &amp;/ or reason for scrutiny of topic – explain how scrutiny will add value to the decision-making or policy development process</p>	<p>Cherwell District Council (CDC) does not currently have in operation a robust policy for the development of wind farms (especially in regards to proximity to residential areas) within the district. Currently CDC is already paying the price in terms of planning appeal costs for current applications and there is an indication that more will follow in the next few years. This is all wrapped in the uncertain times of an emerging local plan and elongated waiting for NPP guidance and the updated renewable energy policy and subsidies from the Secretary of State's office.</p>
<p><b>Purpose of Review</b> Specify clearly what the Scrutiny Review should achieve and refer where possible to VFM issues of service cost, service performance and/or customer satisfaction.</p>	<p>Agree to review the current CDC policy on wind turbines and especially their proximity to residential areas. To recommend a full review and for the creation of a stronger and more robust policy that carries "weight" for implementation into future planning policy and applications across the district.</p> <p>In both cases the VFM is simple to prevent more costly, expense and lengthy planning appeals / challenges to current/future planning applications within CDC.</p>
<p><b>Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) One-off item at Select Committee meeting</li> <li>(b) Task &amp; Finish Panel</li> <li>If (b)</li> <li>(c) which members and</li> <li>(d) how long will it take?</li> </ul>	<p>A - This would feel appropriate as the initial piece of work is a presentation of the current policy to the committee. Followed by a subsequent agreement that the current policy needs at least to be updated if not rewritten in full by officers.</p>
<p><b>Key dates</b> Identify key meeting dates and any deadlines for reports or decisions</p>	<p>Preferable for this piece of work to commence with an opening review at the next CDC O&amp;S committee meeting in August 2013.</p>
<p><b>Resources to support Scrutiny Review</b> Identify lead officers and an initial estimate of time and any other resource requirements</p>	<p>Copies of the existing CDC policy and recent legal decisions from Milton Keynes and South Northants in regards to wind turbine proximity. Copy or the emerging local plan and proposed advice (letter) being issues from the Secretary of State.</p>
<p><b>Witnesses/ Experts</b> Who would need to be interviewed or consulted? Would site visits or external meetings be needed?</p>	<p>Cllr James Macnamara as co-author of the original CDC policy. Officers representing planning policy and legal representation for expertise and guidance.</p>
<p><b>Completed by:</b></p>	<p>Cllr Jon O'Neill</p>
<p><b>Date:</b></p>	<p>8<sup>th</sup> July 2013</p>