

Draft Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2025-26

(Updated: 11 June 2025, to be considered by OSC 17 June 2025)

Items suggested for consideration in 2025-2026			
Subject	Content	Key Officers / Members	Committee view re adding to the work programme?
Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership Attendance by the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley	External Scrutiny - Annual recurring item To fulfil the Council's requirement regarding crime and disorder scrutiny to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions no less than once in every twelve-month period. All Members are invited to attend the meeting.	Ian Boll, Corporate Director Communities Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Councillor Rob Parkinson	Yes. Link in to follow-up on the Community Safety Plan update
Follow-up on recommendation relating to Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership Plan	At 11 March 2025 meeting of the Committee it was resolved - "(1) That the Committee recommends that the Executive, as a matter of urgency, ensure that the Cherwell Safer Community Partnership Plan be reviewed and updated and presented to this committee early in the next municipal year"	Ian Boll, Corporate Director Communities Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Councillor Rob Parkinson	Yes; tie-in with Community Safety Partnership presentation above



Safeguarding Annual Return	Holding the Executive to account - Annual recurring item	Nicola Riley, Assistant Director Wellbeing Portfolio Holder for healthy Communities, Councillor Rob Pattenden	Yes
Performance Monitoring	Performance Monitoring – Quarterly item To consider Council's performance against indicators each quarter, and make any comments or recommendations to Executive	Shona Ware, Assistant Director Customer Focus & Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader Portfolio Holder - Councillor Chris Brant, Corporate Services	Yes
Transformation Programme (may feed into Local Government Reorganisation and Budget Planning) Suggestion from Chief Executive	Holding the Executive to account. To consider regular updates on the transformation programme; initial 'Case for Change' scheduled for Executive in July 2025, OSC involvement during implementation phase	Stephen Hinds, Corporate Director Resources and Transformation & Shona Ware, Assistant Director Customer Focus Leader & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership, Councillor David Hingley	Yes. Suggested quarterly reports initially.
Service Levels Suggestion from Monitoring Officer	Holding the Executive to account Following on from 'Case for Change' decision, scrutinising possible impact on service levels	Various	Yes. May tie-in with quarterly updates on Transformation Programme, this aspect to be clarified.
Local Government Reform	Is there a role for OSC in the LGR discussion?	Stephen Hinds, Corporate Director Resources and Transformation	No, as subject to be considered by Full Council



Suggestion from Cllr Phil Chapman		Leader & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership, Councillor David Hingley	
Graven Hill Carry over from 2024-25 work programme	Holding the Executive to account / External Scrutiny Multiple items across the year; September 2025 - update on Phase 2 of the site, performance during last financial year and governance arrangements. October 2025 – review planning process for Phase 2 July 2026, then annually – review of previous year's performance and monitoring of Phase 2 implementation.	Stephen Hinds, Shareholder Representative Leader & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership, Councillor David Hingley	Yes
Action Plans stemming from Planning and Development To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">PAS ReviewMerton College PR9 Site AppealHousing Delivery Action Plan (as discussed at 3.6.25 Committee) Suggestion from Monitoring Officer	Holding the Executive to account Multiple items across the year; Scrutinising implementation of the various action plans	David Peckford, Assistant Director Planning & Development & Paul Seckington, Head of Development Management Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management, Councillor Jean Conway	Yes
Simpler Recycling Projects – Government legislation	Holding the Executive to account	Ed Potter, Assistant Director Environmental Services	Yes



Suggestion from Corporate Director – Communities	Understanding the implications of national changes to recycling announced by Government	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Ian Middleton	
Homelessness Waiting Lists and Rough Sleeping Suggestion from Cllr Lynne Parsons	To understand waiting lists and rough sleeping status Potential Spot-Light Review meeting?	Nicola Riley, Assistant Director Wellbeing Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities, Councillor Rob Pattenden	Yes [Wording to be clarified; no waiting list for homelessness; housing and temp accommodation? Need clarity from Cllr Parsons as Cllr who raised the subject]
Review of CDC Employee policies Suggestion from Cllr Zoe McLernon	Cllr McLernon feels there is a gap in the provision of maternity / paternity / IVF / adoption policy for current council employees and it's something that should be explored Cllr McLernon has also contacted Cllr Watkins as Chair of Personnel Committee.	Claire Cox, Assistant Director Human Resources Portfolio Holder - Councillor Chris Brant, Corporate Services	No; Personnel Committee undertaking a regular review of employee policies. Cllr McLernon advised to contact Assistant Director – Human Resources with initial queries
Flytipping Suggestion from Ian Boll following discussion with Cllr Amanda Watkins	Cllr Watkins has reported flytipping issues in Banbury specifically. Ian has suggested flytipping for the work programme	Ian Boll, Corporate Director Communities, and Ed Potter Assistant Director Environmental Services Portfolio Holder - TBC	Yes
Sale of Bodicote House	Holding the Executive to account Update on sale of Bodicote House	Stephen Hinds, Corporate Director Resources and Transformation & Mona Walsh, Assistant Director Property	No

Raised by Cllr Phil Chapman on behalf of others		Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property & Regeneration, Councillor Lesley McLean	
On the night suggestions			
Performance of S106 delivery Raised by Cllr Dr Isabel Creed	Many housing developments across the district, particularly in Banbury, are having houses built but then developers appear to not be completing additional infrastructure such as play parks.	David Peckford, Assistant Director – Planning and Development Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management, Councillor Jean Conway	Yes. Ian Boll suggested framing as Performance of S106 delivery, with Shiraz Sheikh advising scope of subject to be clarified due to the volume of S106 agreements in place.

Working Groups

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (joint with Personnel Committee) – decision not to continue as a working group. Officers previously involved in the group to discuss with relevant Portfolio Holder the most appropriate way to monitor and review future work.

Food Insecurity – decision not to continue as a working group. Officers previously involved in the group to discuss with relevant Portfolio Holder the most appropriate way to monitor and review future work.

Climate Action – Corporate Director Communities, Ian Boll, advised that there would be a role for the group when work begins on updating the Climate Strategy later this year, but nothing at the moment. Decision to continue the group later in the year.

General comments from Committee relating to working groups, should there be the need for a specific inquiry in relation to any of the areas previously covered by the working groups, they should be scheduled as a standard agenda item.