

This report is public	
Notice of Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	7 October 2025
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	N/A – Chair/Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	N/A – Chair/Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report of	Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, Shiraz Sheikh

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to notify the Executive of recommendations from the March 2025 meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and to request an Executive Response.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To note the reports and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 To agree that an Executive Response be prepared for each set of recommendations, for consideration and agreement, within two months of this notice.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC) have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, as detailed in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000. The Executive has a statutory duty to respond to recommendations made, detailed in section 9FE of the same Act.
- 2.2 OSC has four working group reports to submit to Executive. Three include a number of recommendations. There is a fourth recommendation to be considered, generated from a separate agenda item considered by OSC.
- 2.3 When Executive has received notice of recommendations (this report), the Executive has two months to respond.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary			
Finance	Signed off on the basis that there are no financial implications. Rachel Ainsworth, FBP (Resources), 22 August 2025			
Legal	Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC) have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, as detailed in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000. The Executive has a statutory duty to respond to recommendations made, detailed in section 9FE of the same Act. Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer, 11 September 2025			
Risk Management	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report, however following the recommendations from this report mitigates the risk, for both OSC and Executive, of not being complaint with requirements as detailed in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 01 September 2025			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact				Not applicable, as this is notice of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?				
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?				
Climate & Environmental Impact				Not applicable, as this is notice of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee
ICT & Digital Impact				Not applicable, as this is notice of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Data Impact				Not applicable, as this is notice of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Procurement & subsidy				Not applicable, as this is notice of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Council Priorities	All priorities			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	N/A			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 Four OSC working groups were constituted during the 2024-2025 Municipal Year – Food Insecurity, Climate Action, Planning Application Appeals, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The EDI group was a joint group with Personnel Committee.
- 3.2 Three of the working groups – Planning Application Appeals, Climate Action and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion produced a series of recommendations, that have been considered and endorsed by OSC.
- 3.3 The fourth working group on Food Insecurity produced an end of inquiry report that provided commentary on their work, but did not include any recommendations.
- 3.4 In addition to the four working groups, OSC made a recommendation to Executive following consideration of an item relating to the Cherwell Community Safety Partnership.

4. Details

Planning Application Appeals

- 4.1 OSC held a whole Committee ‘spot light review’ meeting in February 2025, focussing on Planning Application Appeals, having particular regard to planning application refusals overturned at appeal, the reasons for costs implications and lessons learned.

- 4.2 The Committee agreed five recommendations, that were presented and endorsed by OSC at their meeting on 18 March 2025. The recommendations are attached at appendix 1.

Food Insecurity

- 4.3 The Food Insecurity working group was initially established in 2022, and continued during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 municipal years. Membership of the group was not limited to OSC members, and it was chaired by Councillor Rebecca Biegel.
- 4.4 The group produced an end of inquiry report that was considered and endorsed by OSC at their meeting on 18 March 2025. The report is attached at appendix 2.

Climate Action

- 4.5 The Climate Action working group was initially established in 2022, and continued during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 municipal years. Membership of the group was not limited to OSC members, and in 2024-25 it was chaired by Councillor Grace Conway-Murray.
- 4.6 The group produced an end of inquiry report that included eight recommendations. The report and recommendations were considered and endorsed by OSC at their meeting on 18 March 2025. The report is attached at appendix 3.

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

- 4.7 The EDI working group was initially established as a joint group with Personnel Committee in 2022, and continued during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 municipal years. Membership of the group was limited to OSC and Personnel members, and in 2024-25 it was chaired by Councillor Rebecca Biegel.
- 4.8 The group produced an end of inquiry report that included 10 recommendations. The report and recommendations were considered and endorsed by OSC at their meeting on 18 March 2025. The report is attached at appendix 4.

Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership

- 4.9 At their meeting on 11 March 2025, OSC received presentations from the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Chief Superintendent of Thames Valley Police, in relation to the Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership.
- 4.10 Following questions regarding an updated Community Safety Partnership plan for 2024 onwards, the Committee resolved to recommend '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’.

Next steps

- 4.11 Executive is asked to note the reports and recommendations of the four working groups, as well as the general recommendation relating to the Community Safety Partnership Plan, and to ensure that an Executive response is prepared for each one.
- 4.12 The response should provide the Executive’s decisions in respect of the recommendations made, along with any additional specific actions the Executive agrees to take.
- 4.13 Once agreed by Executive, OSC will be notified of each response. Where relevant, OSC will track the implementation of decisions and/or any actions agreed.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to provide an Executive response. This is rejected, as it would be contrary to Section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000. Regardless of Executive’s decision relating to the various recommendations, a response must be submitted to OSC.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The recommendations ensure both OSC and Executive comply with requirements as detailed in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000.

Decision Information

Key Decision	No
Subject to Call in	Yes
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Planning Application Appeals recommendations
Appendix 2	Food Insecurity Working Group – End of Inquiry Report
Appendix 3	Climate Action Working Group – End of Inquiry Report
Appendix 4	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group – End of Inquiry Report
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
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Corporate Director Approval (unless Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)	Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, Shiraz Sheikh (Monitoring Officer).