

This report is public	
Executive Response to Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations	
<b>Committee</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee</b>	2 December 2025
<b>Portfolio Holder presenting the report</b>	Leader of the Council, Councillor David Hingley
<b>Date Portfolio Holder agreed report</b>	13 November 2025
<b>Report of</b>	Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, Shiraz Sheikh

## Purpose of report

To present the draft Executive Responses to four sets of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following the presentation of the scrutiny reports to the Executive on 7 October 2025.

## 1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To agree the Executive Responses to the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations, attached at Appendices 1 to 4.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 At the 7 October 2025 meeting, Executive received four end of inquiry working group reports, and one further recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).
- 2.2 Following noting of the reports and recommendations, Executive had two months to prepare an official 'Executive Response'. This report presents the draft responses.

## Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
<b>Finance</b>	All actions that have been completed at the time of this report have been met within existing budget. Actions that are still outstanding,

	if budget is not currently identified, will require a separate business case to be approved by Executive.			Kelly Wheeler, Finance Business Partner, 4 November 2025
<b>Legal</b>	The Executive has a statutory duty to respond to recommendations made, detailed in section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000. Overview and Scrutiny Committees have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, as detailed in Section 9F of the same Act.			Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, 10 November 2025
<b>Risk Management</b>	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 compliant with requirements as detailed in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000.			Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 4 November 2025
<b>Impact Assessments</b>	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equality Impact</b>		X		The recommendations for Executive include several proposals regarding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to be reviewed in line with our EDI framework.  Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 4 November 2025
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		

<b>Climate &amp; Environmental Impact</b>				N/A
<b>ICT &amp; Digital Impact</b>				N/A
<b>Data Impact</b>				N/A
<b>Procurement &amp; subsidy</b>				N/A
<b>Council Priorities</b>	All			
<b>Human Resources</b>	N/A			
<b>Property</b>	N/A			
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement</b>	Relevant Portfolio Holders – Councillor Conway, Councillor Beckett, Councillor Brant and Councillor Parkinson.			

## Supporting Information

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Scrutiny committees have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, and the Executive has a statutory duty to respond.
- 3.2 Scrutiny recommendations are addressed to the Executive, as the main Executive decision making body of the Council.
- 3.3 The Executive Response should provide the Executive's decisions in respect of scrutiny recommendations made, along with any specific actions the Executive agree to take.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Three of the working groups – Planning Application Appeals, Climate Action and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion produced a series of recommendations, that were been considered and endorsed by OSC. 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.
- 3.6 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 Working Group**

- 4.1 OSC held a whole Committee 'spot light review' meeting in February 2025, focussing on Planning Application Appeals with particular regard to planning application refusals overturned at appeal, the reasons for costs implications and lessons learned.
- 4.2 The Committee agreed five recommendations, covering lessons learnt; member training; development of an action plan; and monitoring improvement.
- 4.3 In June 2025, the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) completed a detailed review of the CDC Planning function, addressing some of the same issues identified by the OSC spot light review.
- 4.4 Appendix 1 to this report gives the official Executive response to the OSC recommendations.

### **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, relating to a new Council climate action strategy; corporate priorities; environmental impact assessments; building emissions; and investment in renewable energy.
- 4.7 Appendix 2 to this report gives the official Executive response to the OSC recommendations.

### **Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)**

- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 The group produced an end of inquiry report that included 10 recommendations, covering equality and service delivery; equality in employment; equalities communications and engagement; and measuring progress.
- 4.10 Appendix 3 to this report gives the official Executive response to the OSC recommendations.

### **Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership**

- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 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'.
- 4.13 Appendix 4 to this report gives the official Executive response to the OSC recommendation.

### **Next steps**

- 4.14 Executive is asked to approve the four responses to the OSC recommendations, detailed in appendices 1 to 4.
- 4.15 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be notified of each Executive Response made, and may track the implementation of the Executive decisions and any additional actions agreed. This enables the Overview and Scrutiny committee to track whether their recommendations have been agreed, what actually was agreed (if different) and review any outcomes arising.

## **5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 5.1 The following alternative option has 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**

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

## Document Information

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix 1</b>	Executive Response to the Planning Application Appeals recommendations
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Executive Response to the Climate Action recommendations
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Executive Response to the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) recommendations
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Executive Response to the Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership recommendations
<b>Background Papers</b>	None
<b>Reference Papers</b>	None
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<b>Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)</b>	Report of Statutory Officer - Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, Shiraz Sheikh (Monitoring Officer).