

This report is public	
Executive Response to the Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations	
Committee	Overview and Scrutiny
Date of Committee	27 January 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	Responses agreed by Executive 2 December 2025
Report of	Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, Shiraz Sheikh

Purpose of report

To present the 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

That Overview and Scrutiny resolves:

- 1.1 To note the Executive Responses to the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations, attached at Appendices 1 to 4.
- 1.2 To monitor progress/implementation of recommendations as necessary

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'. The responses were approved by Executive on 2 December 2025, and are now presented for information to Overview and Scrutiny.

Implications & Impact Assessments

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

	<p>if budget is not currently identified, will require a separate business case to be approved by Executive.</p> <p>Kelly Wheeler, Finance Business Partner, 17 December 2025</p>			
Legal	<p>As this is a report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee with no decision required, there are no legal implications.</p> <p>Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer, 19 January 2026</p>			
Risk Management	<p>There are no risk implications arising directly from this report, as Overview and Scrutiny Committee are being asked to note the responses from Executive.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 12 January 2026</p>			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	
Equality Impact		X		<p>There are no Equalities impacts as a result of Overview and Scrutiny receiving the response to their previous recommendations. However, the responses to the received recommendations have been developed in line with the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 12 January 2026</p>
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Climate & Environmental Impact				<p>There are no climate or environmental impacts as a result of Overview and Scrutiny receiving the response to their previous recommendations.</p>

ICT & Digital Impact				N/A
Data Impact				N/A
Procurement & subsidy				N/A
Council Priorities	All			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	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 Responses 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 No decision is required from Overview and Scrutiny on the Executive Responses, as they are a factual representation of Executive's response to each set of recommendations.
- 4.15 Overview and Scrutiny Committee may decide to track the implementation of the Executive decisions and any additional actions agreed, 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 note the responses. This is rejected, as Executive have approved the responses and Overview and Scrutiny should have the opportunity to note them.

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	N/A as not an Executive Report
Subject to Call in	N/A as not an Executive Report
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Executive Response to the Planning Application Appeals recommendations
Appendix 2	Executive Response to the Climate Action recommendations
Appendix 3	Executive Response to the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) recommendations
Appendix 4	Executive Response to the Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership recommendations
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
Report Author	Emma Faulkner – Principal Officer – Scrutiny & Democratic Lead
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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).