

This report is public	
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report – 2025-26	
Committee	Overview and Scrutiny
Date of Committee	24 March 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Not applicable as this is a report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	N/A
Report of	Assistant Director – Law & Governance/Monitoring Officer

Purpose of report

For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and approve the draft annual report for 2025-26, for submission to full Council.

1. Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To consider and provide feedback on the draft Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2025-26.
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director Law and Governance, in consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Chair, to finalise the report for submission to full Council.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has a constitutional obligation to “report annually to Council on function of their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate” (Constitution Part 4a, Committee Terms of Reference, section 5.2 point C).

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	Signed off on the basis that there are no financial implications – Rachel Ainsworth, FBP for Resources, 11 March 2026.

<p>Legal</p>	<p>Effective scrutiny is an important part of the decision making process in local government decision making. Having appropriate arrangements in place helps to provide good quality decision making for the Council.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 2000 established the requirement for overview and scrutiny committees in a local government context and our committee and this report help to ensure that we are complying with our statutory requirements.</p> <p>The report sets out the work which it has undertaken and the recommendations and follow-up actions which have been carried out as a result of its reviews.</p> <p>There are no legal implications arising directly as a result of this report.</p> <p>Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director – Law & Governance/Monitoring Officer, 16 March 2026</p>			
<p>Risk Management</p>	<p>There are no risk implications arising directly from this report. However, agreeing the recommendations of this report mitigates the risk of not being compliant with the Committee and Council's constitutional obligation.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance and Insight Team Leader, 12 March 2026</p>			
<p>Impact Assessments</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>Commentary</p>
<p>Equality Impact</p>				<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?</p>		<p>X</p>		
<p>B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?</p>		<p>X</p>		
<p>Climate & Environmental Impact</p>				<p>Not applicable.</p>

ICT & Digital Impact				Not applicable.
Data Impact				Not applicable.
Procurement & subsidy				Not applicable.
Council Priorities	The work of OSC during 2025-26 covered all of the Council's priorities			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	None			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has a constitutional obligation to “report annually to Council on function of their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate” (Constitution Part 4a, Committee Terms of Reference, section 5.2 point C).

4. Details

- 4.1 The annual report provides a summary of the subjects covered by OSC during the previous Municipal Year, highlighting key observations and outcomes of discussions.
- 4.2 At the time of drafting there is still one formal meeting of the Committee to take place. The Committee are asked to delegate authority to the Assistant Director Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chair, to finalise the report as required for its submission to full Council.

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 agree the recommendations. This is rejected, as this would lead to the Committee not meeting its constitutional obligation.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The recommendations as set out are in the best interests of the Council and ensures OSC fulfils its constitutional obligation.

Decision Information

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

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2025-26
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
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Corporate Director Approval (unless Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)	