

Questions for Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 8 September 2026.
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Agenda item 6 – Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2026-2027

Reference (paragraph, indicator, page number etc)	Question	Asked by	Officer Response
Page 13 Para 4.3.3 – Annual Delivery Plan	Ref Graven Hill Community Sports Facility 1. What is the expected timeline of completing this facility? 2. Will it happen before the LGR? If it won't, will the money allocated for this project remain ringfenced for Graven Hill after councils are merged?	Councillor Dom Vaitkus	Response from Nicola Riley, Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing - 1. The anticipated land transfer will happen once detailed planning permission has been submitted and approved for the site. The project timeline indicates next autumn (2027) for that. The pitches may be playable Spring 2029 if everything goes without delay and the weather is seasonally average. 2. The money is held for this specific purpose as the result of a S106 Agreement which is tied to the development of the land and could not be spent on any other project or for a different purpose
Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2026-2027	3. What will happen to any other earmarked reserves during the LGR? Will that money be transferred to the new unitary with ringfences retained, or will they have to be reviewed. If they'll be reviewed, will that be done by the shadow authority, or by another body?	Councillor Dom Vaitkus	Response from Steve Hinds, Executive Director Resources and Transformation - 3. All reserves will transfer to the new authorities following LGR. As parts of Cherwell will go to both North Oxfordshire and Greater Oxford, the reserves will need to be transferred to both authorities in a fair way. Discussions on how each council's balance sheet, including reserves, will be disaggregated have yet to take place. The council has taken a decision on

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			how it has currently earmarked its reserves, following advice and input from the Section 151 officer. The shadow authority (and then new authority) will be able to take a view on how it earmarks its reserves from 1 April 2028, taking advice from its S151 officer and considering the risks and priorities of the new authority. Cherwell's current practice is to review its reserves, including earmarking, each year as part of budget setting. It is likely that the new authority will follow a similar approach.
Business Plan KPI's - Environmental stewardship - Corporate KPI's 2026-2027	4. Could the methodology for calculating CO2 emission saving could be shared. I'm primarily interested in how embedded CO2 footprint is evaluated, and whether we are attempting to reduce embedded carbon when building new facilities.	Councillor Dom Vaitkus	Response from Hitesh Mahawar, Biodiversity and Climate Resilience service - 4.1. Cherwell District Council's reported carbon emissions savings are calculated using its approved Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reporting methodology, which aligns with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) guidance. A copy of the methodology note is attached for reference (Annexe A). 4.2. The Council's GHG reporting currently focuses on operational emissions from activities within its agreed reporting boundary, including buildings, fleet, business travel, waste, water and selected operational Scope 3 emissions. Embodied carbon associated with construction materials and building projects are not

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			currently included within the Council's reported carbon emissions. 4.3. While embodied carbon is not currently captured within the Council's GHG reporting, the Council has introduced a Carbon Impact Assessment process for capital projects. This assessment is completed at the business case stage and includes consideration of material use, lifecycle impacts and embedded (embodied) emissions where appropriate. 4.4. The Council has also strengthened its approach through its Procurement Strategy, which embeds sustainability, carbon reduction and wider environmental considerations within procurement and contract management processes. This includes consideration of carbon footprint, emissions reduction, supply-chain emissions and broader sustainability outcomes where relevant and proportionate. *A copy of the Procurement Strategy is also attached. Please refer to Page 15, section "Sustainable Procurement and Carbon Accountability" (Annexe B). *Additionally, calculations document attached.
Page 38 ADP 2026/27 – Priority – Quality housing and place making – Action adopt &	1. Is there a timetable for scrutiny involvement or general all member updates in relation to progression of the Local Plan process?	Councillor David Rogers	Response from David Peckford, Assistant Director Planning - 1. The Council submitted its proposed Local Plan for Examination on 31 July 2025. Scrutiny of the Plan is ongoing by the Planning Inspectors appointed by the

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commence implementation of the new Local Plan			Secretary of State. Updates on the Examination are published on-line on the Council's website. At the time of writing dates for the next stage of public hearings have yet to be confirmed. The next stage of consideration by the Council will be when the Inspectors' Examination Report is received (date unknown). In some cases, Inspectors can suspend an Examination and invite the planning authority to prepare main modifications for submission. Appropriate governance arrangements for the preparation of such modifications would be arranged if those circumstances arose.
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Agenda item 7 – Update on Executive Responses to Previous Scrutiny Recommendations

Reference (paragraph, page number etc)	Question	Asked by	Officer Response
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

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Agenda item 8 – Work Programme Update

Reference (meeting date, item, page number etc)	Question	Asked by	Officer Response
Items to be discussed/allocated, pages 61 & 62 – Local Government Reform Update	1. What will be the role of scrutiny in relation to LGR, in particular the joint Committee	Councillor David Rogers	Question withdrawn due to pausing of LGR.