

Supplement for

Cabinet

On **Wednesday 22 October 2025** At **6.00 pm**

Agenda Item 8 Reports from the Scrutiny Committee

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The Scrutiny Committee met on 14 October 2025 to consider the following items. Report and recommendations, including those from its working groups, are published as a late supplement.

- Project approvals and delegations for the Westlands Drive/ Halliday Hill affordable housing development
- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Annual Safeguarding Report 2024/25
- Optimism Bias on sizeable commercial properties in the City Centre
- Quarterly Performance Integrated Report - Q4 2024/25
- Quarterly Performance Integrated Report - Q1 2025/26

The agenda, reports and any additional supplements can be found together with this supplement on the committee meeting webpage.

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To: Cabinet
Date: 22 October 2025
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To submit the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee for Cabinet's consideration.
Key decision:	No
Lead Member:	Councillor Alex Powell, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Corporate Priority:	A Well-Run Council
Policy Framework:	None

Recommendation(s): That Cabinet:
1. Considers and responds to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee as set out in the report.

Information Exempt From Publication	
N/A	N/A

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview and Summary

- The Scrutiny Committee met on 14 October 2025 and reviewed the following items:
 - Project Approval and Delegations for Westlands Drive and Halliday Hill affordable housing scheme
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
 - Annual Safeguarding Report

2. Working Group meetings were also held to consider a range of reports:

Finance and Performance Working Group on 11 September 2025

- Optimism bias on sizeable commercial properties in the city centre
 - Performance Integrated Report Q4 2024/25
 - Performance Integrated Report Q1 2025/26
3. Following the meetings, Cabinet Members, in consultation with the relevant Officers were asked to agree, agree in-part, or disagree with the recommendations.
4. The tables below detail the recommendations made by the Committee for each report, which Cabinet will consider at their meeting on 22 October 2025. Cabinet has provided a commentary on each recommendation to inform the Committee of the rationale behind its decision. No table was produced for items where no recommendations were suggested.
5. Minutes of the Scrutiny meeting on 14 October 2025 is available [here](#).
6. The Scrutiny Committee would like to thank Cabinet Members Cllr Linda Smith (Housing and Communities), Cllr Lubna Arshad (A Safer Oxford) and Cllr Ed Turner (Deputy Leader (Statutory) – Finance and Asset Management) for their contributions. The Committee was also grateful to Dave Scholes (Affordable Housing Supply Corporate Lead), Richard Adams (Community Safety Service Manager), Laura Jones (Safeguarding Coordinator), Emma Gubbins (Corporate Assets Lead), Jane Winfield (Director of Property and Assets), Nigel Kennedy (Group Finance Director) and Clare Paterson (Strategic Finance Manager) for presenting reports and responding to questions.

Financial implications

7. Financial implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Group.
8. Where appropriate, any further financial implications were reviewed when considering the recommendations.

Legal issues

9. Legal implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Group.
10. Where appropriate, any further legal implications were reviewed when considering the recommendations.

Level of risk

11. Risk Registers, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Groups.
12. Where appropriate, the risk register was reviewed when considering the recommendations.

Equalities impact

13. Equalities Impact Assessments, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Groups.

14. Where appropriate, the Equalities Impact Assessments was reviewed when considering the recommendations.

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

15. Consideration for Carbon and Environmental impacts, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Groups.

16. Where appropriate, the Carbon and Environmental impacts were reviewed when considering the recommendations.

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**Table 1 – Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee –
Anti-Social Behaviour Policy**

The table below sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 14 October 2025 concerning the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) For Officers to explore the feasibility of gathering and analysis of data on protected characteristics of both: individuals complained about through the ASB service, and individuals making complaints through the ASB service. Recognising that some data may be limited in validity, that findings from the collected and analysed data be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate time within the next two years.	Yes	We accept this recommendation.
2) That officers set out within the Policy the work the Council is currently undertaking and plans to undertake in relation to proactive prevention of ASB, including actions such as working with youth groups, redesigning areas, and improving coordination between council services.	Yes	The policy will include a broad policy statement on prevention activities, working in partnership to achieve these goals. It won't give details of specific interventions that could change during the life of policy.
3) That there is a clear commitment within the ASB Policy to work collaboratively with Registered Providers in addressing anti-social behaviour, including requesting information from local RPs on levels and types of ASB reports received within their housing stock. This information can then be used to identify patterns, overlaps and gaps between council and RP data, and	Yes	We accept this recommendation.

reporting back on the efficacy of this partnership working and health of relationships with RPs as part of the Council' wider multi-agency approach to ASB management.		
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**Table 2 – Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee –
Annual Safeguarding Report**

The table below sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 14 October 2025 concerning the Annual Safeguarding Report. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That future Safeguarding reports provide comparisons with previous years data to allow monitoring of trends and assessment progress, particularly data in relation to modern slavery and exploitation, and severe weather emergency protocol (SWEP). Where the data allows for trend analysis, that previous statistics be included to enable a year-on-year comparison and evaluation of changes overtime.	Yes	Previous years' data to be included in future safeguarding reports to allow for year-on-year trend analysis.