

Supplement for

Scrutiny Committee

On **Tuesday 30 June 2026** At **6.00 pm**

Supplement Pack: Item 9 Work Plan and Item 11 Endorsement of Recommendations from Working Groups

Contents

9.	Scrutiny Work Plan	3 - 6
	The Work Plan is driven to a very large extent by the Cabinet Forward Plan. The Scrutiny Committee agrees its priorities for items coming onto the Forward Plan, which then form part of its Work Plan. The Committee is recommended to confirm its agreement to the Work Plan, or agree any amendments as required.	
11.	Endorsement of Recommendations from Working Groups	7 - 18
	Since the Scrutiny Committee's previous meeting on 9 June 2026, the following Working Groups have met: • Finance and Performance Working Group on 16 June 2026 • Housing and Homelessness Working Group on 23 June 2026 The Committee is asked to: 1. Endorse the recommendations from Working Groups.	

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

*View or subscribe to updates for agendas, reports and minutes at mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk.
All public papers are available from the calendar link to this meeting once published*

Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX

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Scrutiny Work Plan

July 2026 to October 2026

www.oxford.gov.uk



The Work Plan is agreed by the Scrutiny Committee at each of its meetings, detailing key issues affecting Oxford and its people, with the plan being informed by suggestions received from elected members and senior officers. Members of the public are invited to contribute topics for consideration by submitting a [suggestion form](#). See our [Get Involved](#) webpage for further details on how you can participate in the work of scrutiny.

Topics included in the plan may be examined directly by the Scrutiny Committee, delegated to standing Working Groups, or explored in greater depth by time-limited Review Groups. Recommendations from the Working Groups and Review Groups need to be endorsed by the Committee.

The Committee also reviews the Council's [Forward Plan](#) at each meeting and determines which Cabinet decisions it wishes to consider before the decision is made. In addition, the Council has a 'call in' process to allow decisions made by the Cabinet to be reviewed by the Committee before they are implemented.

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	30 June 2026	Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (Report for Cabinet)
Scrutiny Committee	30 June 2026	Annual Review of the Council of Sanctuary Framework 2025-2028 (Report for Cabinet)

Climate and Environment Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	6 July 2026	Heat Network Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	6 July 2026	Net Zero Tracker (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	6 July 2026	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)
Climate and Environment Working	6 July 2026	Local Area Energy Planning Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)		
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	6 July 2026	Community Energy Interim Policy Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

Finance and Performance Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	15 July 2026	ODS Executive Pay Policy (Report for SJVG)
Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	15 July 2026	ODS Group Performance Report (Report for SJVG)

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	11 August 2026	Use of CIL funding to support infrastructure and public realm related to the Cowley Branch Line (Report for Cabinet)

Housing and Homelessness Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	2 September 2026	Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)
Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	2 September 2026	Resident Engagement “You Said, We Did” Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)
Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	2 September 2026	Housing Services Performance Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2026	Annual Safeguarding Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2026	Gloucester Green Market (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)
Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2026	Community Safety Service Redesign (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

Climate and Environment Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	17 September 2026	Air Quality Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	17 September 2026	Waste and Recycling Programme and ODS Services (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	13 October 2026	Pavement and Road Maintenance (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

Finance and Performance Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	28 October 2026	OX Place Scheme of Delegation (Report for SJVG)

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	10 November 2026	Update to Council's Responsibilities for Watercourses and Ditches (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)

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To: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 30 June 2026
Report of: Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Recommendations from the Working Groups for endorsement at the Scrutiny Committee

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To endorse the recommendations from the Working Groups.
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 the Scrutiny Committee resolves to:
1. Endorse the recommendations from the Housing and Homelessness Working Group.
2. Note the recommendations from the Finance and Performance Working Group to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group.

Information Exempt from Publication	
N/A	N/A

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1	Report and Recommendations for the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group	Yes

Overview and Summary

- The Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse the recommendations from the following Working Groups held since the previous meeting:

Housing and Homelessness Working Group – 24 June 2026

- HRA Policies [Report for Cabinet and Council]

- Housing Services Performance Report Quarter 4 and Resident Engagement “You Said, We Did” Report Quarter 4 2025-26 [Scrutiny Commissioned Report]
 - Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan 2026-27 [Scrutiny Commissioned Report]
 - Housing Work Programme Review [Scrutiny Commissioned Report]
2. Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 grants the power to the Scrutiny Committee to make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Executive; and on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
 3. The recommendations for the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group (SJVG) on 25 June were endorsed through delegated authority to the Scrutiny and Governance Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee. The report has been included as an exempt appendix for the Committee to note. The Finance and Performance Working Group reviewed the following reports:
 - OX Place Monitoring April (P1) (Report for SJVG)
 - OX Place Development Sites Updates (Report for SJVG)
 - OX Place Reserves Policy (Report for SJVG)
 - OX Place Dividends Policy (Report for SJVG)
 - OX Place Draft 2026/27 Budget (Report for SJVG)
 - OX Place Draft year-end Position pre-audit (Report for SJVG)
 4. The SJVG meeting was cancelled due to the red heat alert, and the report will be formally reported at their next meeting on 5 November 2026.
 5. If endorsed, the Cabinet Members, in consultation with the relevant Officers, will either, agree, agree in-part, or disagree with the recommendations. The tables below detail the Working Groups’ recommendations for endorsement by the Committee. No table was produced for items where no recommendations were suggested.

Summary of Discussions

6. For the HRA Policies, due to be recommended by Cabinet for Council to approve, there were questions around the Lifting Equipment and Lifting Operations Policy regarding the order of work and subsequent timescales for it to be completed. The Working Group were told the priority would be to rescue individuals stuck in lifts and then the other timeframes would be for the securing and fixing of the lift, depending on specifics determined contactors. Any defined targets for repairs were not currently suggested as the policy was proposing alternative measures to this.
7. There was a request to link with the complaints procedure, but this policy was seen as a preventative approach, with a monitoring mechanism linked to complaints and wider health and safety systems.
8. Regarding the Complaints Policy, there were questions around those received by social media from residents, which would need to be formally submitted for processing. The Working Group were told the policy had been drafted with expectations of social media trends, suggesting there could be an increase in complaints, but there was not a significant issue at present.

9. Referring to stage 2 escalation for complaints, there were queries if a full response would be received within specified 20 working days, as set out by the Housing Ombudsman Service. Officers noted that they usually respond quicker than the specified timescale, but always consider the associated risks, health and safety concerns, disrepair, vulnerability, and any repeated service failures before responding. The Housing Ombudsman Service requests that an annual report is published, and a self-assessment is completed through the quarterly Residents' Complaints Panel, which then reports to the Tenant and Leaseholder Board.
10. There were comments regarding the work contracted to Oxford Direct Services (ODS) and evidence of the complaint statistics being on a negative trajectory. Officers noted that the policy outlined an independent oversight from the Council for ODS complaints, referring to guidance from the Housing Ombudsman Service and resident feedback. It was noted ODS would only be responsible for stage 1 complaints, and the Council would process any complaints escalated.
11. Regarding the Voids Policy, there was a suggestion to link community and mental health support where a property becomes void and requires major work as a result of a traumatic or major incident, such as a fire. Officers noted it was not yet referenced within the policy, but the current processes lend to considering community impact and exceptional void impacts.
12. For the Housing Services Performance Report for Quarter 4, there were positive comments around the compliance of safety check rates along with the value and presentation on the report.
13. There were comments on the damp and mould reporting in connection with access issues and resource pressures. It was recognised that there was a period where additional resource was required to clear the backlog, which has since been achieved. However, the Working Group were made aware this could increase again; to manage this, officers are streamlining processes and reviewing data to enable the prediction of trends. This will enable more proactive responses in partnership with ODS.
14. For the Resident Engagement "You Said, We Did" Report Quarter 4 2025-26, there were comments on the positive value of the report and on the responses from the residents. It was noted that not all policies have been approved by Council, but the tenant satisfaction measures and the perceptions of the Council as a landlord had seen a significant improvement in recent months.
15. For the Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan 2026-27, the Working Group commented on the quality of the report but noted a delay for the health and safety internal audits. It was noted that the initial target dates did not consider the resulting actions from the audit.
16. There were also questions about the next phase of implementing feedback within the improvement plan, including further engagement with tenants. It was commented that feedback is continually collected and actioned, with communication actions being embedded within the resident engagement strategy action plan.
17. The Working Groups wish to thank Cabinet Members and Officers who contributed to the presentation of reports and discussions.

Financial implications

18. Financial implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Working Groups.

Legal issues

19. Legal implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Working Groups.

Level of risk

20. Risk Registers, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Working Groups.

Equalities impact

21. Equalities Impact Assessments, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Working Groups.

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

22. Consideration for Carbon and Environmental impacts, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Working Groups.

Implications of Local Government Reorganisation

23. Implications of Local Government Reorganisation for the reports listed above were outlined within the report when presented at the Working Groups.

24. Where appropriate, any further implications were reviewed when considering the recommendations using the linked guidance from Government: [Financial decisions before local government reorganisation - GOV.UK](#)

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**Table 1 – Recommendations of the Housing and Homelessness Working Group –
HRA Policies**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Housing and Homelessness Working Group on 24 June 2026 for endorsement by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 30 June 2026. The Cabinet will be asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) Within the Voids Policy, for there to be consideration for the wider community and social impact.		
2) Within the Lifting Equipment and Lifting Operations Policy, to ensure complaints for Oxford Direct Services (ODS) have a robust oversight procedure and to ensure the timescales within the policy are clearly defined.		
3) Within the Complaints Policy, to ensure there is clarity on repeated complaints and tightening the wording for public clarity.		

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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