

# Agenda

## Scrutiny Committee

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Tuesday 8 September 2026**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Long Room - Oxford Town Hall**

**For further information** please contact:

Celeste Reyeslao, Scrutiny and Governance Advisor,

☎ 07485 309899

✉ [DemocraticServices@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices@oxford.gov.uk)

**Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and.**

- may register in advance to speak to the committee in accordance with the [committee's rules](#)
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Please contact the Committee Services Officer to register to speak; to discuss recording the meeting; or with any other queries.

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## Committee Membership

Councillors: Membership 12: Quorum 4 substitutes are permitted.

Councillor Alex Powell (Chair)

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan

Councillor Mohammed Azad

Councillor Tiago Corais

Councillor Trish Elphinstone

Councillor Chris Jarvis

Councillor Siobhan Lancaster

Councillor Dr. Max Morris

Councillor Simon Ottino (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Asima Qayyum

Councillor Anne Stares

Councillor Elizabeth Turkson Wood

Apologies and notification of substitutes received before the publication are shown under *Apologies for absence* in the agenda. Those sent after publication will be reported at the meeting. Substitutes for the Chair and Vice-chair do not take on these roles.

# Agenda

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| 1 | <b>Apologies for absence</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |         |
| 2 | <b>Declarations of interest</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         |
| 3 | <b>Chair's Announcements</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |         |
| 4 | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b><br><br>The Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2026 as a true and accurate record.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 9 - 16  |
| 5 | <b>Addresses by members of the public</b><br><br>Public addresses relating to matters of business for this agenda. Up to five minutes is available for each public address.<br><br><b>The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address must be received by the <a href="#">Director of Law, Governance and Strategy</a> by 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 2 September 2026.</b> |         |
| 6 | <b>Councillor addresses on any item for discussion on the Scrutiny agenda</b><br><br>Councillor addresses relating to matters of business for this agenda. Up to five minutes is available for each address.<br><br><b>The request should be received by the <a href="#">Director of Law, Governance and Strategy</a> by 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 2 September 2026.</b>                   |         |
| 7 | <b>Community Safety Service Redesign (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)</b><br><br>The Committee, at its meeting on 9 June 2026, had requested an update on Community Safety Service including the staffing restructure and delivery redesign.<br><br>The Committee is asked to consider the report and agree any                                                                          | 17 - 22 |

recommendations.

## **8 Gloucester Green Market (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)**

The Committee, at its meeting on 9 June 2026, had requested a report on the Gloucester Green Market.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and agree any recommendations.

*The report will be published as a supplement to the agenda.*

## **9 Delegating Authority for amendments to the Scrutiny Work Programme**

23 - 26

The Scrutiny Committee has received a report from the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) seeking to delegate authority to the Scrutiny and Governance Advisor to make amendments to the Scrutiny Work Programme for the Committee and Working Groups.

The Committee is asked to:

1. **Delegate authority** to the Scrutiny and Governance Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, to make amendments to the Scrutiny Work Plan
2. **Recommend** to Council to incorporate the delegation into part 13.7 of the Constitution.

## **10 Scrutiny Work Plan**

27 - 32

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 Cabinet responses to Scrutiny recommendations**

33 - 44

At its meeting on 19 August 2026, Cabinet considered the following reports from Scrutiny and made responses to the recommendations:

- Use of CIL funding to support infrastructure and public realm

related to the Cowley Branch Line [Report for Cabinet]

- Heat Network Update [Scrutiny-commissioned report]
- Community Energy Interim Policy Update [Scrutiny-commissioned report]
- ODS Group Performance Report [Report for SJVG]

The Committee is asked to:

1. **Note** Cabinet's responses to its recommendations.

## 12 Endorsement of Recommendations from Working Groups

Since the Scrutiny Committee's previous meeting, the following Working Groups have met:

- Housing and Homelessness Working Group (2 September 2026)

The Committee is asked to:

1. **Endorse** the recommendations from Working Groups.

*This will be published as a supplement to the agenda.*

## 13 Dates of future meetings

- 13 October 2026
- 10 November 2026
- 1 December 2026
- 12 January 2027
- 2 February 2027
- 9 March 2027
- 6 April 2027

**All meetings start at 6:00 pm.**

## **Information for those attending**

### **Recording and reporting on meetings held in public**

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks those recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recording may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

### **Councillors declaring interests**

#### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

#### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your\* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

#### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

#### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". The matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

\*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 11 August 2026**

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### **Committee members present:**

|                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Councillor Powell (Chair)        | Councillor Altaf-Khan          |
| Councillor Azad                  | Councillor Elphinstone         |
| Councillor Jarvis                | Councillor Lancaster           |
| Councillor Max Morris            | Councillor Ottino (Vice-Chair) |
| Councillor Qayyum                | Councillor Stares              |
| Councillor Munkonge (substitute) |                                |

### **Officers present for all or part of the meeting:**

Celeste Reyeslao, Scrutiny and Governance Advisor  
Hannah Carmody-Brown, Committee and Member Services Officer  
Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager  
Clive Tritton, Interim Programme Director, Cowley Branch Line

### **Apologies:**

Councillor Corais sent apologies; Councillor Munkonge attended as substitute.

## **24. Declarations of interest**

None.

## **25. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair thanked Councillor Ottino for chairing the last meeting in his absence and reminded members of the scheduled online Scrutiny training session on 22 September; Members were encouraged to attend.

## **26. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Committee **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

## **27. Addresses by members of the public**

None.

## **28. Councillor addresses on any item for discussion on the Scrutiny agenda**

None.

## **29. Cowley Branch Line infrastructure and public realm funding**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 19 August 2026, will receive a report from the Deputy Chief Executive for Place seeking approval for future CIL funding collected within the vicinity of the Cowley Branch Line to be ringfenced to meet necessary infrastructure and public realm costs in relation to the reopening of the line for passenger services.

Clive Tritton, the Interim Programme Director for Cowley Branch Line, was present to respond to questions.

The Interim Programme Director summarised the report, noting that following the development of a full business case last year, the Council is now looking to develop a revised plan by autumn in order to trigger a final investment decision from the Government. The Committee understood that the Cowley Branch Line project will upgrade 3 miles of freight track in order to support 2 passenger trains per hour as an extension of the existing Chiltern Railways line between Oxford and London Marylebone; it was estimated around 1 million passengers per year would use this. The Interim Programme Director also emphasised the extensive benefits that the project will bring for local communities by enabling mobility and encouraging more infrastructure and innovation. The Committee was informed that the report outlined two main areas of funding; a detailed summary was provided. The Committee understood that Cabinet's agreement is being requested in order to ringfence a level of funding to ensure the project can go ahead.

The Chair invited questions from the Committee.

Councillor Ottino suggested that the Committee be provided a map which outlined the 1.5km radius noted in the report and the rationale behind this measurement was queried. Councillor Ottino also asked whether affected ward and parish councils, as well as South Oxfordshire District Council, had been contacted to make financial commitments towards the project given the benefits they would receive following its completion.

Councillor Munkonge queried the proportion of CIL being used towards the project for up to 10 years, and asked what assurances could be provided to residents that this



would not come at the expense of other much needed infrastructure. It was also asked whether landowners who will benefit from the project had been asked to make a financial contribution.

In relation to the 1.5km radius, the Interim Programme Director explained that the measurement had been used previously within the full business case as the accepted immediate influence area of the Cowley Branch Line. The Committee was also informed that a request for £2.5 of CIL, in comparison to the higher amount which may be unlocked, is very achievable and it was explained that the onus has been placed on section 106 for delivering as much as of the project as possible; direct land value uplift has to mitigate the impact of the scheme locally. The Interim Programme Director explained that focus was paid to creating balance, and this is why CIL has been identified for creating the infrastructure that supports local communities, whereas section 106 links to private sector landowners. In response to Councillor Ottino, the Interim Programme Director committed to providing the requested map.

In relation to approaching other councils, it was noted that neither parish councils nor South Oxfordshire District Council had been contacted.

Councillor Altaf-Khan requested a breakdown of CIL expenditure from the city and county council to inform an understanding of how it is spent in geographical terms. Councillor Altaf-Khan also asked how Local Government Reorganisation may impact CIL expenditure and the Cowley Branch Line project.

Councillor Elphinstone raised a question testing the robustness of the percentage forecasted to cover the £2.5m contributions, and whether local landowners had been asked to contribute. Councillor Elphinstone also requested information on how the project aligns with the city's transport and climate objectives.

Councillor Stares recognised that the project would benefit the whole city, however highlighted concerns that the most deprived area of the city would be expected to finance the scheme whilst being reduced geographically to a thoroughfare. Councillor Stares noted that the funds that should be used to mitigate the effects of developments on the Cowley branch line are instead being ringfenced.

The Interim Programme Director could only comment on CIL funding relating to the report being presented and emphasised that the project did not seek to divert money away from communities in the local vicinity. The Committee heard that the request to Cabinet seeks only to ensure a citywide ringfence is in place to support paying back the enterprise zone funding. It was also clarified that a tariff would be applied to any developments that came forward within the vicinity of the project to ensure CIL is collected for the city as a whole. The Interim Programme Director emphasised that this would not divert money away from communities in need and, in relation to parish councils, confirmed that there is no suggestion they would receive less CIL.

Councillor Stares emphasised the need for more infrastructure and spending in Littlemore.

The Interim Programme Director reiterated that he could not comment on the wider CIL process but offered a separate meeting with Councillor Stares to discuss the Cowley Branch Line.

In response to Councillor Altaf-Khan, the Chair noted that a paper had been submitted to the Committee several months ago which outlined broader CIL mechanisms. Members were referred to this for questions relating to CIL beyond the scope of the report.

The Interim Programme Director emphasised that a good balance and support had been developed between the authorities contributing to the project, resulting in £10m of secured funding from the City and County Councils. In response to questions relating to the involvement of other local councils, the Committee learned that £14.5m from enterprise zones via wider district support will be utilised to deliver the line until S106 and CIL funding comes forward to replace it. The Committee was also reminded that the Growth Commission had forecasted that significant amounts of CIL will be unlocked.

The Chair invited final questions from the Committee.

Councillor Morris noted from the report that the ARC and Science Park are contributors and beneficiaries of the Cowley Branch Line project. In reference to section 30 of report, it was asked why discussions with other private sector providers had stalled.

The Interim Programme Director explained that no one singular factor was responsible; however, matters such as perception of risk, market factors, and uncertainty were notable contributors. It was noted that the content of confidential discussions could not be discussed in a public meeting.

Councillor Munkonge requested a breakdown of what other infrastructure could have received this funding if it had not been ringfenced for the Cowley Branch Line project. This was noted as a possible recommendation.

The Chair requested commentary on how robust the arrangements for the project are given the upcoming changes expected as part of Local Government Reorganisation and changing local geographies. It was asked whether future opportunities to reach out to other authorities had been acted on or identified.

The Interim Programme Director emphasised that he could not respond fully to questions relating to political considerations and emphasised that his role is to support

the Council's delivery of the Cowley Branch Line project. In terms of Local Government Reorganisaition, the Interim Programme Director noted his hopes that the current scale of support for the project would mean that a future new authority would wish to continue progress. The Committee were reminded that conversations with all other authorities have been indicative of long-term support. In relation to CIL and expanding geographies, it was reiterated that there should be enough CIL coming forward as a result of this scheme within the current boundary; a wider boundary would therefore encourage more. Whilst beneficial, a wider geography is not required in order to deliver on the scheme.

The Chair queried whether, once the shadow authority exists, future spending decisions would be approved by them, and how confident the council currently is that the predicted costs are likely to be accurate.

The Interim Programme Director emphasised that the robustness of the plan at this stage is strong, however it is not possible to predict any future government changes which may require adjustments to the budgets; it has been expressed to government that it would be challenging to revisit local funding options and the Department for Transport has been accepting of this. The Committee was reminded that it is vital that full local funding is demonstrated when the revised FBC is submitted in the autumn.

Councillor Ottino requested information on the proportion of CIL predicted to be collected across the whole city that would come within the 1.5 km radius noted in the report, and also for an estimation of how much CIL could be generated from development resulting from the project in local areas.

The Chair suggested these questions be incorporated into recommendations and be submitted to the Director of Planning.

The Interim Programme Director referred the Committee to the Local Plan and the Growth Commission forecasts which indicate the magnitude of CIL being unlocked from the project could be many times bigger than that referenced in the report. The Committee were also however reminded that the Growth Commission's work is at a very early stage and that the nature of any development coming forward as a result of the Cowley Branch Line will dictate the value of CIL unlocked. The Committee understood that any further CIL discussions would be beyond the remit of this report, but the Interim Programme Director emphasised that as much as possible is being done to support the city and county in delivering the project.

The Chair invited the Committee to consider recommendations.

**The Committee made the following recommendations to Cabinet:**

1. That Cabinet ask the Director of Planning and Regulation to provide supplementary information that further clarifies the impacts on city-wide CIL.
2. That Council approach South Oxfordshire District Council for some portion of contribution toward the funding of CBL given the benefits it will unlock for the area.
3. That Council also approach other landowners who would benefit from new rail lines for fair contribution towards the funding of the project.
4. That Cabinet look at the geographic scope around which the development impacts are considered when making future considerations relating to the Cowley Branch Line.

The Chair thanked the Interim Programme Director for his work on the Cowley Branch Line.

*The Interim Programme Director for Cowley Branch Line left the meeting and did not return.*

### **30. Scrutiny Work Plan**

The Chair outlined a new item added to the work plan relating to community employment and procurement plans.

The Committee **agreed** the work plan.

### **31. Cabinet responses to Scrutiny recommendations**

The Chair noted that 11 recommendations were made at the last meeting, and all were agreed by Cabinet.

The Committee **noted** Cabinet's responses to its recommendations.

### **32. Endorsement of Recommendations from Working Groups**

The Chair noted that 11 recommendations were made at the last meeting, and all were agreed by Cabinet.

The Committee **noted** Cabinet's responses to its recommendations.

### **33. Dates of future meetings**

The Committee noted the dates of future meetings.

**The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.00 pm**

**Chair .....**  
**2026**

**Date: Tuesday 8 September**

*When decisions take effect:*

*Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired*

*Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal  
decision notice is issued*

*All other committees: immediately.*

*Details are in the Council's Constitution.*

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**To:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
**Report of:** Tom Hook, Deputy Chief Executive, Citizen and City Services  
**Title of Report:** Community Safety Service redesign

| Summary and recommendations  |                                                        |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Decision being taken:</b> | Update on the redesign of the Community Safety Service |
| <b>Key decision:</b>         | No                                                     |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>       | Councillor Lubna Arshad, Safer Communities             |
| <b>Corporate Priority:</b>   | Thriving Communities                                   |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>     | None                                                   |

|                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommendation(s):</b> That the Scrutiny Committee resolves to: |
| 1. <b>Note</b> the contents of the report.                         |

| Information Exempt From Publication |
|-------------------------------------|
| None                                |

| Appendix No. | Appendix Title       | Exempt from Publication |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Appendix 1   | CS structure diagram | No                      |

## Introduction and background

1. The Council budget 2026-27 increased investment in staffing within the Community Safety Service. This report outlines the changes within the service required to meet the challenges identified during the budget setting process.
2. Budget increases have resulted in an additional officer in the General Licensing team, two additional officers in the Complex Cases Team and 5 additional officers in the Community Response Team.

3. The increase in staff necessitated a re-design of the service to provide the appropriate level of supervision and support in order to maintaining its service standards and Tenant Satisfaction Measure results which put the ASB Service in the top quartile nationally for the last three years.
4. The new officers are going through their mandatory and discretionary training programme, managing cases and becoming fully embedded members of their teams.

### **Community Safety Service challenges**

5. The Community Safety Service is a high demand area of the Council, dealing with complex regulatory, safeguarding and anti-social behaviour incidents.
6. In the year 2025-26, the General Licensing Team deal with 440 complaints, 1501 investigations, and 41 sub-committee cases.
7. ASBIT and the Community Response Team dealt with over 2200 anti-social and enviro-crime cases. These include 1265 noise cases, 130 fly-tipping investigations and 251 neighbour disputes.
8. There were over 700 safeguarding incidents reviewed by the service the details of which are contained in the annual safeguarding report to Cabinet.
9. In addition to managing these Service Requests, the redesign sought to meet the challenges of:
  - supporting and addressing behaviours of those with increasing complex needs
  - managing the increasing regulatory activities from the increase in taxi applications
  - meeting the requirements of the Social Housing Regulator Standards on ASB and domestic abuse
  - supporting the Council's and ODS activity to reduce flytipping and enviro-crime
  - responding to noise complaints, the highest ASB type reported to the service
  - undertaking more proactive operations in partnership with other agencies to address priority issues
  - increasing the visibility of the Community Safety Service within our communities.

### **Redesign overview**

10. The structure chart for the new Service design can be found at Appendix 1.
11. Structurally, the General Licensing Team has undergone minor adjustments to line reporting to increase supervisory support.
12. The ASBIT and Domestic Abuse Manager is responsible for:
  - ASBIT - four Case Managers who tackle neighbour dispute and exploitation cases within our housing stock.
  - The Complex Cases Supervisor and three officers engaging, supporting and addressing the behaviour of adults with more complex needs who may be



rough sleeping, in hostels move-on accommodation, temporary stock or other supported housing.

- Two Domestic Abuse officers who support domestic abuse and sanctuary scheme cases and work on the implementation of the recently awarded GOLD accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance.

13. A Case Support Officer who manages the Service Requests, licences for the distribution of free printed material, finance and supports with DARD reviews.

14. The Community Response Team Manager is responsible for:

- CRT1 – a team of 5 officers covering focussing all ward west of the rivers Cherwell and Thames, plus St Mary's, St Clements, Donnington, Cowley, and Rose Hill and Iffley.
- CRT2 – a team of 5 officers covering focussing on the remaining wards.
- An enviro-crime team of three officers focusing on fly-tipping, littering, trade waste and other enviro-crime hot spot areas. They will work with other social housing providers where problems occur.
- A Case Support Officer to be recruited who will lead on the management of Service Requests, communication and case management support.

15. CRT1 and CRT2 will:

- manage their caseloads
- increase the teams' visibility through neighbourhood patrols in every ward
- attend walkabouts with Councillors, arranged by Area Improvement Officers
- engage with communities through community events
- deliver an out-of-hours Wednesday night service in East Oxford
- run bespoke operations to address persistent ASB issues.

16. The Safeguarding Coordinator is responsible for reviewing safeguarding reports, delivering safeguarding training for the Council and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, embedding safeguarding policy and practice in the Council and supporting the Safeguarding Champions network. The postholder also supports the Community Safety Service Manager in facilitating the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

17. The Community Safety Problem-Solving Officer is trained to level 5 in crime reduction and works across the county to design out crime and ASB in hotspots areas. The post is funded by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner.

18. The Modern Slavery and Exploitation Coordinator brings together agencies to identify, support and disrupt cases of adult exploitation in Oxfordshire. The post is funded by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner.

19. The Community Safety Service Manager is also responsible for the emergency planning function with the Council. This involves ensuring Council services are ready to respond to an incident and the development of plans to address the community risks relevant to Oxford:

- Adverse weather

- Flooding
- Terrorism
- Utility outage

### **Delivering for our tenants**

20. The ASB Service is currently ranked in the upper quartile for tenant satisfaction. To continue this performance and delivery on the Social Housing Regulator Standards, the Service will continue to:

- work in partnership with other social landlords at a case level where the Council has relevant tools and powers to assist with a case
- attend the monthly multi-agency ASB Forum with the police and other social landlords to tackle difficult cases and address hotspots of ASB and enviro-crime.
- lead on Oxford's Community Safety Partnership, ASB being one of the partnership's priorities.
- use our ASB Dashboard to manage performance and identify trends in cases by theme, location, including when our tenants may need additional support based on their protected characteristics.
- develop a crime and ASB data analysis tool to better understand and prevent future ASB and enviro-crime hotspots.
- work with our tenants on our ASB Policy review and its implementation.
- work with our tenants on the implementation of our Domestic Abuse for Service Users policy.

### **Learning and review**

21. The Community Safety Service managers review all complaints and both Stage 1 and Stage 2. In addition, the Service oversees the ASB Case Review process, a statutory process that enables a victim of ASB to seek a review of their case if it meets the criteria. Learning from complaints and reviews is used to identify individual training needs, team wide training and our procedures.

### **Implications of Local Government Reorganisation**

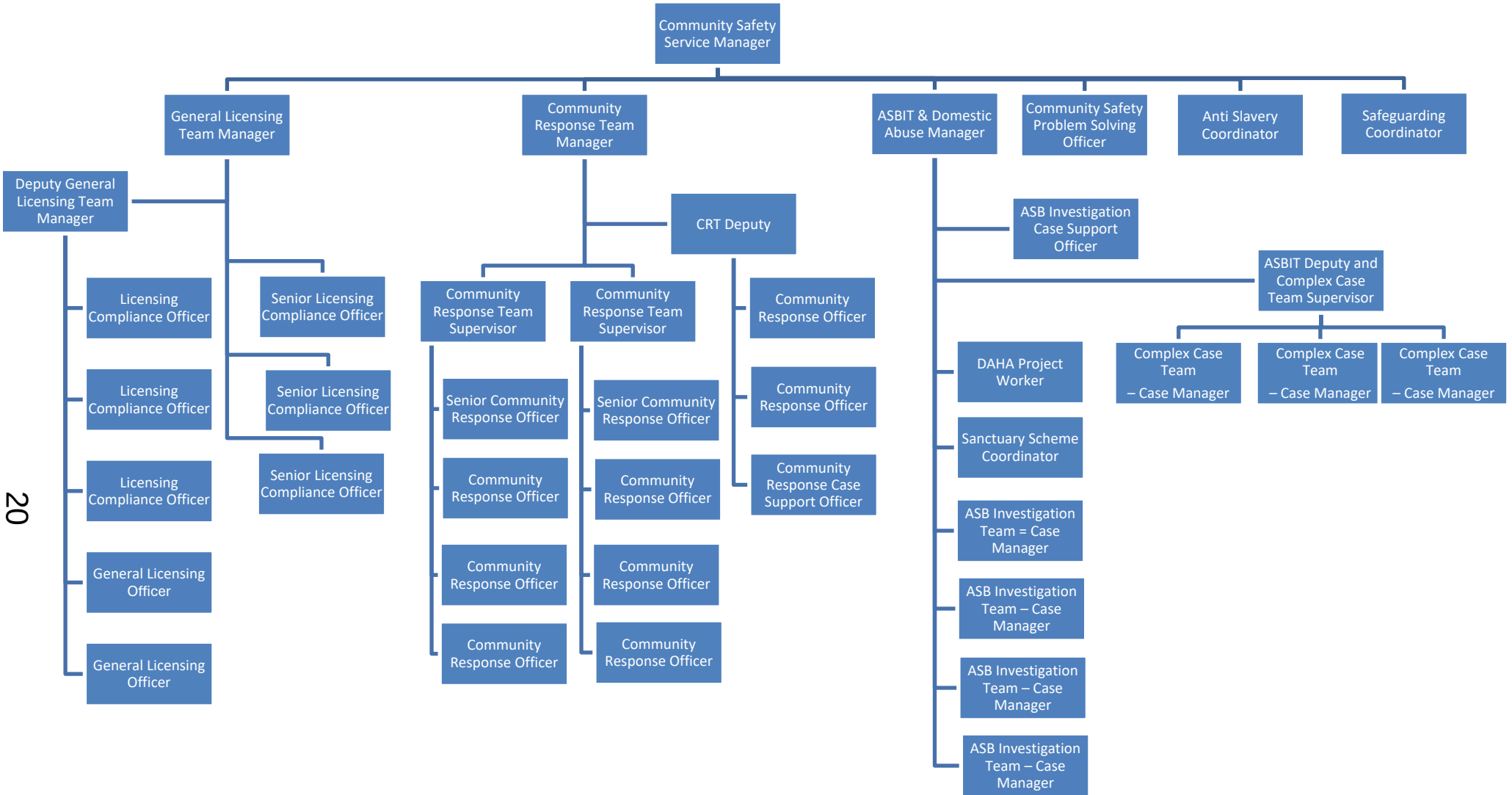
22. The redesign recognises that LGR will impact a future Community Safety Service due to:

- Increase customer demand
- Transport, operating locations and visibility in a larger geographic area
- New stakeholders including social landlords
- A broader partnership landscape
- Opportunities for closer working within the new authority
- New challenges affecting rural communities, towns and villages
- Increased emergency planning risk locations and issues

## Conclusion

23. The Community Safety Service redesign is in its infancy with new team members undertaking training and mentoring programmes. The increased investment is enabling the service to meet the challenges of more complex cases and behaviours, providing greater visibility in our communities, and assisting us in working even more closely with our partners to address the issues that affect our citizens.

|                            |                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report author</b>       | Richard Adams                                                    |
| Job title                  | Community Safety Service Manager                                 |
| Service area or department | Community Safety Service                                         |
| e-mail                     | <a href="mailto:rjadams@oxford.gov.uk">rjadams@oxford.gov.uk</a> |



**To:** **Scrutiny Committee**

**Date:** 8 September 2026

**Report of:** Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer)

**Title of Report:** Delegating Authority for amendments to the Scrutiny Work Programme

| Summary and recommendations  |                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Decision being taken:</b> | To delegate authority to the Scrutiny and Governance Advisor to make amendments to the Scrutiny Work Programme for the Committee and Working Groups. |
| <b>Key decision:</b>         | No                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>       | N/A                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Corporate Priority:</b>   | A Well-Run Council                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommendation(s):</b> That the Scrutiny Committee resolves to:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Delegate authority</b> to the Scrutiny and Governance Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, to make amendments to the Scrutiny Work Plan</li> <li><b>Recommend to Council</b> to incorporate the delegation into part 13.7 of the Constitution.</li> </ol> |

| Information Exempt From Publication |
|-------------------------------------|
| N/A                                 |

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

## Introduction and background

1. The Scrutiny Committee at each of its meetings approves the Work Programme for the next three months. This theoretically sets the agendas for the Working Groups organised in between the Committee and the agenda for the next Committee.
2. However, it may require changes to the work programme following a Scrutiny Committee, due to reports being deferred, or additional reports needing to be scrutinised ahead of a decision being taken.

### **Delegated Authority**

3. Part 13.7 of the Constitution states that the Programme of Work is reviewed and agreed by the Committee. However, this causes a governance risk if there are changes to the work programme in between meetings where the committee hasn't agreed the reports due at the following Committee and Working Groups.
4. It is proposed that the Scrutiny and Governance Advisor, the Scrutiny Function's principal officer is given delegated authority to make amendments to the Work Programme in between committees to amend the agendas of the Working Groups and the following Scrutiny Committee.
5. As there are expected to be an increase in commissioned reports from the Scrutiny Committee as Oxford City Council transitions to the Greater Oxford Council, it is anticipated that there will be further management of the Work Programme, which will need to be managed by Officers to ensure the Committee and Working Groups maximise the use of their scheduled meetings. Oversight of this delegation will be from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.
6. In practice, this delegation will be used only for the agenda setting for Working Group meetings in between Committees and amending the agenda for the next Committee.
7. It is recommended this is incorporated into the Constitution as part of next review at full Council at the beginning of October, to include the following text to 13.7 of the Constitution:
  - a. The Scrutiny and Governance Advisor has delegated authority to make amendments to Scrutiny Work Programme for the Committee and the standing Working Groups, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

8. There are no alternative options for this report, Members are advised that this amendment to the Constitution will ensure that the Work Programme is continually updated and reports are appropriately requested to be reviewed by the Committee or Working Groups.
9. It is also recommended that this is Constitution is updated appropriately, this will ensure the delegation can clearly be found alongside the operating procedures for the Scrutiny Committee and it's Working Groups.

### **Implications of Local Government Reorganisation**

10. There are no implications relating to Local Government Reorganisation. Any changes to delegation of the Work Programme will be for the Scrutiny Committee of the Greater Oxford Council.

**Level of risk**

11. This report rectifies a governance risk where there are changes to the Work Programme in between meetings.

**Equalities impact**

12. There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

|                            |                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
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**Background Papers: None.**

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## Scrutiny Work Plan

September 2026 to December 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.

### Housing and Homelessness Working Group

| Committee/Working Group                                            | Meeting date     | Reports                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 2 September 2026 | HRA Policies (Report for Cabinet)                                                                                                                                  |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 2 September 2026 | Annual Review of the Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 (Report for Cabinet)                                                                  |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 2 September 2026 | Oxfordshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2026-2028) (Report for Cabinet)                                                                              |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 2 September 2026 | Annual Complaint Performance and Service Improvement Report and Self-Assessment against the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code 2025-26 (Report for Cabinet) |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 2 September 2026 | Housing Competence and Conduct (Report for Cabinet)                                                                                                                |

## Scrutiny Committee

| Committee/Working Group | Meeting date     | Reports                                                          |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scrutiny Committee      | 8 September 2026 | Gloucester Green Market (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)           |
| Scrutiny Committee      | 8 September 2026 | Community Safety Service Redesign (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |

## Housing and Homelessness – Special meeting

| Committee/Working Group                                            | Meeting date | Reports                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | TBC          | Annual Lettings Plan (Report for Cabinet)                                    |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | TBC          | Housing Services Performance Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)           |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | TBC          | Resident Engagement “You Said, We Did” Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | TBC          | Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)   |

## Scrutiny Committee

| Committee/Working Group | Meeting date    | Reports                                                      |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scrutiny Committee      | 13 October 2026 | Pavement and Road Maintenance (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |
| Scrutiny Committee      | 13 October 2026 | Annual Safeguarding Report (Cabinet Report)                  |

## Climate and Environment

| Committee/Working Group                                           | Meeting date    | Reports                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 20 October 2026 | Air Quality Action Plan Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |
| Climate and Environment Working                                   | 20 October 2026 | ZCOP Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)                    |

|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|

## Housing and Homelessness

| Committee/Working Group                                            | Meeting date    | Reports                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 3 November 2026 | Housing Services Performance Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)           |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 3 November 2026 | Resident Engagement “You Said, We Did” Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 3 November 2026 | Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan (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 Development Sites Update                |
| Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 28 October 2026 | OX Place Finance Report                          |
| Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 28 October 2026 | OX Place Strategic Overview of Risk              |
| Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 28 October 2026 | OX Place Formal approval of Dividend Policy      |
| Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 28 October 2026 | OX Place Formal approval of Reserves Policy      |
| Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 28 October 2026 | OX Place Formal approval of Scheme of Delegation |

## Housing and Homelessness

| Committee/Working Group                                            | Meeting date    | Reports                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 3 November 2026 | Housing Services Performance Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)           |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 3 November 2026 | Resident Engagement “You Said, We Did” Report (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |
| Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 3 November 2026 | Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan (Scrutiny Commissioned Report)   |

## 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) |

## Finance and Performance

| Committee/Working Group                                           | Meeting date     | Reports  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | 25 November 2026 | No items |

## Scrutiny Committee

| Committee/Working Group | Meeting date    | Reports                                                          |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scrutiny Committee      | 1 December 2026 | City-wide effects of Extreme Heat (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |

## Climate and Environment – Rescheduled meeting

| Committee/Working Group                                           | Meeting date | Reports                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee) | TBC          | Waste and Recycling Update (Scrutiny Commissioned Report) |

|            |  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Committee) |  |  |
|------------|--|--|

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**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 19 August 2026  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee

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

|                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommendation(s): That the Cabinet:</b>                                                                    |
| 1. <b>Consider and respond</b> to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee as set out in the report. |

| Information Exempt from Publication                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Information contained within this report is deemed <b>exempt</b> from publication under Schedule 12A paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of the Local Government Act 1972. |

| Appendix No.      | Appendix Title                                           | Exempt from Publication |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Appendix 1</b> | Confidential summary of discussions by the Working Group | Yes                     |

## Overview and Summary

- The Scrutiny Committee met on 11 August 2026 to consider the following items:
  - Use of CIL funding to support infrastructure and public realm related to the Cowley Branch Line [Report for Cabinet]

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

**Climate and Environment Working Group – 6 July 2026**

- Heat Network Update [Scrutiny-commissioned report]
- Local Area Energy Planning Update [Scrutiny-commissioned report]
- Local EV Infrastructure Update [Scrutiny-commissioned report]
- Community Energy Interim Policy Update [Scrutiny-commissioned report]

**Finance and Performance Working Group – 15 July 2026**

- ODS Group Performance Report [report for SJVG]

3. 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.
4. Following the meetings, Cabinet Members, in consultation with the relevant Officers were asked to agree, agree in-part, or disagree with the recommendations.
5. The tables below detail the recommendations made by the Committee and its Working Groups, which Cabinet will consider at their meeting on 19 August 2026. Table 3 sets out one recommendation made by the Finance and Performance Working Group to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group; as it relates to the Council's clienting role, SJVG agreed to refer the matter to Cabinet for the consideration of the relevant portfolio holder.
6. Cabinet has provided commentaries to inform the Committee of the rationale behind its decision. No table was produced for items where no recommendations were suggested.
7. Minutes of the Scrutiny meeting on 11 August 2026 is available [here](#).

**Summary of discussions**

Use of CIL funding to support infrastructure and public realm related to the Cowley Branch Line

8. The Committee welcomed the report and recognised the opportunity to open up new train stations and improve public transport infrastructure to benefit Oxford and surrounding areas. Members were broadly supportive of the Cowley Branch Line but sought further clarification and reassurance around the proposed CIL funding arrangement.
9. Members first sought clarification regarding the 1.5km development area, including a map showing the area from which 30% CIL would be ringfenced. They questioned why 1.5km had been selected when the benefits of the stations would extend across a much wider area, and asked what proportion of the city's predicted CIL would come from development within this area.
10. Members considered the impact of ringfencing this percentage of future CIL for up to 10 years. They asked what other infrastructure could potentially have received this funding if it were not ringfenced for the CBL, and whether the ringfence would affect CIL money that would ordinarily go to parish councils. Members also sought



reassurance that the proposal would not come at the expense of other much needed local infrastructure.

11. The robustness of the CIL forecast was also tested, including whether 30% is expected to cover the £2.5m contribution over the 10 year period. They asked whether landowners who would benefit significantly from the new rail infrastructure would be expected to make further or fair contributions, and how the proposal fits with the Council's transport and climate growth objectives.
12. The Committee discussed the potential for investment in the CBL to unlock further development and additional CIL. They asked whether it would be possible to estimate the additional CIL that could be generated for Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Temple Cowley, Cowley and Lye Valley, and what those communities might be missing out on financially if the line did not proceed.
13. There were also questions about contributions from South Oxfordshire District Council given the potential for significant development beyond the southern city border. Members noted that SODC had not yet been approached about possible CIL contributions and asked how this position would be affected by LGR and transition to the Greater Oxford Authority. Particularly where parts of the relevant development in South Oxfordshire could fall within the new authority.
14. The Committee agreed four recommendations to Cabinet, covering further information on the city wide impacts of CIL, seeking contributions from SODC and other landowners who would benefit from the new lines, and considering the geographical scope of the CBL in future considerations. A further recommendation was proposed for Cabinet to assess the impacts and disruption on the Littlemore community arising from the CBL and to review the mitigations in place to address these. This recommendation was put to the vote but was not agreed by the Committee.

#### Heat Network Update

15. Discussion relating to this item is deemed confidential defined under Schedule 12A paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of the Local Government Act 1972. The summary is therefore provided as an exempt appendix to this report.

#### Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)

16. Members received an update on the delivery of the LEVI programme, and sought information on the development of community charging hubs. They noted that work remained ongoing to identify suitable locations for 10 pilot community hubs outside the city centre, although many suggested sites were not in Council ownership and required further engagement with landowners and prioritisation work. In relation delivery timeframes, the Climate and Environment Working Group asked about previously reported milestones aimed for the end of 2027 and noted the delay in procurement due to requiring agreement from all 5 district councils, but was reassured that the programme's delivery milestones and KPI's remained in place despite the revised timeframe.
17. Members expressed the need to do further work with landowners and welcomed the suggestion to review another update once the pilot phase is completed, including identification of sites that could be taken forward. There were no recommendations.

#### Local Area Energy Planning Update

18. The Climate and Environment Working Group highlighted the damages created by repeated excavation of newly resurfaced roads for utility works, stressing the need for greater coordination between infrastructure projects. Members noted that this issue was being considered by the Oxford Growth Commission who were taking a strategic approach to improve the planning and coordination of infrastructure works. There were no recommendations.

#### Community Energy Interim Policy Update

19. In seeking clarification on how the arrangements would operate where community-owned organisations were already established and how participation in governance structure would be secured, the Climate and Environment Working Group commented on the importance of transparent governance system. Members recognised the challenges of imposing diverse participation from community groups but that engagement with community organisations, food banks and other local groups would be used to build capacity and maximise participation.
20. It was recommended that capacity-building for community groups should be supported and that diverse representation within the governance structures should be encouraged to enable a broad range of community members to participate.

### **Acknowledgements**

21. The Scrutiny Committee would like to thank Cabinet Members Cllr Anna Railton (Deputy Leader, Planning and Zero Carbon Oxford), Cllr Ed Turner (Deputy Leader (Statutory), Finance and Asset Management). Scrutiny is also grateful to Martin Kerslake (Environmental Sustainability Business Lead (Interim)), Rose Dickinson (Environmental Sustainability Manager), Alec Sims (Energy and Carbon Manager), Vikki Robins (Environmental Sustainability Manager) and Uswah Khan (Committee and Member Services Officer) for their participation in presenting the reports, responding to questions and supporting the Scrutiny function.

### **Financial implications**

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

### **Legal issues**

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

### **Level of risk**

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

### **Equalities impact**

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

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

### **Carbon and Environmental Considerations**

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

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

### **Implications of Local Government Reorganisation**

32. Implications of Local Government Reorganisation for the reports listed above were outlined within the report when presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Group.

33. 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 – Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee –  
Use of CIL funding to support infrastructure and public realm related to the Cowley Branch Line [Report for  
Cabinet]**

The table below sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 11 August 2026 concerning the Use of CIL funding to support infrastructure and public realm related to the Cowley Branch Line. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

| <b><i>Recommendation</i></b>                                                                                                                                           | <b><i>Agree?</i></b> | <b><i>Comment</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That Cabinet ask the Director of Planning and Regulation to provide supplementary information that further clarifies the impacts on city-wide CIL.                  | Yes                  | The total wide CIL level predicted to come in to the City was estimated in the CIL charging review and is around £106m. Such figures will always be estimates as we do not know the timing or nature of development that will come forward. CIL levels will be different for different land uses on any given site. Clearly, the Oxford Growth Commission has an aspiration that CBL will unlock additional growth over and above allocated sites. The margin of error in relation to estimates for any such sites would be greater until those aspirations become policy. The £2.5m ringfencing sought through this paper is capped at that figure and is limited to 30% of any single CIL receipt. |
| 2) That Council approach South Oxfordshire District Council for some portion of contribution toward the funding of CBL given the benefits it will unlock for the area. | No                   | The decision being sought by Cabinet does not relate to direct Council funding for CBL, it seeks to ringfence an element of CIL to meet the local public realm and infrastructure costs of the scheme and benefit local communities. Therefore, in relation to this specific decision, it is not appropriate to seek a contribution from South Oxfordshire. CBL will unlock future economic growth in South Oxfordshire as well as the City. As proposals for LGR progress, all of the land within the immediate environs                                                                                                                                                                            |

|                                                                                                                                                                        |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                        |     | of CBL will come within the geography of the new Greater Oxford Council and future CIL contributions, should the new authority decide to have a CIL charging policy, and decisions relating to those contributions will be made the that new authority. We are encouraging the County Council to secure S106 contributions from landowners across both Oxford and South Oxfordshire.                                                                                                                                        |
| 3) That Council also approach other landowners who would benefit from new rail lines for fair contribution towards the funding of the project.                         | Yes | These discussions are already taking place. What is absolutely vital is that we be in a position in the autumn where all local funding for the CBL is definitively in place which this decision will achieve. The private sector is making a significant contribution to the delivery of CBL but officers will continue to push for further support. The use of S106 and CIL to repay the Enterprise Zone funding does mean that local landowners will eventually fund the line and free up that EZ funding for other uses. |
| 4) That Cabinet look at the geographic scope around which the development impacts are considered when making future considerations relating to the Cowley Branch Line. | No  | The rational for 1.5km from each of the two stations is aligned to planning policy which uses this radius so this is appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**Table 2 – Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Climate and Environment Working Group – Heat Network Update [Scrutiny commissioned report]**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Working Group on 6 July 2026 endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee on 11 August 2026. Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

| <b><i>Recommendation</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                 | <b><i>Agree?</i></b> | <b><i>Comment</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That the Council advocates for the creation of a social value fund, acknowledging the previously agreed recommendation to explore and embed social value in the delivery of Heat Network. | Yes                  | The Council is advocating for the establishment of a social value fund to support a range of carbon reduction and fuel poverty initiatives as part of the Mandatory Requirements (developed by the Council with partners), which would apply to any future HN scheme. |
| 2) That Cabinet recommends highways disruption is minimised in the delivery of Heat Network, noting any potential delays arising from the traffic filter trial is avoided where possible.    | Yes                  | The Council has developed (in collaboration with County Highways) detailed Mandatory Requirements on highways, to ensure disruption is minimised and to align with the Traffic Filter trials.                                                                         |

**Table 3 – Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Climate and Environment Working Group – Community Energy Interim Policy [Scrutiny commissioned report]**

The table below sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Working Group on 6 July 2026 and endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee on 11 August 2026 concerning the Community Energy Interim Policy. Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

| <b><i>Recommendation</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b><i>Agree?</i></b> | <b><i>Comment</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That Cabinet supports the capacity-building of community groups, and in setting up the governance structure for the scheme, encourages diversity within the governance structures to enable a broad range of community members to participate effectively. | Yes                  | Officers will work with internal colleagues in public and community- facing roles as well as community groups with whom we have strong partnerships (Low Carbon Hub, Community Action Group) to extend the council's reach to other smaller diverse groups to encourage a wide and broad level of participation in community energy opportunities. |

## **Table 4 – Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Finance and Performance Working Group – ODS Group Performance Report [Report for SJVG]**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Finance and Performance Working Group on 15 July 2026 concerning the ODS Group Performance Report (Report for SJVG). As it related to the Council’s clienting role, SJVG agreed to refer the matter to Cabinet for consideration by the relevant portfolio holder. Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

| <b><i>Recommendation</i></b>                                                                                                                                       | <b><i>Agree?</i></b> | <b><i>Comment</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That the Council, in its role as Shareholder and client, works with ODS to develop a mutual understanding of how social value should be recognised and applied. | Yes                  | This recommendation is supported. The portfolio holder is working with ODS to establish a shared understanding to further recognise and apply social value, and ensure there is clarity around how this can be reflected in practice. Further details informing this work will be shared in due course. |



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

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