

To: Cabinet
Date: 9 April 2025
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee
26 March 2025

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 26 March 2025 and reviewed the following items:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Update
 - Urgent Key Decisions End-of-Year Update
2. Following the meeting, Cabinet Members, in consultation with the relevant Officers were asked to either, agree, agree in-part, or disagree with the recommendations.
3. The tables below detail the Committee's recommendations for each report which Cabinet has considered ahead of their meeting on 9 April 2025. If no recommendations were suggested for an item, no table has been produced.
4. Cabinet has provided a commentary on each recommendation to inform the Scrutiny Committee of the rationale behind its decision.
5. The draft minutes of the meeting are available [here](#).
6. The Scrutiny Committee would like to thank Cabinet Member Cllr Lubna Arshad (A Safer Oxford), Richard Adams (Community Safety Service Manager) and Jonathan Malton (Committee and Members Services Manager) for their participation in presenting reports and responding to questions from its members.

Report author	Celeste Reyeslao
Job title	Scrutiny and Governance Advisor
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 252946
e-mail	creyeslao@oxford.gov.uk

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

The table below sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 26 March 2025 concerning the Anti-Social Behaviour Update. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy incorporate a clause referencing the principles of 'Safe by Design' in public spaces, and ensure its application in the planning of new public spaces and redesign of existing locations identified as hotspots for anti-social behaviour.	Yes	The policy can include a principle of designing out the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour, and working retrospectively in locations that are of greater concern. The Oxford Local Plan, paragraph 6.11 sets out the Secure By Design expectations for new developments.
2) That Council explore approaches to pavement parking as a form of ASB, for example identifying any multi-agency approaches to combat such problems trialled in designated areas by other local authorities, and assess the feasibility of implementing similar measures locally, noting the potential need for cross-agency collaboration in enforcement and policy development.	Partially	The Council are not the lead agency on highways enforcement issues but will work with the County Council, Thames Valley Police and other partners at their behest where the issue of pavement parking persists. Pavement parking will not fall under the definition of ASB in the new policy.

Table 2 – Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee – Urgent Key Decisions End-of-Year Update

The table below sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 26 March 2025 concerning the Urgent Key Decisions End-of-Year Update. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
5 1) That an end-of-year summary update on Urgent Key Decisions is provided to the Scrutiny Committee, at the discretion of the Scrutiny Chair, in the next municipal year, enabling the Committee to assess whether the mitigations implemented have effectively addressed the high frequency of these decisions.		The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee is always consulted on all urgent key decisions and will be told why it is deemed that the decision can't be taken with either 28-day notice and/or a 2-day call-in period. We will liaise with the Chair next year to confirm if a report would be required, subject to a reduction of urgent key decisions taken. As per the Constitution, all urgent key decisions are reported to full Council at the meeting after the decision has been taken.

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