

**To:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 9 September 2025  
**Report of:** Chair of the Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Recommendations from the Working Groups for endorsement at the Scrutiny Committee

Summary and recommendations	
<b>Decision being taken:</b>	To endorse the recommendations from the Working Groups.
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Chairs of the Scrutiny Working Groups
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	A Well-Run Council
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None

Recommendation(s): That the Scrutiny Committee resolves to:
1. <b>Endorse</b> the recommendations from the Climate and Environment, Housing and Homelessness, and Finance and Performance Working Groups.

Information Exempt From Publication	
N/A	N/A

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

## Overview and Summary

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

### Housing and Homelessness Working Group – 2 September 2025

- Re-procurement of Housing First service support

- Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy
- Housing Service Q1 Performance for 2025/26
- Annual update on Social Housing Allocations and Lettings

#### **Climate and Environment Working Group – 4 September 2025**

- Heat Network Update
  - EV Infrastructure Update
  - Local Energy Area Planning
2. 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.
  3. The Working Groups would like to put on record:
    - The Housing and Homelessness Working Group's review of the social housing allocations and lettings report covered a wide range of issues, including the mismatch between demand and supply particularly for 1 bed homes which are in high demand but underrepresented in the current stock. Discussions also focused on the need for transparency and communication around eligibility especially for those in Band 5 where there is very low likelihood of being housed. Other areas explored included downsizing incentive schemes, and concerns about unseen overcrowding in council homes. The Working Group acknowledged recent improvements to the council website which sets out clear and honest messaging about the realities of social housing availability, and welcomed the prospect of a new programme that updates tenant household details to help monitor their band placement.
  4. The Working Groups wish to thank Cabinet Members and Officers who contributed to the presentation of reports and discussions.

#### **Financial implications**

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

#### **Legal issues**

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

#### **Level of risk**

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

#### **Equalities impact**

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

## Carbon and Environmental Considerations

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

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## **Table 1 – Recommendations of the Housing and Homelessness Working Group – Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Housing and Homelessness Working Group on 2 September 2025 for endorsement by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 September 2025. The Cabinet will be 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 ensures the Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy incorporates a degree of flexibility to take account of extraordinary employment circumstances including those who work irregular hours or on variable contracts, in order to support fairness and further clarity.		

**Table 2 – Recommendations of the Climate and Environment Working Group –  
Heat Network Update**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Working Group on 4 September 2025 for endorsement by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 September 2025. The Cabinet will be 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 social value creation is explored and embedded in the delivery of the heat network, with particular focus on mitigating the negative impacts of construction, including compensation for any disruptions to local businesses, safety concerns, damage to properties, and other community impacts, and that income generated through the network is directed toward addressing fuel poverty through measures such as insulation and energy efficiency upgrades.		
2) That Council ensures there is further scrutiny specifically around the ownership models of the infrastructure under consideration for the heat network.		
3) That concerns around potential monopoly are duly noted, and that commercial arrangements include mechanisms that will ensure long-term public benefit and enable public oversight; that any profits or financial turnover generated through the network are shared with the City Council and used to directly benefit residents; and that where possible, infrastructure is retained in public ownership or alternative safeguards are		

implemented to ensure dependency on a single private provider is prevented.		
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**Table 3 – Recommendations of the Climate and Environment Working Group –  
Local EV Infrastructure**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Working Group on 4 September 2025 for endorsement by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 September 2025. The Cabinet will be 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 OX Place, as a council-owned company, ensure that EV charge points in new developments are accessible to the wider community; and that further work is undertaken to explore the use of workplace EV charging points by local residents during evenings and weekends, potentially through planning conditions.		

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