

Scrutiny Work Plan

January 2026 to April 2026



The Scrutiny Committee agrees an annual work plan detailing key issues – affecting Oxford and its people – selected for review. While the plan sets out the work of scrutiny for the year, it also includes flexibility to address topical issues and forthcoming Cabinet decisions as they arise.

The Work Plan is informed by suggestions received from elected members and senior officers, and it is reviewed at every Scrutiny Committee meeting to ensure it remains current and relevant. 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.

Budget Review Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Budget Review Group	9 December 2025	Meeting 1
Scrutiny Budget Review Group	6 January 2026	Meeting 2
Scrutiny Budget Review Group	7 January 2026	Meeting 3
Scrutiny Budget Review Group	15 January 2026	Meeting 4
Scrutiny Budget Review Group	20 January 2026	Meeting 5

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	13 January 2026	Local Plan 2045
Scrutiny Committee	13 January	Workforce Report 2025

Climate and Environment Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	27 January 2026	Biodiversity Strategy Update
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	27 January 2026	Local Area Energy Planning Update

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	3 February 2026	Budget Review Group Report
Scrutiny Committee	3 February 2026	Council Tax Debt Policy

Housing and Homelessness Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	18 February 2026	<i>No business</i>

Climate and Environment Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 February 2026	Net Zero Tracker
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 February 2026	Heat Network Update
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 February 2026	EV Infrastructure Update
Climate and Environment Working	25 February 2026	Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation and Green Skills

Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)		
Climate and Environment Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 February 2026	Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Study

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	10 March 2026	Fly-tipping and Litter Management

Finance and Performance Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 March 2026	Procurement Act Update (including social value and impact)
Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 March 2026	Issues faced by the Local Government Sector and how Oxford City Council Compares
Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 March 2026	Quarterly Integrated Performance Report - Q3 2025/26
Finance and Performance Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	25 March 2026	OCHL Business Plan

Housing and Homelessness Working Group

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	31 March 2026	Housing Performance
Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	31 March 2026	Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code Self-Assessment
Housing and Homelessness Working Group (of the Scrutiny Committee)	31 March 2026	Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Update

Scrutiny Committee

Committee/Working Group	Meeting date	Reports
Scrutiny Committee	7 April 2026	<i>No business</i>