

Supplement for

Scrutiny Committee

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On **Tuesday 2 July 2024** At **6.00 pm**

Minutes supplement for item 18 - Work Plan and Forward Plan

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

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From: [COURTNEY Alice](#)
Subject: FOR INFORMATION: Follow-up from Scrutiny Committee 02 July 2024
Date: 15 August 2024 16:18:11
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Scrutiny Committee,

At the informal remote meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 02 July 2024, a query was raised in relation to grass mowing. I have included the draft minutes extract relating to this query below:

During discussion, clarification was sought regarding the grass mowing schedule in terms of which body was responsible for it (including what each involved body paid for), the schedule and individual verge ownership across the City. The Scrutiny Officer advised that she would follow-up with the relevant officers after the meeting and request that information was re-circulated to all Members.

The Committee noted that it would be helpful if a map showing responsibility for grass verges and other land across the city was published on the Council's website, so that the public could contact the correct body first time about issues related to grass mowing and litter, for example.

Having liaised with Cabinet Members and officers outside of the meeting, I am now able to provide the following information:

There is a lot of information about grass verge management on the Council's website [here](#), which is publicly accessible and which Members are encouraged to access. The bottom of this webpage also includes a link where litter on verges can be reported.

Should Members identify or become aware of individual issues such as long grass at a particular junction which is causing a hazard, Members should report this directly via [Fix My Street](#) (and not via Council officers or Oxford Direct Services).

Officers are in the process of undertaking a lessons-learned review in relation to grass mowing, which will be shared with Members in due course alongside any proposed future options should changes be recommended. In the event there are proposals that would require additional funding or Cabinet approval, Scrutiny would have the opportunity to formally consider any proposals in relation to grass mowing should it wish to – whether that be through Scrutiny Committee, Climate and Environment Panel, or the Budget Review Group. The route taken would be dependent on timings and Work Plan availability.

In relation to the secondary query about mapping, Council officers have access to a variety of tools including Arc GIS and resources provided by the County Council. However, there are not yet developed tools that combine these data sources in an easily accessible way.

Work is ongoing to address this, but there is no detailed update available at this stage. 'Council-wide Data and Mapping' remains on the list of suggested Scrutiny-commissioned items for 2025/26, therefore next year's Committee will have the opportunity to request to look at this in more detail if it wishes – perhaps at a stage when more information is available.

Best wishes,

Alice

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