

ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council
Meeting date	26 February 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees may consider requests for work from a range of sources, including requests from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet and Council.</p> <p>The O&S Committee is asked to consider two requests for scrutiny recently made by Council and one request for scrutiny from a Portfolio Holder, and to determine these requests in line with the associated constitution procedure rules.</p>
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that the O&S committee considers and approves or rejects the three requests for scrutiny as set out in this report.
Reason for recommendations	To comply with the decision of Council and the requirements of the council's constitution.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable for this decision
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Process for consideration of scrutiny requests

1. This report relates to requests for scrutiny made to the O&S committee by a Portfolio Holder, Cabinet or Council. The process for determining requests to O&S Committees from these bodies is set out by the council's constitution procedure rules as follows:

- *Where Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet or Council request that O&S Committees undertake a specified piece of work, the relevant O&S Committee shall respond to the request as soon as it is possible to do so.*
 - *The Committee will assess the value to be added by the work suggested when determining whether to exercise its powers in this respect. Where it chooses to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will report back its findings and any recommendations to Cabinet and/or Full Council.*
 - *Where the Committee chooses not to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will provide reasons for this to the body that made the original request.*
2. In addition, the constitution requires that *no item of work shall join the work plan of any O&S Committee without an assessment of:*
 - *detail outlining the background to the issue suggested;*
 - *the proposed method of undertaking the work;*
 - *likely timescale associated with undertaking the work; and*
 - *the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed.'*
 3. The O&S Committee should follow these processes when determining requests for scrutiny.

Requests for consideration

Van Life – Community Pact

4. **Background** - At its 10 December 2024 meeting, the Council resolved to establish a Community Pact for all vehicle dwellers, and to ask the Environment & Place O&S Committee to consider the detail of this Pact.
5. **Scrutiny process and timescale** - this was not set out by Council, although debate at Council included the suggestion that the O&S Committee could assist in this matter by gathering views from relevant stakeholders to better understand the community needs that would underpin such a Community Pact. This matter may therefore be well suited to a working group or series of commissioned evidence sessions to inform the work.
6. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed** - this was not clearly stated by Council and requires further consideration by the Committee. Since the decision was made by Council further proposals for the scope of the work, including the anticipated outcome and value, have been provided by Councillor Peter Cooper who moved the motion at Council. This is attached at Appendix 2.
7. The full decision of Council is set out at Appendix 1.

Climate and Nature

8. **Background** - At its 10 December 2024 meeting, the Council resolved to ask the Environment & Place O&S Committee to support work relating to climate and nature by determining a scrutiny process focused on the relevant key priorities within the Corporate Plan, with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable in society from the effects of climate change.
9. **Scrutiny process and timescale** – this was not set out by Council and requires further consideration by this Committee.
10. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed** – the proposal for scrutiny asks that there be an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable in society from the effects of climate change. This may be considered a broad anticipated outcome of the proposed scrutiny work. In addition, debate at Council included a discussion on the value that scrutiny could bring in supporting the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment & Energy to drive forward this important area of work through a target and objective setting approach. The committee may wish to give further consideration to the value and impact that it can have on this matter when scoping key lines of enquiry for this work.
11. The full decision of Council is set out at Appendix 1.

Cliff and Coastal Erosion Management

12. **Background** - Councillor Richard Herrett, the Cabinet member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations has requested that, further to cliff slips in the BCP area over the last year, this O&S Committee consider scrutinising Cliff and Coastal Erosion Management with a focus on the following key lines of enquiry:
 - How BCP manages its coastal and cliff erosion now and into the future
 - What are the challenges?
 - How is this area of work funded and how will it be funded in the future?
 - How is this work communicated to residents and wider public?
13. **Scrutiny process and timescale** - The proposed method of scrutiny was not set out within the request. The Portfolio Holder requests that, if agreed by committee, this work be undertaken as soon as work programme capacity allows.
14. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed:** to ensure that the Council is doing everything it can in relation to coastal management and managing the impact on our residents, visitors and the area as a whole.
15. The full detail of the request is set out at Appendix 3.

Options Appraisal

16. The O&S Committee may choose to agree or reject the requests made. This decision should be made in line with the requirements of the constitution as set out above, particularly in relation to the anticipated value and outcome of proposed work and the resources available to undertake work.
17. If requests are agreed, the committee should determine methods and timescales for scrutiny, taking account of other priorities already established within the committee

work programme. This may be delegated to the Chair of the Committee to consider with officers and report back.

18. If requests are rejected, the Committee should provide reasons for this to the body making the request.

Summary of financial implications

19. There are no financial implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of legal implications

20. There are no legal implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of human resources implications

21. There are no human resources implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests

Summary of sustainability impact

22. There are no sustainability impacts associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of public health implications

23. There are no public health implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of equality implications

24. There are no equality implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of risk assessment

25. There are no risks associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Background papers

Current Environment & Place O&S Committee work programme

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Extract Minute, Council 10 December 2024.

Appendix 2 – Van Life Community Pact, scoping proposals from Councillor P Cooper.

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny request from Portfolio Holder R Herrett.