

Report subject	Response from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a Council recommendation
Meeting date	3 June 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees must consider any requests for scrutiny made to it by Council and respond to Council if the response is rejected, with reasons. This report sets out such a response.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that Council notes the response.
Reason for recommendations	To comply with the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and 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 Information

Background

1. This report relates to a request for scrutiny made to the Environment and Place O&S Committee by Council.
2. The process for determining requests to O&S Committees from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council 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.*
3. **Building Control scrutiny request:** At its 25 February 2025 meeting, Council considered a motion 'to strengthen building standards through Local Authority control'. The proposer of the motion was seeking Council support to lobby government on this matter. Among other resolutions on this motion Council agreed to '**refer the motion to the Environment and Place O&S Committee for recommendation of the Council's policy position on this matter.**' The Environment & Place O&S Committee considered the request on 2 April 2025 and assessed the value that could be added by the work suggested. The committee decided not to add the item to its work programme.
 4. **Reasons for refusal:** In reaching this decision, the committee highlighted that the motion had been agreed in full by Council, and it therefore felt that the Council's policy position had already been determined. In the absence of any further detail, the committee did not feel that it could add value to this issue by scrutinising it. However, the committee agreed to consider an alternative scope on the topic of building control at a future meeting, if councillors were minded to bring forward a scope that more clearly identified how scrutiny could impact on the matter.

Options Appraisal

5. This report is for information therefore no options appraisal is included.

Summary of financial implications

6. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Summary of legal implications

7. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Summary of human resources implications

8. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

9. There are no sustainability impacts associated with this report.

Summary of public health implications

10. There are no public health implications associated with this report.

Summary of equality implications

11. There are no equality implications associated with this report.

Summary of risk assessment

12. There are no risks associated with this report.

Background papers

Published works: Environment & Place O&S Committee meeting minutes 2 April 2025.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.