

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council
Meeting date	17 November 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	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. The O&S Board is asked to consider two requests for scrutiny recently made by Council and one additional request which has already been partially addressed by the Board, and to determine these requests in line with the associated constitution procedure rules.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that the O&S Board considers and approves or rejects the two requests for scrutiny as set out in this report and notes the work of the Board in relation to the request which has been partially addressed.
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	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
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 Board 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

Managing Seasonal Parking Pressures

4. **Background** – A Motion was submitted to the Council meeting scheduled for 22 July on this issue. The meeting was adjourned and reconvened on 16 September 2025 when the motion was considered. There were two issues within the substantive motion which require referral to the Board.
5. The first issue referred to scrutiny was point a of the resolution as follows “Ask the Overview & Scrutiny Board to undertake a review of the recent parking consultation, with the aim of improving future engagement processes. This review to include feedback from residents, business owners, tourism representatives and other stakeholders”
6. The second part of the motion which was added as an amendment was as follows, “That this is brought to Environment and Place for further scrutiny”. Further information from the proposer of the motion has been sought as to what this request refers to, whether particular parts or the entirety of the motion. Parking and Traffic matters are divided between the remit of the O&S Board and the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny. However, as the previous issues raised within the motion appear to pertain more to parking enforcement matters it is appropriate that this request is also considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, subject to any further information being received.
7. **Scrutiny process and timescale** - Timescales for either piece of work were not proposed by Council. Prior to consideration of the first issue at Council the O&S

Board had already agreed to continue the consultation Working Group to review this consultation among others which had taken place. The Chair of the O&S Board advised Council of this during the debate on this motion. The Working Group has since met to discuss this and it has helped to inform work into the Council's process for implementing consultations. The review has not sought feedback from third parties on this issue.

8. An extract of the minutes including the full decision is provided with this report at Appendix 1.
9. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed** - The aim of the first proposal was to improve future engagement processes. The Working Group has already undertaken and is continuing to undertake work on this issue. In relation to the second proposal the value to be brought by this enquiry was not outlined by Council and further information as to what the request refers to would be required in order to make a determination regarding this.
10. As required by constitution rules, the proposer of the motion is invited to attend the meeting and provide the Board with further information on the proposed work. This will enable the Board to further question the purpose and assess the likely added value of the work and so make an informed decision on whether to agree to these work programme additions.

Vacant Sites for Affordable Housing

11. **Background** - – A Motion was submitted to the Council meeting scheduled for 22 July on this issue. The meeting was adjourned and reconvened on 16 September 2025 when the motion was considered. Among other resolutions on this motion Council agreed t, ' "Ask the appropriate scrutiny committee to consider options and obstacles to housing delivery and to decide areas of focus that are realistic and will lead to housing delivery rather than wasting resource writing 7500 reports and, for each Council owned site and agree what is needed for effective scrutiny through the scrutiny process".
12. **Scrutiny process and timescale** – Whilst housing is substantially a matter for the Environment and Place O&S Committee, the Board has responsibility for regeneration which would include and high volume housing schemes and it has been agreed that the Local Plan should fall within the remit of the Board. Therefore whilst this matter is somewhat cross cutting it is proposed that the Board is the appropriate scrutiny body to give this recommendation initial consideration. The process and timescale were not set out by Council and requires further consideration by the Board.
13. An extract of the minutes including the full decision is provided with this report at Appendix 1.
14. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed** – Information on this included the need to decide realistic areas of focus and identify what is needed for effective scrutiny. However this requires further consideration by the Board.
15. As required by constitution rules, the proposer of the motion is invited to attend the meeting and provide the Board with further information on the proposed work. This will enable the Board to further question the purpose and assess the likely added

value of the work and so make an informed decision on whether to agree to these work programme additions.

Options Appraisal

16. The O&S Board 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 Board should determine methods and timescales for scrutiny, taking account of other priorities already established within the Board's work programme. This may be delegated to the Chair to consider with officers and report back.
18. If requests are rejected, the Board 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 O&S Board Work Programme

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Extract Minute, Council 22 July 2025.