

Council Overview and Scrutiny Board – Work Plan Framework 2026/27 - updated 02/07/2026

Guidance notes:

- 2/3 items per committee meeting is the recommended maximum for effective scrutiny.
- The O&S Board will approach work through a lens of **RESIDENT IMPACT, EXPERIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT**
- Items requiring further scoping are identified and should be scoped using the [Key Lines of Enquiry tool](#).

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
Meeting Date: 24 August 2026				
1	Estate Management and Disposal Process To Consider a report in response to requests from the Board regarding governance of internal estate management and community asset transfer process.	Committee Report	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	Requested during work programming - KLOE completed
2.	Planning Performance Update To receive an update from Planning on current performance and issues highlighted within the key lines of enquiry document and potential to include information on planning requested in the Lower Gardens item requested.	Committee Report	Director of Planning - Leader of the Council	Requested during work programming KLOE completed
3.	Feedback on O&S recommendations from April to June	Verbal update from Cabinet Portfolio Holders	Portfolio Holder for Climate Response,	Quarterly item

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	To track recommendations and follow up on progress made to date.		Environment and Energy/ Leader of the Council	
Meeting Date: 21 September 2026				
1.	Medium Term Financial Plan Update Report Scrutiny and monitoring of the latest Cabinet report of the MTFP update	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to scrutinise MTFP reports
2.	Update on Local Plan (TBC)	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report	Director of Planning and Transport / Leader of the Council	As advised at the Board's June meeting
3.	Update on Blue Badge Service To consider an update for information on the current status	Update circulated for information	Director of Customer and Property Operations	Long term monitoring role for the Board – recent request for update
Meeting Date: 19 October 2026				
	Quarter 1 Financial Outturn Report To enable the O&S Board to monitor the Council's developing financial situation.	Cabinet report to be circulated to Board members for information	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	
	Regeneration update item (TBC)	Committee Report		
Meeting Date: 16 November 2026				
	Devolution (TBC)			
Meeting Date: 7 December 2026				

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
1.	Medium Term Financial Plan Update Report Scrutiny and monitoring of the latest Cabinet report of the MTFP update.	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to scrutinise MTFP reports
2.	Proactive/reactive scrutiny item(s) to be determined			
3.	Quarter 2 Financial Outturn Report To enable the O&S Board to monitor the Council's developing financial situation.	Cabinet report to be circulated to Board members for information	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to monitor outturn reports
Meeting Date: 4 January 2027				
	Local Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report Scrutiny of the annual report in the Board's role as designated crime and disorder scrutiny body.	Committee Report – Invite to Chair of the partnership	Corporate Director for Wellbeing – PH Housing and Regulatory Services	
Meeting Date: 1 February 2027 – BUDGET MEETING				
	2027/28 Proposed Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report and verbal updates from Directors	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to scrutinise MTFP reports
	Proactive/reactive scrutiny item(s) to be determined			
Meeting Date: 22 February 2027				

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	Town Councils To consider a progress report on how the Town Councils are developing and any issues which have arisen since their formation.	Committee Report	Leader of the Council / PH – Communities and Partnerships	
Meeting Date: 22 March 2027				
	Proactive/reactive scrutiny item(s) to be determined –			
	Quarter 3 Financial Outturn Report To enable the O&S Board to monitor the Council's developing financial situation.	Cabinet report to be circulated to Board members for information	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to monitor outturn reports
Items for scrutiny (Meeting dates and/or methods to be determined)				
	Regeneration Updates (x2) Regeneration was a strong focus for the Board in work planning and it is expected that the Board will consider at least 2 further regeneration reports during the municipal year - the timing of these will need to be scheduled.	Committee Reports (TBC)	Director of Investment and Development / Leader of the Council	One update suggested for October – remaining update to be scheduled
	Local Plan Updates (x3) The Local Plan was a key priority for the O&S Board and as such it is expected that a number of updates will be	Committee Reports (TBC)	Director of Planning and Transport / Leader of the Council	All to be scheduled in.

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	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	considered by the Board – the timing of these will need to be scheduled.			
	Estates and Asset Disposal (x2) This was also one of the most important areas identified – An initial report on the Asset transfer and disposal process is requested followed by a further reports on asset disposals later in the year	Committee Reports (TBC)	Director of Finance / PH - Finance	Initial report scheduled for August meeting – following report to be scheduled for later in the year.
	Councillor Involvement in the Complaints Process Initial rapporteur work being carried out. Report to come to a future Committee – date to be determined	Committee Report	Director of Marketing, Communications and Policy	
	Devolution The Board agreed to hold a slot for potential reactive scrutiny of this issue later in the year.	TBC	TBC	
	Domestic Abuse Strategies To consider a Cabinet report which outlines the proposed strategies.	Pre-Decision scrutiny of a Cabinet Report	Corporate Director for Wellbeing / PH Housing and Regulatory Services	Currently on Cabinet FP with date TBD
Working Groups and items addressed through alternative scrutiny methods				
	Residents Parking Policy It was suggested that this had high resident impact and could look at:	Potential topic for a Working Group	Director of Commercial Operations / PH – Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations	Limited to one in depth piece of work across O&S bodies – suggestions from across scrutiny bodies to be

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	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	- Comparative practice in other councils - Creative solution-finding - Working alongside officers			agreed and prioritised by Chair's group
	Councillor involvement in the Complaints process The Board previously agreed to ask Cllr Aitkenhead as rapporteur to undertake to find out more information on this issue.	Initially through a Rapporteur to gather information – Cllr S Aitkenhead		Cllr Aitkenhead will report on initial findings to the O&S Board meeting on 23 March
	Charminster Library			A KLOE is being developed for
	Briefing Sessions			
	Dates for O&S Board Briefing Sessions for 2026/27:		Potential Topics for Briefing Sessions	
	Monday 27 July 2026		Homes England	
	Monday 5 October 2026		Voluntary Sector / BIDS /Partnerships	
	Monday 25 January 2027		Council Operating Model	

Items not included in the work plan

The following are the items which the Board agreed not to progress during the work planning process:

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

1a. Licensing – It was agreed not to progress this item subject to a discussion with relevant officers to ascertain any value which the Board could add in this area. The issue recorded a low score using the prioritisation matrix.

3e. Dorset Heathlands Recreation Mitigation Strategy
3f. 3f Dorset Heathlands Air Quality Mitigation Strategy
3g. New Forest Recreation Mitigation Strategy
3h. Poole Harbour Recreation Mitigation Strategy



These issues all recorded a low score using the prioritisation matrix. A number of groups did not consider they could add value on these issues. Some commented that some of these issues may be better suited to the Environment and Place O&S Committee.

5a – Councillors and Officers working together – It was agreed not to progress this issue – It received a low prioritisation score in the matrix and the Board did not consider that it could add value in this area

5b – staff culture and satisfaction – It was agreed not to progress this issue. Although this scored in the mid range in prioritisation it was noted that no staff survey was planned until 2027 which limited the scope for scrutiny. However it was suggested that the Board could instead add value by inputting into questions within the survey.

6a – Council operating model – programme and projects centre of expertise – It was suggested that this was best suited towards a briefing topic

- 8b - Three towns challenges - This topic only received a mid to low score in the prioritisation matrix and it was therefore agreed not to progress this
- 8c - Working more collectively across BCP geographical areas - This was a legacy item but it was not considered that the Board would be able to add value at this stage and received lower scores in the prioritisation matrix.
- 9b - Accounting for social value in decision making - Although this received a low score it was agreed that it should be taken into account when the Board considered 9A - The Social Value Statement as pre-decision scrutiny

10b Business improvement districts – Received low prioritisation score but it was suggested that this would be suitable for a briefing session if time allowed.

11a Age-friendly communities progress – Agreed not to progress this at this stage as one or more groups did not consider further value could be added by scrutiny.

11b – Partnership working with voluntary and community centres – Agreed not to progress this at this stage as one or more groups did not consider further value could be added by scrutiny. It was suggested that this may be suitable for a briefing session.

Key:  Pre-Decision Scrutiny  Pro/Re-active Scrutiny  Information Items