

**Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Recommendations and Actions Tracker**

The Recommendations and Actions Tracker is a standing item, and documents the progress of formal scrutiny recommendations and suggested actions for improvement made by the Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee at its public meetings. Items will remain on the tracker until a response has been provided to the Committee by the Executive, council departments, and/or external partners.

Suggested Actions for Improvement to Council Departments/Partners

Ref	Meeting date and agenda item	Action	Lead	Target date	Last update	Update	Status
116 & 143	11 October 2023 & 25 April 2024: Thames Water and Environment Agency	Meet with the EA and West Berkshire Council to discuss the Northbrook in Newbury. Seek an update from Councillor Gourley about whether action would be taken following the results of the Northbrook tests.	Cllr Stuart Gourley/Jon Winstanley	10/02/2026	25/11/2025	Thames Water have supported with testing of the Northbrook. WBC's business case is being finalised with the Environment Agency and will be managed in line with the emerging draft Section 19 report after the January 2024 district-wide flooding. This will require EA funding. The Environment Officer who joined us on the site visit, has requested a water quality monitoring device to be deployed along the Northbrook. 01/07/25 - concerns on this matter have been brought to the attention of Lee Dillon MP by a resident, the outcome of which would be monitored. 05/09/25 - Cllr Gourley has continued to chase the EA for further support with pollution testing, but all systems are deployed elsewhere currently. The EA do not consider this site as a priority at the current time. 16/09/25 - request made of the Council to take action as corporate landlord by requesting that testing take place of non-dissolvable pollutants and for cameras to be installed to monitor the situation and help identify ways to resolve it. This was informed by a member of the public, Ms Paula Saunderson, who is liaising with officers. 14/11/25 - Portfolio Holder is in discussion with officers on the available options and how best to take this forward. It is understood that the Lead Local Flood Authority's Principal Engineer has been tasked with preparing a further study of the flood risk. 25/11/25 - agreed to request a written update for the Newbury Clay Hill Flood and Drainage Warden.	In progress
141	25 April 2024: Actions from Previous Minutes	Scrutiny Commission to be updated about progress with Councillor Gourley's motion (in relation to Thames Water) that was passed at March Council.	Cllr Stuart Gourley	15/09/2026	08/09/2025	The Scrutiny Chairman is in dialogue with the Executive Portfolio Holder regarding the timing of future reports. 14/11/25 - TW are conducting a lot of work around the District, and small steps are being made by the government to improving the situation. The council continue to support TW with operational needs such as permits for works etc, and remain in dialogue on upcoming works, and requirements around the District. The scheduling of the annual meeting with WBC officers, Thames Water and the Environment Agency to discuss flooding, sewage and drought to be discussed under the Work Programme (provisionally September 2026).	In progress

212	26 November 2024: Response to Faraday Road Football Ground queries	Provide details of the project plan and objectives for Faraday Road.	Cllr Nigel Foot	tbc	16/09/2025	A draft is being produced. Cllr Foot to clarify some details and will provide a further update following the next meeting of the Faraday Road Steering Group in September. 16/09/25 - an update on the project plan and objectives for Faraday Road was provided at the Executive on 25 September 2025.	In progress
223	11 February 2025: Actions from Previous Meetings	Follow up with Thames Water regarding Thatcham Sewage Works.	Cllrs Stuart Gourley and Denise Gaines	tbc	16/09/2025	Cllr Culver has contacted Denise Kinsella and awaits a response. Cllr Gourley has also been asked to liaise with Thames Water on this point. 01/07/25 - Stephen Chard to seek confirmation on ownership of the Thatcham Sewage Works. Confirmed this is Thames Water. 16/09/25 - it was explained that the concerns with the sewage works being at capacity and action needing to be taken as a result were being progressed by the relevant Portfolio Holders (Councillors Stuart Gourley and Denise Gaines).	In progress
156, 157, 232	17 July 2024 & 13 March 2025: Waste Strategy	Undertake benchmarking with other local authorities to check the link between affluence and waste volume.	Daniel Warne	17/03/2026	19/06/2025	Assigned to officer for action in Q4, following implementation of other key priorities.	In progress
		Consider how measurement and reporting of community litter-picking could be improved, and consider increased provision of community litter-picking kits as part of the Waste Strategy		17/03/2026	16/09/2025	Action forms part of adopted Waste Management Strategy. Assigned to officer for action in Q4, following implementation of other key priorities. 01/07/25 - importance highlighted of ensuring that local communities and volunteer groups were aware that litter picking kits were held by parishes. 06/02/26 - Waste Strategy includes ongoing actions to enhance support for community led litter picking and to increase engagement with Town and Parish Councils, with the latter planned for a greater focus in 2027. We actively promote the availability of our litter picking equipment and publicise the work of volunteers when information such as photos or collected volumes is shared with us on social media, press releases and via council e-newsletters. To further improve accessibility and awareness, we will collate and publish a list of locations where litter picking equipment can be borrowed.	In progress
		A future report to be brought to the Scrutiny Commission on implementation of the new recycling scheme.		17/03/2026	16/09/2025	Discussion on the Waste Strategy is scheduled on the Work Programme for March 2026. This will include an update on the move to three weekly black bin collections.	In progress
237	1 July 2025: Corporate Programme	Councillor Iain Cottingham to provide an update on progress with the corporate landlord model.	Cllr Iain Cottingham	tbc	16/09/2025		In progress
242	1 July 2025: 2024/25 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn	Cllr Iain Cottingham to provide the invest to save business case to Cllr Antony Amirtharaj to provide a fuller explanation of the commissioning work that was involved with procuring SEND provision.	Cllr Iain Cottingham	tbc	01/07/2025	This will be more widely circulated once received.	In progress
244	1 July 2025: 2024/25 Revenue Financial Performance: Provisional Outturn	A diagram to be provided to help understand how financial governance groups interlinked.	Shannon Coleman-Slaughter		01/07/2025	Financial governance discussed at Executive in December 2025.	Complete

246	1 July 2025: Task and Finish Group Updates	The three scrutiny chairmen and Democratic Services to carry out a piece of work to achieve clarity about the purpose and parameters of task and finish groups.	Scrutiny Chairmen	17/03/2026	15/01/2026	This is being progressed by Nicki Thomas, Service Lead for Legal and Democratic Services, in the first instance. Draft guidance has been provided to the scrutiny chairmen for comment. 25/11/25 - would be progressed once comments had been received from all Scrutiny Chairmen. 15/01/26 - feedback received, could now be progressed through decision making cycle.	In progress
251	16 September 2025: Review of Transformation Programme	Information would be provided on the income from selling assets, alongside costs incurred/rental income lost to fully understand the benefits achieved from transformation. Information would also be provided on the costs of retaining an asset and using it in a different way vs the savings achieved.	Gabrielle Mancini/ Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	10/02/2026	16/09/2025	Information on capital receipts provided at the special meeting on 03/02/26, but agreed it would be brought back to 10/02/26 to cover in more detail (attached to this document).	In progress
		Further information would be provided on savings achieved and cost avoidance, as well as all costs incurred to establish the net position and assist further scrutiny. This would capture the information in one document and could take the form of an enhanced Appendix A and/or the transformation cost tracker that had been tabled. Regular update reports were requested. The next update was received by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2026.	Gabrielle Mancini/ Shannon Coleman-Slaughter	03/02/2026	16/09/2025		In progress
253	16 September 2025: Capital Financing Performance Report Q1 2025/26	A full list of reprofiling requests would be provided in future reports.	Chris Dagnell		16/09/2025		In progress
		The business case for the solar farm would be circulated to the Committee.	Clare Lawrence/Jon Winstanley	tbc	05/02/2026	05/02/26 - Business case is currently being updated following conclusion of the procurement exercise in December. It is anticipated the business case and viability review will be concluded by the end of March 26.	In progress
254	16 September 2025: Revenue Performance Report Q1	Greater clarification would be provided of the graphs presented in paragraph 6.2 of the report.	Toby Bradley/ Shannon Coleman-Slaughter		16/09/2025		In progress
		Information would be provided on the profiling of short term borrowing and repayment.					In progress
		A private finance briefing would be arranged for Scrutiny Members, open to all Members, to aid Members' understanding of factors related to the budget, such as Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) and borrowing arrangements with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), and how best to scrutinise them.		tbc			In progress
255	10 November 2025: Local Government Reorganisation - full proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire	Sarah Clarke to amend the Ridgeway proposal document to ensure that the proposed date for the election of the shadow authority was correct throughout.	Sarah Clarke		12/11/2025	LGR proposal approved by Executive on 12/11/25.	Complete

256	10 November 2025: Local Government Reorganisation - full proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire	Consider the potential for a future HRA as part of the scrutiny review of local housing services.	Committee		25/11/2025	Discussed by Committee on 25/11/25 where it was resolved that the potential to form an HRA would not be considered at the present time.	Complete
257	10 November 2025: Local Government Reorganisation - full proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire	In the event that the Ridgeway Council proposal is approved, bring a report to a future meeting of the Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee setting out next steps / preparatory work.		tbc	10/11/2025		
258	25 November 2025: Community Safety Partnership Update	TVP to confirm whether ethnicity categories were self-defined for stop and search.	TVP		25/11/2025		
259	25 November 2025: Community Safety Partnership Update	TVP to investigate whether crime rates per 10,000 population could be provided for next year's presentation.	TVP		25/11/2025		
260	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	Planning Members would need to be provided with information on the different options/tools that would be taken forward, subject to agreement. This would be requested for inclusion in planning training when appropriate.	Laura Callan	tbc	25/11/2025	Training materials being developed and worked into next Planning Committee Member Training sessions.	In progress
261	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	SNG to provide a dedicated e-mail address that Members could use to raise any queries.	SNG		25/11/2025	E-mail address provided to all Members.	Complete
262	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	Connecting Communities in Berkshire would be invited to join the work of the vibrant villages PDG. All Members should be made aware of the work of this organisation.	Laura Callan	tbc	25/11/2025	Dates for the next PDG sub group in process of agreement and CCB will be invited to the sub group meeting.	In progress
263	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	The suggestion was made that almshouses could be a wider consideration for affordable housing, this could be taken forward with the Chair of the Almshouse Association. Councillor Gaines agreed this could be explored.	Laura Callan/Nick Caprara	17/03/2026	25/11/2025	Meeting scheduled for Cllr Gaines and officers from Housing & Planning to meet with Chair of Almshouse Association on 10/2. Will also be considered further as part of PDG sub group	In progress
264	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	The targets for affordable housing and social housing for the Local Plan period (to 2041) would be confirmed to the Committee.	Cllr Denise Gaines/Clare Lawrence/Laura Callan	tbc	25/11/2025	Information is being prepared and will be circulated.	In progress
265	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	Information would be provided on specific projects that were expected to come forward for affordable/social housing units.	Clare Lawrence/Nick Caprara	17/03/2026	25/11/2025	Quarterly completion and pipeline reports are provided to Cllr Gaines at briefing sessions. Officers continue to negotiate with Registered provider partners over the delivery of affordable housing sites in the district. Meetings with Abri Housing have taken place with officers and portfolio holder regarding 3 sites in the district with an aim to deliver 100% affordable housing on each site. Work is currently underway on the first of these sites at Pound Street in Newbury. Further details on sites and schemes will be shared as they progress.	In progress
266	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	Further detail would be provided to explain why the Chestnut Walk JV had not progressed.	Cllr Denise Gaines/Nick Caprara	10/02/2026	25/11/2025	It was confirmed, in December 2024, that the JV was being dissolved due to the sites, which had been assessed, were no longer considered financially viable for the partnership to proceed with.	Complete

267	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	The reasoning for the disposal by SNG of Newbury House would be confirmed.	SNG	tbc	25/11/2025		In progress
268	25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery	The slides from the SNG presentation would be circulated to all Members for information. Scrutiny Members would be afforded the opportunity to ask further questions on the presentation.	Stephen Chard	10/02/2026	25/11/2025		Complete
269	25 November 2025: Corporate Programme (Future Care Home Strategy)	Confirmation needed of when this Strategy could come forward for review.	Stephen Chard/Paul Coe	tbc	25/11/2025		In progress
270	25 November 2025: Corporate Programme (Grazeley Solar Farm)	Officers to come back with a suggested date for when the Committee could review the Grazeley Solar Farm.	Clare Lawrence/Jon Winstanley	tbc	05/02/2026	05/02/26 - Unable to give a date at this time until the business case and viability update has been completed. Expected this will be complete by the end of March 26.	In progress
271	25 November 2025: Work Programme	Arrange an additional meeting prior to 10 February to review the Transformation Programme, Business Support Review, Project Management, and Mosaic.	Stephen Chard	03/02/2026	03/02/2026	Meeting held on 03/02/26. Update on the Business Support Review to be scheduled for a future meeting.	In progress
272	25 November 2025: Work Programme	Members asked for an update on current flood risk and the Section 19 report. Officers to liaise internally and with Thames Water to agree an appropriate time to provide an update to Committee.	Jon Winstanley	tbc	05/02/2026	05/02/26 - has been discussed with Scrutiny Chairman and expect that an update could be presented during Summer 2026.	In progress
273	25 November 2025: Work Programme	Officers to consider when an update could be given on plans in place for a potential drought.	Clare Lawrence	tbc	25/11/2025		In progress
269	25 November 2025: Work Programme	Officers to bring a briefing paper on the process and Scheme of Delegation for awarding contracts, addressing the concerns expressed in the resident's request.	Sarah Clarke	tbc	25/11/2025		In progress

Formal Recommendations to Executive

Ref	Meeting date and agenda item	Scrutiny recommendation	Lead	Target date	Last update	Response	Status
	10 November 2025: Local Government Reorganisation - full proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire	That the following text be added to the key vision statements for Ridgeway: 'We will deliver strong action on climate change and promote nature recovery.'	Sarah Clarke	28/11/2025		LGR proposal approved by Executive on 12/11/25.	Complete
	10 November 2025: Local Government Reorganisation - full proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire	That future analysis of consultation responses, should include a spatial analysis.	Sarah Clarke				
	10 November 2025: Local Government Reorganisation - full proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire	Continue to liaise with town and parish councils to discuss how they could be best engaged with and supported in future, the delivery of public services, and to review and disseminate best practice in this area.	Sarah Clarke				

	<p>25 November 2025: Affordable Housing Delivery</p>	<p>That officers continue to proceed with reviewing the preferred options (the toolkit) to help facilitate increased delivery of affordable housing locally. The toolkit includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The establishment of an RP Framework with partner local authorities in order to formalise and incentivise development partners. •Exploring the implications of accepting commuted sums on sites and to undertake further modelling on how this may affect delivery through key strategic relationships with RPs locally. •The acceptance of a flexible approach to s106 agreements Implications and Impact Assessment. •Continue to engage with Lee Dillon MP and commence engagement with Olivia Bailey MP to lobby government and providers to tackle significant barriers to delivery at the current time. •Not to proceed with the development of a Housing Company due to financial viability issues remaining significant. 	Nick Caprara				
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Formal Recommendations to External Partners

Ref	Meeting date and agenda item	Scrutiny recommendation	Lead	Target date	Last update	Response	Status