
Annual Scrutiny Report 2025/26

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	16 July 2026
Scrutiny Committee Chairmen:	Councillor Dominic Boeck Councillor Carolyne Culver Councillor Martha Vickers
Report Authors:	Gordon Oliver Vicky Phoenix Stephen Chard

1 Purpose of the Report

The Annual Scrutiny Report for 2025/26 provides a summary of the work of the Children and Young People, Health and Adult Social Care, and Resources and Place Scrutiny Committees, as well as the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2 Recommendation

For Council to be informed of the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2025/26.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	There are no financial implications associated with this report
Human Resource:	There are no HR implications associated with this report.
Legal:	The report shows how the Council has discharged its legal obligations with regards to scrutiny, including those relating to health scrutiny and scrutiny of crime and disorder functions. Although there is no legal requirement to prepare an annual report, it is considered to be good practice to present the report to Council and publish it on the website in order to raise the profile of scrutiny locally.

Risk Management:	None			
Property:	None			
Policy:	The report demonstrates that scrutiny has been undertaken in accordance with national guidance.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Environmental Impact:	X			The report shows that the Committee undertook scrutiny of the implementation of the Council's Environment Strategy, reviewing progress made over the last two years on how the Council is addressing climate change, enhancing biodiversity and promoting environmental sustainability in West Berkshire.

Health Impact:	X			The report demonstrates that the Council has undertaken scrutiny of matters that affect the health and wellbeing of local residents and has made recommendations for how services can be improved.
ICT Impact:		X		
Digital Services Impact:		X		
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			The report demonstrates that the Scrutiny Committees have had regard to the Council Strategy and the priorities of the Executive when developing its work programme.
Core Business:	X			The report demonstrates that the Scrutiny Committees have had regard to the Council Strategy and the priorities of the Executive when developing its work programme. This includes areas where under-performance has been identified.
Data Impact:		X		
Consultation and Engagement:	Councillor Dominic Boeck (Children and Young People Chairman) Councillor Carolyne Culver (Resources and Place Chairman) Councillor Martha Vickers (Health and Adult Social Care Chairman)			

4 Supporting Information

Background

4.1 The Annual Scrutiny Report 2025/26 provides a summary of the work of the Children and Young People, Health and Adult Social Care, and Resources and Place Scrutiny Committees, as well as the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.2 The report provides:

- an overview of scrutiny's role;
- details of how scrutiny is carried out in West Berkshire, and jointly with neighbouring local authorities;
- an insight into how the scrutiny work programme was developed; and
- a summary of scrutiny activity for each meeting.

4.3 Items of particular interest are described in further detail.

4.4 The report concludes with a summary of decisions that were called-in prior to implementation and the resolution in each case.

Proposals

4.5 For Council to be informed of the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2025/26.

5 Other options considered

None – the report is for information only.

6 Conclusion

The Annual Report provides a summary of scrutiny activity over the previous municipal year. A copy of the report will also be made available on the Council's website.

7 Appendices

Appendix A –Annual Scrutiny Report 2025/26

Background Papers:

[Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Local authority health scrutiny - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval ☒

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council ☐

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position ☐

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months ☐

Item is Urgent Key Decision

☐

Report is for information only

☒

Wards affected: N/A

Officer details:

Name: Gordon Oliver
Job Title: Principal Policy Officer (Democratic Services and Scrutiny)
Tel No: 01635 519486
E-mail: gordon.oliver1@westberks.gov.uk

Name: Vicky Phoenix
Job Title: Principal Policy Officer (Scrutiny)
Tel No: 01635 503763
E-mail: vicky.phoenix1@westberks.gov.uk

Name: Stephen Chard
Job Title: Democratic Services Manager
Tel No: 01635 519462
E-mail: stephen.chard@westberks.gov.uk
