



MEETING : OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
VENUE : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2025
TIME : 7.00 PM

PLEASE NOTE TIME AND VENUE

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<https://www.youtube.com/user/EastHertsDistrict>

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor David Jacobs (Chair)
Councillors D Andrews, P Boylan, E Buckmaster, R Carter, N Clements,
N Cox, C Horner (Vice-Chairman), S Marlow, S Nicholls, T Smith,
M Swainston, G Williams, D Woolcombe and J Wyllie

Substitutes

Conservative Group:	Councillors A Holt and G Williamson
Green Group:	Councillors V Burt, V Smith and S Watson
Labour Group:	Councillor C Redfern
Liberal Democrat Group:	Councillor R Townsend
Reform:	Councillor G McAndrew

(Note: Substitution arrangements must be notified by the absent Member to Democratic Services 24 hours before the meeting, i.e. by midday on the day of the meeting)

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- must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
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AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes - 16 September 2025 (Pages 6 - 23)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2025.

3. Chair's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Members' Declarations of Interest.

5. Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27 (Pages 24 - 30)

6. Community Forum and Development Management Forum Update (Pages 31 - 41)

7. Scrutiny of Registered Providers' Communications Methods (Pages 42 - 44)

8. Mobilisation of Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Contract Report to follow

9. Feedback from the Executive

10. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Draft Work Programme (Pages 45 - 49)

11. Urgent Items

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.

Agenda Item 2

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON TUESDAY
16 SEPTEMBER 2025, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor D Jacobs (Chair)
Councillors E Buckmaster, R Carter, N Cox,
C Horner, S Marlow, S Nicholls, M Swainston
and G Williams

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors B Crystall, J Dumont,
M Goldspink, T Hoskin and C Wilson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michele Aves	- Committee Support Officer
James Ellis	- Director for Legal, Policy and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Jonathan Geall	- Director for Communities
Katherine Gilcreest	- Housing Lead
Dominique Kingsbury	- Parking Services Manager
Peter Mannings	- Committee Support Officer
Ben Wood	- Director for Regeneration, Customer and Commercial Services

147 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Andrews, Boylan, Clements, Woolcombe and Wyllie.

148 MINUTES - 10 JUNE 2025

Councillor Swainston proposed, and Councillor Cox seconded, a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

The T be inserted before Councillor Smith's surname in the list of attendees and in minute 75 where he was welcomed to his first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as there were two Councillor Smiths on the council.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2025, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

The T be inserted before Councillor Smith's surname in the list of attendees and in minute 75 where he was welcomed to his first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as there were two Councillor Smiths on the council.

149 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair reminded Members to use the microphones as the meeting was being webcasted.

150 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

151 REVIEW OF RESIDENT PERMIT ZONE POLICY

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability submitted a report that sought the comments of the

Overview and Scrutiny Committee on some targeted amendments to both the East Herts District Council's resident permit parking scheme and the operational guidance which accompanies that policy.

Members were advised that the proposed changes aimed to enhance accessibility, reduce procedural barriers and better align the guidance and policy with the council's strategic priorities. The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability referred in particular to sustainability, air quality, community wellbeing and economic growth.

Members were advised that the recommendations were based on public feedback from the 2024 parking strategy engagement and an independent review provided by Citisense, who were the architects of the parking strategy and had been instrumental in benchmarking against best practice from comparable local authorities.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that the changes were set out within the paper. He said that there was to be an amendment to the requirement that non-resident parking must be considered in awarding an RPZ scheme, specifically that non-resident parking must exceed 40% occupancy during times of peak period. The recommendation was that this be reduced to 10% to allow some more holistic assessments based on the local context, resident feedback and officer observation.

Members were advised that there was also a provision for Officer discretion which was also recommended to ensure that borderline or exceptional cases could be considered where there was compelling evidence to do so.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that the second recommendation was that the council amend the policy that 75% of households in a proposed zone have on street parking capacity for one vehicle. The proposal was that this requirement be

reduced to 50% to reflect the practical constraints in historic mixed use or high-density areas such as constrained street layouts, pre-existing loading restrictions and compelling and competing demands on limited road space.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability summarised the report's three recommendations and welcomed comments from the Committee. The Parking Services Manager responded to questions from Councillor Jacobs regarding the Citisense report and the recommendations.

Councillor Jacobs requested that officers come back to the committee at some point regarding the Citisense recommendations contained within an appendix to the report.

Councillor E Buckmaster acknowledged the flexibility that was being introduced. He said that many Members dealt with parking and highways on a daily basis and he expressed wariness about introducing resident parking zones. Councillor E Buckmaster referred in particular to urban areas close to transport hubs or sports clubs and the issue of how an RPZ would impact on a wider area and move a problem elsewhere.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that this was a valid concern. He emphasised that RPZs were an imperfect solution to a tricky problem and said that RPZ schemes in Hertford bled into each other, leaving a question mark about the areas in between.

Members were advised that the paper sought to make the situation regarding RPZs more practical and more applicable, and to allow the council to apply the scheme where it was best suited.

Councillor E Buckmaster asked if the officer discretion and change of policy was considered and whether or not further problems would be caused by introducing an RPZ.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that there had to be some input in terms of expertise from officers if an area met the criteria for an RPZ.

Councillor Horner welcomed the changes in terms of securing more flexibility over the issues with RPZs. He said that there were no ideal solutions to parking issues and RPZs were one way of addressing them. He said that the resulting issues sometimes had to be lived with and that there were downsides to RPZs.

Councillor Horner said that where there was a desire for an RPZ, the Council should not have very prescriptive rules that ruled it out. He said that he welcomed the changes in general terms.

Councillor Swainston also welcomed the increased flexibility and asked if officers were now confident that this would give enough flexibility. She also asked if consideration be given to feedback from residents on the hours of operation of an RPZ.

The Parking Services Manager said that when carrying out informal consultation, officers would absolutely include a range of options for residents to consider and respond to in terms of timings for the operation of an RPZ. This information was taken into account to meet the needs of residents. The Council could then design a scheme based upon the thoughts and responses of the residents.

Councillor Marlow said that the scheme looked very equitable. He said that he had been struck recently by the size of some new cars, and he asked what metrics were being used for measure vehicles to give the figures.

The Parking Services Manager said that, in the context of permit zones, a typical measurement of 5.5 metres was used as a length per parking space in an RPZ area. This was the guide used to calculate the maximum number of

spaces in an area. He said that an option in future was to consider increasing this measurement to 6 metres.

Councillor Nicholls broadly welcomed the changes. She highlighted an issue in respect of the prevalence of dropped kerbs meaning that there would not be enough spaces to meet the requirements. She said that this issue was exacerbated by residents not living on roads trying to park there.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability that the reduction from 75% to 50% might help to an extent in that regard. He said that there was limited funding for RPZs, and the schemes needed to be funded, perhaps via Section 106 legal agreements.

Councillor Carter commented on the increased flexibility making it more possible for some schemes to be considered. She asked if there were less spaces than there were people with cars, if there would be competition for permits or if everyone would have a permit and have to find a space to park.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that residents were not renting a piece of the road and finding a parking space would be on a first come first serve basis. He said that there was no guarantee of a parking space within an RPZ.

The Parking Services Manager explained that the Council typically offered two permits per household in the majority of the RPZ schemes. He said that where there was insufficient space on the public highway, the Council would consider reducing this to one permit per household. Members were advised that this was partly to encourage people to move away from car ownership.

The Parking Services Manager said that the standard design methodology was to include the space in front of the driveways as a parking place. He said that this was how the Council had operated since 2005, and where

there were bay makings involved, these would be extended across the driveways to maximise the space available on the road.

Councillor E Buckmaster asked if the changes in respect of drop kerbs would link to any future policies around including on street electric charging, and any potential conflict. The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that on street parking would raise a lot of questions about democratising the costs of EVs for residents. He said that lampposts or charging points would not belong to any one resident but would just happen to be available on a particular street.

The Director for Regeneration, Customer and Commercial Services referred to the Citisense appendix - which did pick up some more radical ideas, including some content about EV charging. He said that an original premise of this paper was to consider how to make the whole RPZ process more streamlined, and this included lowering the threshold for implementing an RPZ.

The Director for Regeneration, Customer and Commercial Services said that the paper for the Executive and Council could cover these issues.

Councillor Jacobs said that it was clear that there was broad support for what was being proposed. He commented that reducing the 40% occupancy to 10% felt quite drastic and could be too low. He said that everyone would consider their case for an RPZ as exceptional as no two cases were the same. He made a number of further comments about the criteria and the current and future application process.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that Members' remarks were helpful and the discretion for officers might need to be qualified a little bit more in terms of the parameters for considering an application for an RPZ.

Councillor Horner made a number of comments regarding how an RPZ had operated in an area he had lived in outside of East Herts. He said that it was very important that residents should be made aware that they might not be able to park outside their house, but instead in nearby roads.

Councillor Horner asked if the hours of operation were being considered separately to the proposed changes. The Parking Services Manager explained that when officers initially consulted with residents, a range of times were offered including a 1-hour band within the day. He said that officers would adapt and propose a scheme that was in line with the majority of responses from the residents.

The Parking Services Manager said that officers had considered reducing or removing the majority of residents within a particular road, as per a recommendation from Citisense. He said that the threshold was considered to be an appropriate level to demonstrate a majority mandate by those residents that had engaged with the Council.

Members were advised that dropping this threshold any further could be considered as undemocratic in terms of not providing the necessary mandate to proceed, i.e in a sub majority context.

Councillor Nicholls proposed, and Councillor Cox seconded, a motion that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered and provided comments on the proposed changes within the Resident's Permit Zone (RPZ) Operational Guidance.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and provide comments on the following proposed changes within the Resident's

Permit Zone (RPZ) Operational Guidance:

- That in relation to the requirement that non-resident parking must exceed 40% occupancy at peak times as a condition for implementing an RPZ, this be reduced to 10% of occupancy at peak times;
- That the requirement for there to be sufficient kerb space to enable 75% of households in a proposed area to park one vehicle on-street as a condition for implementing an RPZ, be removed from the guidance;
- That in exceptional cases, officers may exercise discretion where local evidence and professional judgement support progression of a scheme.

152 SCRUTINY OF REGISTERED PROVIDERS' COMMUNICATIONS METHODS

Councillor Sue Nicholls said that Overview and Scrutiny Committee had expressed a wish to review and scrutinise the effectiveness of communications between housing associations (sometimes also called registered housing providers), their tenants, elected Members and Council Officers.

Councillor Nicholls said that the committee recognised that there were different practices across different housing associations which sometimes made it difficult for Members and Council Officers to work with housing associations to resolve issues for residents.

Councillor Nicholls said that some housing associations already had excellent communication with residents, elected Members and the council, and it was an ambition that this was the case for all residents. She said that the report outlined a proposed programme of work for the Overview and Scrutiny to help identify and make

recommendations in this area, to highlight potential improvements and to share best practice.

Councillor Nicholls explained that the scrutiny exercise sought to examine how registered housing providers operated within East Herts, communicated with their customer and with the council. The aims were to identify areas for improvement by housing associations and/or the council, examples of best practice that could be shared among housing associations, potential issues for lobbying national bodies such as regulators or government to improve housing association communications.

Councillor Nicholls said that a project plan had been developed to deliver these aims, and this document could be seen at Appendix A. She set out in detail the proposed timeline for this area of work and said that a draft of the proposed questionnaire was shared at Appendix B.

Members were advised that a task and finish group would be established of Overview and Scrutiny Members to consider feedback from questionnaires. The Task and Finish Group could request further information from housing associations and would meet between September and December 2025.

Councillor Nicholls said that she hoped that Members would be satisfied, as she was, with the proposed plan of work to make recommendations for improvements in this area. She therefore requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the review as outlined in the report and project plan and agree to the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to progress this work.

Councillor Swainston welcomed the ideas set out in the paper and said that most councillors had heard from residents who were not happy that they could not get hold of their housing association or had received responses that were not satisfactory. She said that if Members could improve that situation then that would very valuable.

Councillor Carter said that she agreed that communication was probably the key thing that upset tenants in terms of not getting issues fixed or not being able to speak to the right person.

Councillor Marlow said that communication with housing associations was a very mixed affair. He wondered how this way forward was going to be delivered to the housing associations and what kind of weight it would be given when there was a housing ombudsman service and the regulator for social housing. He commented on how officers were going to persuade the housing associations to pay attention to what Members were saying on this topic.

The Housing Lead for Housing Services said that some initial conversations had been had with registered providers (housing associations). She said that officers had some great relationships with providers and there were some housing associations that had really good practices, who were keen to share their experience and use this as best practice.

Members were reminded that this might be different with other registered providers and that the Council had no powers to get housing associations to engage with this piece of work. The Housing Lead for Housing Services said that registered providers relied upon the Council for their nominations, and so there was an incentive for registered providers and housing associations to work with the Council.

Members were advised that officers would be advising the housing associations that they should work with the council to improve the situation as it would be positive for registered providers and for residents.

Councillor Marlow agreed and said that this was about relationship building with the registered providers. He commented on whether some work could be done to

assist officers in creating those relationships with the housing associations.

Councillor Nicholls said that this matter would form a key part of the work programme, and that she thought that there would be an element of peer pressure on behalf of the providers to push for better practice. She said that she hoped that there could be engagement with the ombudsman as well and both sides, which could push for better outcomes for residents.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods thanked Councillor Nicholls for proposing this topic and for her efforts so far. She also thanked the Housing Lead for Housing Services for her description of the task ahead as set out in the report. She agreed that there was a need for the study.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods said that as a Council, a small start had been achieved with better communications and there were now regular quarterly meetings with Clarion Housing Association, which she hoped would enable problems and general procedures to be discussed.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods said that she hoped that such meetings with SNG housing association would also soon be held as they had a new community officer. She hoped that as many Members as possible would attend the consultation discussion groups with the housing associations as she felt that they were useful.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods said that she had been petitioning very hard for the housing associations to give the Council contact details and some of them had provided that information. She said that would endeavour to continue these efforts to secure the contact details for the other 40 housing associations in the district.

Councillor Buckmaster said that he was pleased that there were meetings being arranged. He said that there used to be regular meetings with the housing associations on a quarterly basis and there also used to be a quarterly forum with a number of the housing associations invited into the council chamber where mutual items of interest would be discussed.

Councillor Jacobs proposed, and Councillor Horner seconded a motion that Councillor Nicholls be approved as chair of the task and finish group and work with officers to seek nominees from the committee.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

Councillor Swainston proposed, and Councillor Carter seconded a motion for the substantive recommendation (as amended) for the approval the project plan at Appendix 1, and for the establishment of a task and finish group as outlined in the project plan.

After being put to the meeting, and a vote taken, the substantive motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that (A) the project plan at Appendix 1 be approved;

(B) the establishment of a task and finish group as outlined in the project plan, be approved; and

(C) Councillor Nicholls be approved as chair of the task and finish group and that she works with officers to seek nominees from the committee.

153 WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT - VERBAL UPDATE

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability submitted an interim progress report and a detailed verbal progress presentation answering questions that had been

pre submitted by Members. He said that a formal report would be submitted to the meeting on 4 November 2025.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability set out the context and scale of the project and the initial position in respect of the roll out of the new containers as at the 4 August, and the current position as of this morning.

Members were also advised of the underlying contractual performance, i.e. how well Veolia were performing at collecting both recycling and residual waste. The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability set out in detail the structure of his update and he referred in particular to learning points in respect of communications and data integrity and how this was handled between organisations.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability set out some early post implementation initial results. He summarised the scale of the project in terms of the numbers of households, and set out the new containers, caddy starter packs and bin stickers which were required by each household.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability said that the performance at the start of the roll out was 97% which sounded quite high. He said that although 97% was a large number of households, this left a significant number of households without the means to fully participate in the scheme by the 4 August.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability acknowledged that there had been huge inefficiencies in the communications channels that residents and Members were interacting with. He said that joint daily review meetings were set up and this very quickly short circuited many of the communications hurdles that were being experienced, enabling a common set of data which showed how the roll out was being managed.

Members were informed that a system had been set up that allowed residents to bypass customer services and lodge a requirement straight into the contractors control sheet. This relieved the extraordinary business load on customer services and left them free to deal with day-to-day customer contact.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability set out in detail the current position for Members and answered their questions with input from the Executive Member for Corporate Services, the Director for Regeneration, Customer and Commercial Services and the Director for Legal, Policy and Governance.

The Chair thanked the Executive Members and the Directors for providing a verbal update report at short notice. Members received the verbal update.

RESOLVED – that the verbal update be received.

154 FEEDBACK FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Chair explained that this agenda item was a standing item that had been introduced, which gave an opportunity for the Executive to feedback to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on issues that had been raised at previous meetings. He said that he would ensure that this feedback was more detailed going forward.

Councillor Crystall provided an update in respect of local government reform. He said that part of the updated corporate plan presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June included engaging with the community in respect of local government reform (LGR).

Councillor Crystall said that this engagement had begun with an event in Hertford market, and there were events planned for the district's 5 towns, with another scheduled in the Council Chamber at Wallfields. He said that the actual details of LGR would be covered by an all-member briefing on the 13 November 2025, with a decision due to

be made at a special meeting of the Executive on 18 November 2025. He said he was unsure at this stage whether there would be a special full council meeting.

Members received the feedback from the Leader.

RESOLVED – that the feedback be received.

155 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee Support Officer submitted the work programme report and Members were invited to consider and determine the work programme going forward. The Committee Support Officer set out the matters coming forward for the November meeting and the meetings in January and March 2026.

Councillor E Buckmaster said that he wanted to clarify what it was that the committee would be considering in respect of Local Government Reform (LGR). He referred to how the council would deal with assets.

Councillor E Buckmaster emphasised the importance of understanding what was important to members and residents. Councillor Jacobs said that LGR scrutiny proposal forms were submitted from Councillor E Buckmaster, and Councillor McAndrew, and that these forms had been circulated to the committee for comments.

Councillor Jacobs said that the next step was to share these forms and comments with the administration, and for Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree a reporting timescale. He said that he did not envisage that this subject would be included at the 4 November meeting and instead be more likely for the 20 January 2026 agenda.

Councillor Carter said that with regards the Sustainable Transport proposal, she believed that this was part of a

task and finish group held in 2017, which researched matters linked to the District Plan.

Councillor Carter said that she wondered whether this matter would therefore be more usefully linked in with the planning department - in terms of evidence for the sustainable transport element of the District Plan. She said that there might be other things that the planning department wanted the committee to consider in that regard.

Councillor Carter said that another big topic was artificial intelligence and asked whether Members could have a summary bulletin on this topic, to enable Members to see where it was being used, what kind of packages were being utilised, and in what areas.

The Executive Member for Corporate Services said that he would speak to the Head of IT to ascertain to what extent this was being used at the council. He believed that the use of AI was quite limited at the moment, if at all, and that any update could include future plans for the use of AI.

Councillor Carter said that people in local government and other organisations were increasingly being encouraged to use AI to summarise matters or to write notes.

Councillor E Buckmaster said that, in respect of sustainable transport, a cross-party working group had just started in respect of the local transport plan which would include elements of sustainable transport.

Councillor Swainston mentioned Glyphosate as perhaps being lost in the wording about the re tendering of the ground's maintenance contract (as per the work programme). The Committee Support Officer suggested emailing the officer submitting this matter to reiterate that the use of Glyphosate should form part of the considerations.

Councillor Nicholls proposed, and Councillor Swainston seconded a motion that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme be agreed. After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme in Appendix 1 be agreed.

156 URGENT ITEMS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chairman
Date

Agenda Item 5

East Herts Council Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Tuesday 4 November 2025

Report by: Councillor Carl Brittain – Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

Report title: Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary

- To consider the latest available information around the current local Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme at East Herts and comment on the proposal that there be no change made for 2026/27.

RECOMMENDATION FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

A. Overview and Scrutiny Committee comment on the proposal that there be no change to the local council tax support scheme for 2026/27.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider, in accordance with the Governments requirement for an annual approval of the Council Tax Support scheme, that no changes be made for 2026/27.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Government made a provision within the Local Government Finance Bill to replace the former national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme from 1 April 2013 with localised schemes for Council Tax Support Schemes (CTS) devised by individual local authorities (LA's). The schemes are valid for one year and must be approved by Council before the 11 March immediately preceding the financial year in which it is to take effect.

- 2.2 If the Council were to choose to consider any material revisions to the scheme, this would be the subject of public consultation, which would need to be considered by both those entitled to receive support as well as the general taxpayers of East Herts.
- 2.3 The Government require that major preceptors (County and Police) are consulted each year, and if there is any change to the scheme a full consultation open to all taxpayers in the district is required. There is no specific timescale prescribed but the period must allow for meaningful consultation.
- 2.4 Neither the County nor Police have raised any objection to the proposals for 2026/27.
- 2.5 Additionally, consideration must be given to providing transitional protection where the support is to be reduced or removed. The financial impact of any decision on CTS needs to be included when setting the Council budget and Council Tax levels at the same time.
- 2.6 Since the introduction of CTS in April 2013 various changes have been considered but the scheme has remained the same.
- 2.7 A report was previously presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 June 2025, outlining proposals to introduce a Council Tax Support (CTS) banded scheme for 2026/27. The key advantage of a banded scheme is that it allows for income fluctuations within a band without triggering a reassessment, offering greater stability for claimants.
- 2.8 However, due to the complexity of the proposed changes, significant work was required to ensure the scheme would remain broadly cost-neutral compared to the current model, while also ensuring that individuals would not be materially worse off. As a result, there was insufficient time to finalise and consult on the scheme ahead of its inclusion in the Tax Base for 2026/27. Therefore, the CTS scheme will remain unchanged for 2026/27. Work on the banded scheme will continue, with a view to consulting early in the new financial year.

3.0 Reasons

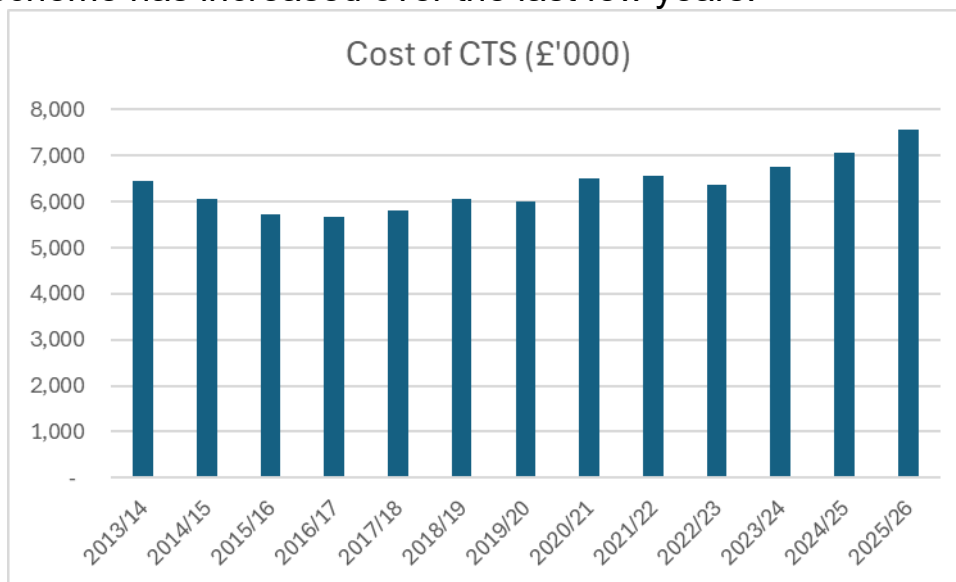
- 3.1 In 2013 the Council initially devised a scheme which replicated the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme but limited the Council

Tax liability that was used to assess entitlement to 91.5% for working age customers. The Council has maintained this position for the current scheme.

3.2 The cost of the scheme is reflected in the tax base, in the same way as other discounts which reduce the collectable debit.

3.3 Currently (2025/26) 79% of the tax base income is precepted by Hertfordshire County Council and 12% by the Police, and accordingly they have vested interest in the value of the CTS scheme as it directly impacts on their ability to raise funds. The lower the cost of the scheme, the higher the tax base on which they can precept.

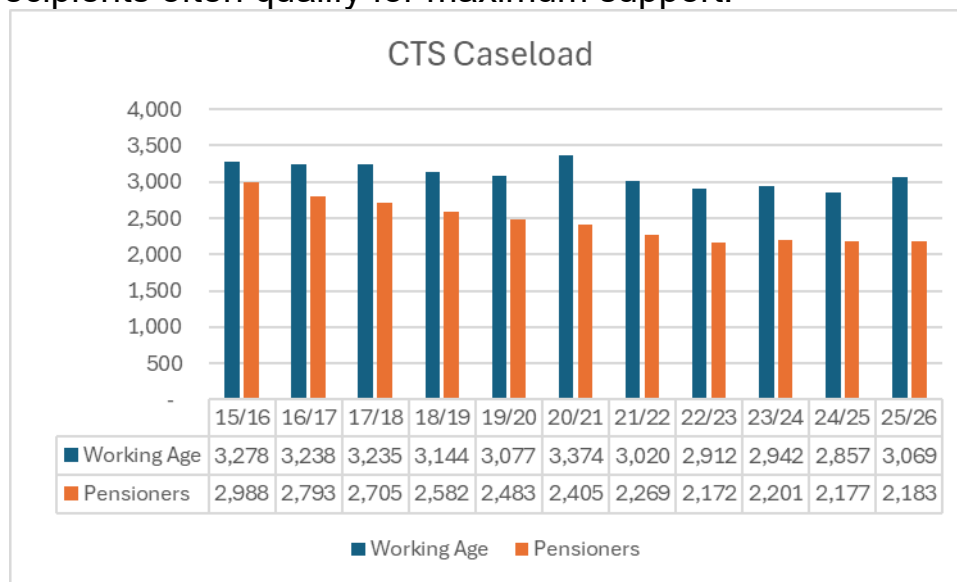
3.4 The level of spend on Council Tax Support (CTS) since its introduction is shown below and demonstrates that cost of the scheme has increased over the last few years.



3.5 The main drivers for the increase from around £5.6m in 2016/17 to a projected £7.5m by 2025/26, are annual council tax increases, which raise the value of awards even if caseload remains stable, and economic pressures such as inflation and cost-of-living impacts, which increase entitlement levels.

3.6 The table below shows changes in caseload, highlighting a steady decline in pensioner claimants (from nearly 3,000 in 2015/16 to about 2,180 by 2025/26) alongside a relatively stable working-age caseload, which experienced a spike in 2020/21 linked to the pandemic. This shift is significant because working-

age claimants generally receive higher levels of support. The introduction of Universal Credit (UC) has also influenced this trend: while UC has simplified benefits, it has increased CTS claims among low-income working-age households, as UC recipients often qualify for maximum support.



3.7 The impact of any change in trend will be built into the taxbase for 2026/27 when it is constructed in October 2025.

3.8 The taxbase for 2025/26 was calculated in October 2024 and assumed CTS would cost the equivalent of 3,597.68 band D values. At 1 August 2025 the actual band D cost of CTS was 3,516.37, which is £190K less expensive. In context the taxbase is set to produce £144 million and has many variables.

3.9 The CTS scheme for 2025/26 can be summarised as follows:

- That the CTS scheme for all working age claimants will be based on 91.5% of their current tax liability;
- All local discretions currently in place continue e.g. war pension disregards;
- Other aspects of the new CTS scheme to mirror the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme.

3.10 This means all working age customer have to pay at least 8.5% towards their bill.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 Alternative approaches to the current CTS scheme could include introducing a banded scheme (where support is based on income bands rather than exact income), applying a minimum payment requirement for all working-age claimants, reducing the maximum level of support, or revising income disregards to reduce entitlement. These options could help manage costs and provide greater predictability, but they represent significant policy changes that would directly affect residents' contributions.
- 4.2 Under statutory requirements, any such changes would require a formal public consultation, typically lasting several weeks, before they can be lawfully implemented. Given the current timescales and the need to finalise the scheme for the forthcoming financial year, there is insufficient time to complete this process. As a result, continuing with the existing scheme remains the only viable option for 2025/26.
- 4.3 **What other are doing:** the table below summarises other Hertfordshire CTS schemes (at the time of writing the report).

	Current scheme for maximum entitlement
Broxbourne	75% Liability, only up to Band E restriction
Dacorum	75% plus restrict to band D so it can be 75% of band D
Hertsmere	80% plus restrict to band D so it can be 80% of band D
North Herts	100% if income is below maximum bands. Bands are 100%, 75%, 45%, 25% and 0%
St Albans	100%
Stevenage	91.5% - same scheme as East Herts
Three Rivers	100%
Watford	100%
Welwyn Hatfield	75%

5.0 Risks

5.1 As detailed in the report.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

As detailed in the report

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

As detailed in the report

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 None

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East Herts Council Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Tuesday 4 November 2025

Report by: Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward – Executive Member for Planning and Growth

Report title: Community Forum and Development Management Forum Update

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Summary

- This report provides members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Community Forums (CFs) and the Development Management Forums (DMFs).
- Members of the committee requested that Officers provide an update two years following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 28 November 2023. This was to 'allow collation of meaningful data'.
- Information is provided about the operation of the forums and attendance by members of the community. The forums are considered as a positive way to enable open discussion about various aspects with development projects at different stages of the planning process. Forums are seen as an open and transparent way for different members of the community to engage with the planning system, developers and other stakeholders.
- There is a resource implication associated with the forums. However, the forums have not been in operation for a sufficiently long period of time for meaningful data to be collected, particularly in respect of DMFs.
- The report seeks any observations from the committee on the information provided as the Place Directorate further their work in enhancing and improving on the current CFs and DMFs.

RECOMMENDATION FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

- A. To consider the information provided in this report relating to the establishment of the Community Forum and Development Management Forum and provide any observations to the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The proposals for CFs and DMFs were reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 November 2023.
- 1.2 The CFs are a public meeting held approximately every 4-6 months, depending on the site and issues. CFs relate to large strategic development sites that form part of the Development Plan for the District. CFs provide an opportunity for developers, residents, community groups, elected members, council officers and other stakeholders involved in the planning process (such as Highways Officers) to engage with each other. Existing and new communities can raise issues of interest or concern at the CF as a dialogue and enhance the quality of community life by improved communication.
- 1.3 The DMFs relate to planning applications which meet certain criteria. Generally, they would relate to a complex or sensitive major planning applications for development of 50 or more homes. If the criteria are satisfied, then a Development Management Forum could be held early on in the planning application process. This allows for members of the community to share their planning concerns with Members, Officers and Applicants in an open and transparent way.
- 1.4 At the 7 November 2023 meeting, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny debated the forums at length. The below are the main observations, as recorded in the committee minutes:
- In terms of the CFs for strategic sites, the opportunity to steer and influence a development was considered a positive step forward.

- Members commented that there was already a Statement of Community Involvement and that a CF was seen as a duplication of effort.
- That there would be considerable resources implication from the viewpoint of Planning Officers and administrative staff needed to set up CFs and DMFs and the impact this would have on the planning service.
- Concerns about the impact on resources of Hertfordshire County Council Officers.

1.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved that Officers report their observations to the Executive and report back to the committee in two years' time to 'allow collation of meaningful data'.

1.6 Two years have passed since that resolution and this report provides an overview of the data available.

1.7 At the Executive Committee Meeting on 28 November 2023, the Community Forum and Development Management Forum were both endorsed.

2.0 Data collection

Community Forums

2.1 Two community forums have now been established since the resolution made by the Executive:

- 1) Gilston Community Forum
- 2) Stortford Fields Forum

2.2 The below table provides dates of the forums and numbers of attendance of members of the community

Community Forum	Date	No of attendees
Gilston	27 February 2024	95
	17 April 2024	66
	11 Sept 2024	(not recorded)
	27 Feb 2025	14

	13 May 2025	27
	14 October 2025	TBC
Stortford Fields	20 July 2023	77
	26 Sept 2023	84
	29 Nov 2024	68
	5 June 2024	33
	25 June 2025	31

- 2.3 It should be noted that the Stortford Fields Community Forums noted on 20 July 2023 and 29 November 2023 took place prior to the resolution from the Executive Committee but were the basis for formalising the CFs. They are nonetheless included as they were the precursor to the community forum being formalised through the council's governance processes.
- 2.4 The agenda for the forums is published on the Councils website and through the Councils social media platforms. Notice for the Gilston CF is published through invites via email to those people who have indicated they wish to be kept informed of upcoming forum meetings. The Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group (HEGNPG) are notified and take various steps to ensure the community are made aware of the CF. Notice for the Stortford Fields forum is published on the Stortford Fields Community Trust website and other media managed by the Trust.
- 2.5 The two forums are at very different stages of the development project which largely influences the agenda.
- 2.6 Outline planning permission for the Gilston project was granted in January 2025. The development has not therefore started on site in terms of house building. There is much work being done by the developer regarding master planning process and other detailed design work. At the Gilston CF, updates are typically provided by the developers as to their progress on these matters. This is then followed by a deep dive into different aspects of the development proposals. For example, at the 11 September 2024 forum, a representative from Thames Water attended and provided an overview of drainage and sewerage matters as these were of significant concern to the local community.

2.7 The Stortford Fields development is at a very different stage compared to Gilston. The development has been substantially started. The site now has approximately 1000 homes being occupied. The forum therefore focuses on detailed implementation matters, timescales and issues which the community have raised to the Council and members. Compliance with approved plans and highway matters are topical matters that are raised and are of particular interest to the local community. Representatives from Hertfordshire Council Highways attend the CF.

2.8 The format for both the Gilston and Stortford Fields Forum is as follows:

- 1) Informal meet and greet with refreshments available. Planning Officers, councillors and Developers are available for any member of the community to ask questions.
- 2) Formal meeting, chaired by Executive Member for Planning and Growth. Presentations by Developers, Officers and other guest speakers. Opportunities for Q&A throughout and at the end of presentations.
- 3) Meeting closes but Planning Officers and Developers remain on-hand to answer questions from the community.

2.9 The Council do not record any other information or data associated with the forums other than the number of attendees. Officers do however meet after each forum to discuss any actions and to reflect on any discussion points that were raised by members of the community. The below is a summary of officer's observations in terms of the forums:

- 1) The format of the meeting – allowing Planning Officers and Developers to be available for questions before and after the formal part of the forum, enables a way of questions being asked and inquiries to be answered. This works well as it enables face-to-face contact (rather than on email or on the phone) which breaks down barriers and humanises what may start as a 'them and us' relationship. It also provides an opportunity for people to ask questions who may otherwise not ask questions in the formal part of the forum.

- 2) It enables Planning Officers to provide clear updates and answers to questions about progress and current matters and avoids potential for misinformation and scaremongering amongst the community.
- 3) It provides an opportunity for Developers to be held accountable and hear from the community about the issues that they are facing in a real-world situation.
- 4) The forums have resulted in the number of correspondence and complaints reducing. This frees-up Officer time with managing key priorities with their workstream and help maintain key performance indicators.
- 5) Various issues are raised or identified by the community which are sometimes non-planning in nature and relate to operational issues for the developers or other stakeholders, such as the Highway Authority. This is helpful as developers are able to listen to the concerns raised and, where appropriate take action. However, it raises expectations on the Local Planning Authority that they can deal with these matters.
- 6) CFs can result in fractious discussions which are difficult to chair, and sometimes on-the-spot answers cannot always be provided by officers or developers. This can lead to a sense of frustration from the community that their questions are not being answered. Whilst frustrations can monopolise discussion, other views about positive aspects do come through. For example, in the case of Stortford Fields, the positive engagement the Stortford Fields Trust have in community engagement projects.

Development Management Forum

2.10 There have been two DMF's as follows:

- 31 July 2024 – Land North of Hare Street Road, Buntingford (2/24/0294/OUT)
- 24 September 2024 – Land West of the A10 (3/24/0966/OUT)

- 2.11 The process for the forum is explained on the Councils website. For a DMF to be considered a petition with at least 25 signatures is required which clearly states the planning concerns.
- 2.12 DMF's are scheduled into the Council's Calendar of committees with a date and time allocated every month. The forum is chaired by the Executive Member for Planning and Growth and there is a set agenda, which is explained on the council's website. It involves the presentation of the application by the applicant and is followed by a presentation by the petitioners. Questions and issues are discussed and the Chair sums up. The meeting is a public event with a recording placed on the Councils website.
- 2.13 Attendance of the committee in person has been relatively limited in terms of members of the community. Some ward members and members of the development management committee have however attended.
- 2.14 As with Community Forums no formal data is collected, but Officers would make the following observations:
- 1) Like the CFs, the DMF enables two parties (developer and objectors) who have very different views to meet together and have an open discussion about the issues. Officers' observations are that this is positive. It helps communities feel that their voice has been heard and it helps developers drill-down to the main issues and consider how the impact can be better mitigated.
 - 2) In this way, the DMFs have, in Officers opinion, helped to break down barriers between developers and objectors and provides a forum for open and transparent discussion. This aligns with the corporate objective as a listening council.
 - 3) Like CFs, DMFs are public events which any member of the community can attend, and a recording is posted on the councils website. The Council is therefore able to demonstrate the process in an open and transparent way.

3.0 Analysis

Community Forums

- 3.1 Evidence suggests that attendance of the CFs was high when they were introduced and, that they have steadily reduced to approximately 30 attendees. This correlates approximately with the reduction in the volume of complaints and correspondence being received by the Executive Member for Planning and Growth. Whether or not this can be directly attributed to the CFs or other factors cannot be determined.
- 3.2 Notwithstanding this, the CFs are considered by Officers to be a positive way of supporting the community in engaging with the planning process. There are opportunities for members of the community to speak directly with Officers, developers and other stakeholders on a 1-2-1 basis. This helps break down barriers and helps support the community in raising issues and for stakeholders to explain process or decisions.
- 3.3 Formal presentations to the community provide important information and updates and allows discussion and issues to be raised for both officers and developers to consider and potentially act upon.
- 3.4 There is a resource impact associated with CFs which is explained below in section 6. However, this impact is not considered to be significant, especially given the positive impact that CFs have in terms of aligning with the councils corporate plan.

Development Management Forum

- 3.5 As there have only been two forums, insufficient data is available to properly understand the benefits. However, initial observations are that it does provide a useful and helpful opportunity to bring two parties, often diametrically opposed to each other in terms of their views, together for an open discussion about ways to improve the quality of the development. Officers have seen developers come away from the DMF with a considerably better understanding about the issues that the community have with the development and ways and measures that they can put in place to make improvements.
- 3.6 There is an impact on resources associated with DMF's (see section 6 below for financial implications). However, as there have only been two DMF's to date, the data is inconclusive and it

likely that costs and officer time will reduce as the process and procedures are integrated and known to Officers.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 The council could consider ceasing the CFs and DMFs. However, for the reasons explained in this report, the positives CFs and DMFs provide in meeting the corporate objectives (particularly as a listening council) of the council are considered to be outweighed by any disbenefits.
- 4.2 More importantly, opportunities to improve the quality of the data we have about the forums is a better option to help the council consider their effectiveness. This includes obtaining more qualitative data about how all customers and stakeholders feel about the CFs and DMFs. Officers will be exploring with colleagues as to how such data and information can be obtained and used to help makes changes to procedure.
- 4.3 In addition, further work can be done to promote the CFs, especially their branding and the positive impact that they can have.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 Ceasing the CFs and DMFs is likely, in Officers' opinion, to impact negatively in the way in which the community interacts with the council and other stakeholders in the planning process. There is likely to be an increase in the number of complaints that are received and negative impact in terms of how the council can demonstrate it is meeting its corporate objectives as being listening and open and transparent.
- 5.2 There are resource implications associated with the CFs and DMFs. However, the financial impact is modest and is outweighed by other factors.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

Officers maintain a record of attendance for the CFs and, in some instances (where it is provided) contact details for those attending. Any such data is retained and kept secure in accordance with the council's relevant data protection policies. Consent is sought from any members of public who share their contact details as to whether they are happy to receive further communications specially about upcoming CFs.

Equalities

The forums are held in person at either the Council Chamber or other external venues which are accessible. The CFs and DMFs are publicised in a range of ways which is explained in the report together with information provided on the council's website.

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

The estimated costs associated with the community forum is £3,000 per forum. This includes the associated hiring of a venue and officers time associated with preparation and attending the forum. It should be noted that the cost of venue hire associated with Gilston CF is shared with the developers, Taylor Wimpy and Places for People.

The estimated costs associated with the DMF is £1,200 per forum. This mainly includes officer time associated with the preparation and attendance of the forum. It should be noted that this is based on just two DMFs and it is anticipated that this cost will likely reduce, depending on the nature of the application being considered.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 None

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Agenda Item 7

East Herts Council Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Tuesday 4 November 2025

Report by: Councillor Sue Nicholls, Chair of the Task and Finish Group

Report title: Scrutiny of Registered Providers' Communications Methods

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

- This is a progress report from the task and finish group agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review communication methods used by registered providers of housing in the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- A. Approve the progress of the task and finish group; and**
- B. Agree that a final report on this review with recommendations be brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 20 January 2026**

1.0 Background

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed on the 16 September 2025 to establish a task and finish group to review the methods of communication used by registered housing providers to engage with their tenants, elected members and council officers.

2.0 Progress Report

2.1 The first task and finish group took place on the 29 October 2025, chaired by Councillor Sue Nicholls

2.2 The minutes of this meeting are attached as appendix A.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 This report has been prepared as a direct response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's wish to review the effectiveness of communication between registered providers, their customers, elected members and the council.

4.0 Options

4.1 To continue with this review- RECOMMENDED. The review into registered provider communication is within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny, in line with their role to represent the interests of residents.

4.2 Not to continue with this review- NOT RECOMMENDED.

5.0 Risks

5.1 The remit of Overview and Scrutiny is to help review and improve services and functions run by the council and its local partners. Therefore, there is no risk associated with this review.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

a) Yes – the purpose of this review is to improve communication and customer experience and therefore would have a positive impact in terms of community safety as would ensure customer concerns are responded to at the earliest opportunity, preventing escalation of issues.

Data Protection

a) Yes – legislation prohibits disclosure of personal information. Those taking part in this work would be reminded that no personal information should be shared in the process of the review and guidance provided about the depersonalisation of data

Equalities

a) Yes – the purpose of this review is to improve communication and therefore would have a positive impact on customer service standards. This is particularly important for groups who find communication more challenging. This review will consider equalities issues in the recommendations made.

Environmental Sustainability

a) None arising directly from this report.

Financial

a) None arising directly from this report.

Health and Safety

a) None arising directly from this report.

Human Resources

a) None arising directly from this report.

Human Rights

a) None arising directly from this report.

Legal

a) None arising directly from this report.

Specific Wards

a) None arising directly from this report.

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 Background Information: None

7.2 Appendices

a) Minutes from task and finish group of 29 October 2025

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East Herts Council Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Tuesday 4 November 2025

Report by: Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Draft Work Programme

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards)

Summary

- This report considers topics for inclusion in the Committee's Draft Work Programme. By establishing a work programme of topics for scrutiny Members are better able to plan their future workload, with an agenda which is focussed, maximising the efficacy of the scrutiny process by taking a longer term, strategic view of the issues facing the council.
- A list of topics is detailed in **Appendix A**.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(A) That the work Programme at Appendix 1, be agreed.

1.0 Background

1.1 **Appendix 1** sets out the Draft Work Programme which may be reviewed at any time. Members are reminded to complete the scrutiny proposal form when putting forward an item for the draft work programme.

1.2 A key function of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to hold the Executive to account for its decisions, to review existing policies and consider proposals for new policies. In doing so, it will act as the Executive's critical friend in the process. The principle power of scrutiny is to influence policies and decisions made by the Council. Its aim should be to achieve positive outcomes for local people by undertaking a thorough targeted

examination of the council's services and procedures and make recommendations for improvement.

- 1.3 It has no formal powers to make changes but where a recommendation is made to the Executive, and the Executive is required to respond to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if it decides not to accept a recommendation and the rationale for that decision. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) recommends that the Executive has to respond to any recommendation within two months.

2.0 Update

- 2.1 Topics for scrutiny at the following meetings are detailed below and are also set out in Appendix 1.

- 20 January 2026
- 10 March 2026

- 2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met for a workshop on Thursday 27 March 2025, to discuss potential topics for scrutiny on the work programme for 2025/26. The Executive were invited to attend to share any upcoming matters they may have that the Committee might like to scrutinise.

- 2.3 The following topics are in the work programme for scrutiny in 2025/26, some of these topics need to be refined via a scrutiny proposal form:

- Scrutiny of Registered Providers' Communication Methods
- Re-tender of the grounds maintenance contract (Glyphosate)
- Sustainable Transport
- Artificial Intelligence and its use by the Council
- Local Government Reform

- 2.4 All new up and coming strategies and policies will automatically be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme, and Members of Overview and Scrutiny can then consider whether they wish to look at these as part of the work programme.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 Members are welcome, and are encouraged, to submit a scrutiny proposal at any time. This form is available in the Microsoft Teams channel and provides Officers with sufficient information to assess if it is appropriate for scrutiny and to ensure that specific questions are addressed. A Scrutiny Flowchart is also available which explains the processes involved in submitting a Scrutiny Proposal Form. Democratic Services will then liaise with Officers and the Chairman to consider the best way forward to address the subject and complete the scoping document.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 The work programme will be kept under review by the Committee throughout the coming year.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 The establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is enshrined in the Local Government Act 2000 (Section 9). The 2000 Act obliges local authorities to adopt political management systems with a separate Executive. Various sub sections of the 2000 Act set out the powers and duties for Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the right to investigate and make recommendations on anything which is the responsibility of the Executive. Legislative provisions can also be found in the Localism Act 2011 (Schedule 2) with options to retain or re-adopt a “committee system” Section 9B.
- 5.2 Potential risks arise for the council if policies and strategies are developed and / or enacted without sufficient scrutiny. Approval of an updated work programme contributes to the mitigation of risk (and Call-Ins) by ensuring key activities of the council are scrutinised.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

Yes - the proposed Work Programme envisages the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving reports on the progress of the council's environmental strategies.

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes - scrutiny is enshrined in statute (the Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Localism Act 2011)

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 **Appendix 1** - Summary of Topics

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Programme of Proposed Scrutiny Topics

Topic	Corporate Objectives (LEAF)	Questions/concerns	Scrutiny Approach (Bulletin, Report, rapid review or task and finish group)	Background Notes / Officers' comments	Reporting timeframe
Scrutiny of Registered Providers' Communications Methods			Report	Final report following meetings of the Task and Finish Group	20 January 2026
Re-tender of the grounds maintenance contract (Glyphosate)			Report	Longstanding topic following Member debate at Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the use of Glyphosate	20 January 2026
Sustainable Transport			Report	Topic is to be narrowed down via a scrutiny proposal form; the topic will be delayed to November 2025 if a form is not submitted by the 16 September meeting.	20 January 2026 or 10 March 2026
Local Government Reform			Report	Scrutiny Proposal Forms submitted by Cllrs E Buckmaster and G McAndrew	20 January 2026 or 10 March 2026
AI and its use by the Council			Report	Suggestion by Cllr Carter for a summary bulletin, now superseded by a full report due in March 2026	10 March 2026