



COTSWOLD
District Council

Friday, 3 October 2025
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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Monday, 13 October 2025 at 4.00 pm.**

Jane Portman
Interim Chief Executive

To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Councillors Gina Blomefield, Angus Jenkinson, Nick Bridges, David Cunningham, Joe Harris, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Clare Turner, Michael Vann and Jon Wareing)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence. The quorum for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is 3 members.
2. **Substitute Members**
To note details of any substitution arrangements in place for the meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
4. **Minutes** (Pages 7 - 14)
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2025.
5. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 15 - 20)
To consider actions outstanding from minutes of previous meetings.
6. **Chair's Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
7. **Public Questions**
A maximum of 15 minutes is allocated for an "open forum" of public questions at committee meetings. No person may ask more than two questions (including supplementary questions) and no more than two such questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation. The maximum length of oral questions or supplementary questions by the public will be two minutes. Questions must relate to the responsibilities of the Committee but questions in this section cannot relate to applications for determination at the meeting.

The response may take the form of:

- a) A direct oral response (maximum length: 2 minutes);
- b) Where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) Where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

8. **Member Questions**

A maximum period of fifteen minutes is allowed for Member questions. Questions must be directed to the Chair and must relate to the remit of the committee.

Questions will be asked in the order notice of them was received, except that the Chair may group together similar questions.

The deadline for submitting questions is 5.00pm on the working day before the day of the meeting unless the Chair agrees that the question relates to an urgent matter, in which case the deadline is 9.30am on the day of the meeting.

A member may submit no more than two questions. At the meeting the member may ask a supplementary question arising directly from the original question or the reply. The maximum length of a supplementary question is one minute.

The response to a question or supplementary question may take the form of:

- a) A direct oral response (maximum length: 2 minutes);
- b) Where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) Where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

Question 1

Question to the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee from Cllr Nikki Ind

I am pleased to see that at today's meeting there is going to be a general update from Bromford Housing and I would like to ask the committee to request regular updates on progress being made to this committee and full council on the following areas of concern that I have with some social rented housing in the district – I understand that Bromford are not the only Social Housing providers in our district, but they are the largest and as a Ward Councillor I would welcome regular updates from them all.

Firstly, the continuation of families being housed in homes with no carpets or flooring (I understand that currently Housing Associations are only required to provide this in kitchens and bathrooms). I am a trustee of a small local charity and requests to provide flooring is one which continues to be received, particularly from young families who are unable to place babies and children on the floor to learn to crawl/walk and there is the additional impact of the cost of heating properties with no flooring, which during a cost of living crisis is an

additional financial burden to our residents. Can I also receive reassurance that properties with decent carpets are no longer being stripped out at the end of a tenancy and skipped and sent to landfill, as has been reported to me previously, but that they are now being cleaned - some flooring is better than nothing.

Secondly, ageing properties, can we receive an update on the number of ageing properties held by Housing Associations in the district and how many are being treated for damp problems and any plans to retrofit these properties.

9. **Report back on recommendations** (Pages 21 - 22)

For the Committee to note the Cabinet's response to the recommendation arising from the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

10. **Bromford Housing Update** (Pages 23 - 24) – **4.45pm**

Purpose

Bromford Housing will be present to respond to Members questions and to give a general update on their social housing in the district.

Bromford Representatives:

Amanda Swann – Regional Director

Natalie Colfer – Head of Neighbourhood and Communities

Nick Woolridge – Head of Home Investment

Council Representatives

Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Alan Hope, Head of Strategic Housing, Property and Assets

11. **Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy Update** (Pages 25 - 92) – **5.30pm**

Purpose

The report sets out the Budget Strategy to support the preparation of the 2026/27 revenue and capital budgets and presents an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy forecast.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance

Lead Officer

David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

12. **Work Plan and Forward Plan** (Pages 93 - 114) – **6.00pm**

For the Committee to note and review its work plan and to select Cabinet decisions for pre-decision scrutiny at future committee meetings.

13. **Updates from Gloucestershire County Council Scrutiny Committees – 6.05pm**

Purpose

To receive any verbal updates on the work of external scrutiny bodies:

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Angus Jenkinson

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Dilys Neill

14. **Cotswold District Local Plan (2011-31) Regulation 18 Consultation** (Pages 115 - 178) – **6.15pm**

Purpose

To seek approval to consult on the Preferred Options for development in the Cotswold District for the Regulation 18 consultation, and further technical documents as and when necessary; and to approve the updated Local Development Scheme to progress the Plan to submission in winter 2026 and adoption in winter 2027.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Lead Officer

Geraldine Le Cointe, Assistant Director for Planning Services

Jo Symonds, Head of Planning Policy and Infrastructure

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