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# Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26

Date of meeting:

Overview Select Committee: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Council: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Lead Director:

Kamal Adatia

City Barrister and Head of Standards

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## Useful information

■ Ward(s) affected: All

■ Report authors: Ed Brown, Katie Jordan - Senior Governance Officers, Julie Bryant – Governance Officer

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides a summary of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26.
- 1.2. The Chair of the Overview Select Committee has developed a report that details the activity performed by the City Council's scrutiny bodies during 2025/26. The report also references ongoing and proposed scrutiny activity.

### 2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 Full Council is asked to note the report and endorse the work of scrutiny during 2025-26.

### 3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 The report details a summary of work and outcomes from scrutiny across OSC and the six scrutiny commissions during 2025-26.
- 3.2 Although it is a decision of Full Council to approve the Scrutiny Annual Report, given that it covers the work and operation of scrutiny, it is appropriate for it to be subject to consideration by the Overview Select Commission ahead of its submission to Full Council.

### 4. Background and options with supporting evidence

- 4.1 The main report begins with an introduction by Councillor Ashiedu Joel, Chair of the Overview and Select Committee for 2025/26.
- 4.2 It then provides general detail of the scrutiny structure, format and operation during the previous year.
- 4.3 The report includes a separate section for each of the seven scrutiny bodies during 2025-26, setting out the key achievements and highlights for each committee/commission and also refers to some of the ongoing and proposed work.
- 4.4 The report is designed to serve as a summary of activity. Full detail of the activity of each scrutiny body can be found via <https://bit.ly/3P7AOEh>

## **5. Detailed report**

The full 'Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026' is included on the subsequent pages.

## **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### 6.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Stuart McAvoy - Head of Finance  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### 6.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising.

Kevin Carter, Head of Law – Commercial, Property & Planning  
22 June 2026

### 6.3 Equalities implications

This report is a summary of scrutiny activity and does not in itself introduce any new equalities impacts. However, the scrutiny work described during 2025-26 covered a range of council services that affect people with protected characteristics, including children and young people, older people, disabled people, carers, tenants and people experiencing homelessness.

Scrutiny provides an important opportunity to consider whether services are fair, accessible and responsive to the needs of different communities. The work outlined in the report included consideration of issues such as SEND transport, adult social care, housing, transport affordability and service accessibility, with the aim of improving outcomes and reducing inequality.

As the report is retrospective, there are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendation to note and endorse it.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated 15 June 2026

### 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

Scrutiny contributes positively to the council's response to the climate emergency by monitoring decisions that also have the potential to influence emissions, air quality, and resilience. Consideration of sustainable growth, low-carbon travel, and green job creation, while helping to ensure that climate impacts are consistently recognised and reflected in

decision-making, and performance monitoring is an important component in efforts to reduce the council's own and city-wide emissions.

Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246  
16th June 2026

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

**7. Background information and other papers:**

None

**8. Summary of appendices:**

Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26

**9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

**10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

No