

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 16 July 2025

**Report Title**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – July 2025

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this report provides an update to Council of the activities and outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny activity at the Council.

It summarises the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Select Commissions - Health (HSC), Improving Lives (ILSC) and Improving Places (IPSC).

**Recommendations**

That Council receive the report and note the updates.

**List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 OSMB Work Programme
- Appendix 2 HSC Work Programme
- Appendix 3 ILSC Work Programme
- Appendix 4 IPSC Work Programme

**Background Papers**

Constitution of the Council, Appendix 9 – Responsibility for Functions, Section 5 –  
Terms of Reference for Committees, Boards and Panels

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None.

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – July 2025

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require a regular update to Council on the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Annual report was presented to Council in September 2024 and provided an overview of the operation of the overview and scrutiny select commissions.

### 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report is intended as a summary of highlights and outcomes and is an indicative rather than definitive account of recent scrutiny work, which aims to hold the Council and key partners to account for decision-making, policy development, and performance. The report summarises information that is already in the public domain regarding progress, changes, or improvements resulting from recommendations and feedback provided by councillors on scrutiny committees. These include Health Select Commission, Improving Lives Select Commission, Improving Places Select Commission, and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.2 Although this report emphasises outcomes, it should be noted that scrutiny is chiefly a discursive process rather than a product. For further insight into the process of overview and scrutiny, the archive of public meetings webcasts, reports submitted for scrutiny, and minutes of discussions leading to recommendations are available on the Council's website.
- 2.3 The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023, as criteria to support the long/short listing of each of the commission's respective priorities:

#### **Establish as a starting point:**

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

#### **Agree principles for longlisting:**

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

#### **Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.**

- T** : Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O** : Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P** : Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I** : Interest – what is the interest to the public?
- C** : Contribution to the Council plan

### **3. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Update on activity:**

#### **3.1 Pre-decision Scrutiny:**

3.1.1 Since the last update in April 2025, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in its pre-decision scrutiny work, has examined the following reports and made recommendations in advance of them being considered by Cabinet:

- New Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan
- Review of the Non-Residential Charging Policy
- Finance Update - June 2025
- Social Value Annual Report
- Employment Solutions 2025-26
- Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update 2024-25
- Ethical Procurement Policy
- Financial Outturn 2024- 25
- Treasury Management Outturn 2024-25
- May 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report

Further actions that arose from those pre-decision scrutiny discussions were that:

- OSMB requested a schedule of when bins were emptied in each ward of the authority, including details of how many times those bins have been missed and why they have been missed.
- OSMB requested that consideration be given to widening the consultation process for future significant projects:
  - A suggestion to consider utilising members in their ward capacity to support consultations.
  - A suggestion to consider the collection of consultees' postcodes to give an indication of which area of the borough they were from.
- OSMB requested further information from Housing, detailing what work was being undertaken to determine and mitigate any potential financial impacts of any delays in moving homeless people from temporary accommodation to more permanent accommodation.
- OSMB requested a briefing on the number of vacancies where recruitment to those vacancies was held for a period of time, listed by directorate and the potential impacts of delaying that recruitment process.
- OSMB would be provided with a list of all contracts that fall within the eligibility criteria for the Real Living Wage accreditation.

#### **3.2 Other Scrutiny work update:**

3.2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has also carried out other scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2025/26, which is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2.2 The Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as always, covers a diverse range of topics within its remit.

3.3 Sub and Project Group work update:

3.3.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- Life Saving Equipment and By-laws:

Status: In Progress

Following a meeting with officers in May 2025, it was decided that further information regarding the equipment held and managed by the Council was needed along with the data around the number and locations of any incidents. It was agreed that this information would be provided within two months and a further meeting would be scheduled.

- Spotlight Review - Grass Cutting / Ground Maintenance

Status: Completed

A meeting was held at the start of June 2025, where members of the review group were given a presentation by officers which provided an overview and update relating to grass cutting and grounds maintenance. It gave members an overview of the weed control methods used and the wildflower schemes in place. Information was also included about their winter works and a cleansing update. The presentation provided members with the assurance needed and it was agreed that an off-agenda update would be provided to members of OSMB in twelve months' time.

- Spotlight Review - Agency Staff.

Status: Ongoing

Members have received a briefing as requested. Whilst this remains a topic of interest for OSMB, progressing of other reviews has taken priority.

Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc) update:

- Employment Solutions Team

Status: Completed

- The performance information relating to the Employment Solutions Team, was included in the report considered for pre-decision Scrutiny at the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### Items for Future Consideration update:

The items listed for future consideration remain on the work programme as place holders, to be considered if appropriate.

- Future Rothercare Model - A progress report was to be provided in twelve months to OSMB following the implementation of the new technology enabled care delivery model, which was agreed by Cabinet in October 2024. This would be due for presentation in April 2026.

## **4. Health Select Commission – Update on activity:**

### **4.1 Scrutiny work:**

4.1.1 Since March 2025, the Health Select Commission (HSC) has scrutinised the following reports and made recommendations in line with its Work Programme for 2025/26 which is attached at Appendix 2:

- The Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Centre Development (TRFT)
- The 18 Week Waiting Time Challenge (TRFT)
- The Adult Mental Health Pathway
- The Adult Contact Team Referral Pathway (Adult Social Care)
- Health Hub Development (pre-decision scrutiny)

4.1.2 At the next meeting of the Commission in July, members will scrutinise the following items:

- The ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) Peer Review
- The Healthwatch Annual Report

4.1.3 The Work Programme for the Health Select Commission, as always covers a diverse range of topics within its remit. It also draws on items referred to it for attention by the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), where the Health Select Commission is represented by its Chair.

### **4.2 Sub and Project Group work:**

4.2.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Health Select Commission meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) Quality Account
- The Yorkshire Ambulance Service Quality Account
- The Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust Quality Account
- The Access to Contraception Review

- South Yorkshire Cancer Alliance/Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Fourth Lung Clinic Workshop

4.2.2 The following additional pieces of work have been progressed and are due to be delivered:

- Social Prescribing Member Session
- Menopause Workshop

## **5. Improving Lives Select Commission – Update on activity:**

### **5.1 Scrutiny work:**

5.1.1 Since the last update in April 2025, the Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) has scrutinised the following reports and made recommendations in line with its Work Programme, which is attached at Appendix 3:

- Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027 progress update

5.1.2 At the next meeting of the Commission in July, members will scrutinise the following items:

- The Children's and Young People's Services Performance Report
- The Revised Elective Home Education Policy (pre-decision scrutiny)

### **5.2 Pre- decision Scrutiny**

5.2.1 The Improving Lives Select Commission has carried out the following pre-decision scrutiny work since the last update and made recommendations in advance of them being considered by Cabinet:

- Family Prosperity Strategy (pre-decision scrutiny) - Members advised that they felt that the Strategy successfully highlighted the activity in Rotherham, to address child poverty and support children and families experiencing poverty. The Commission recommended that further information be included in the Strategy about how support for children and families experiencing poverty could be accessed.
- Draft Kinship Local Offer (pre-decision scrutiny) - The Commission recommended that the draft Kinship Local Offer be reviewed to include the following:
  - Additional information into specific sections of the draft Kinship Local Offer, such as further information on trauma and adding hyperlinks to the specific policies referenced in the document.
  - A short leaflet be developed to sit alongside the Kinship Local Offer, which would include an overview of the support available and would signpost people to the Kinship Navigators.

- That the language used in the draft Kinship Local Offer is reviewed to ensure it would be accessible to all, including young people.
- Additional information into specific sections of the draft Kinship Local Offer, such as further information on trauma and adding hyperlinks to the specific policies referenced in the document.

### 5.3 Sub and Project Group work:

5.3.1 The Commission completed a scoping session for the proposed review of “Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children Currently Missing Education” and members were asked to volunteer to be part of the review group. Members were asked at the June 2025 meeting to express interest in being part of the review, and it is anticipated that the first review group meeting will be held in the coming weeks.

5.4 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Improving Lives Select Commission meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- Additional activity in the form of a workshop, which focused on Safeguarding Children from Radicalisation (including an update on the Prevent Programme) and keeping children safe in education (including an update on the activities that arose and were completed from the disorder in August 2024).
- A work programming session following the June meeting, to discuss and agree statutory items, annual items and items outstanding from the previous work programme. The items are awaiting date confirmation before being scheduled onto specific meeting dates. The Commission is awaiting the OSMB work programming meeting to complete their work programme for the 2025-2026 municipal year.

## 6. **Improving Places Select Commission – Update on activity:**

### 6.1 Scrutiny work:

6.1.1 The Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) has carried out the following scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2025/26, which is attached as Appendix 4.

6.1.2 In the current municipal year, the IPSC has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- Independent Review of the Muslim Burial Provision in Rotherham
- Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy
- Housing Strategy 2022-25: Action Plan Update/ Final Report
- Tenant Scrutiny Review on Tenancy Health Checks



## 6.2 Sub and Project Group work:

### 6.2.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the IPSC meetings, members are in the process of carrying out the following work:

- School Road Safety Review:

Status: Ongoing

The initial scoping meeting was held in January 2025, where information was requested on the following aspects:

- The School Streets initiative.
- Enforcement powers, what powers sit where and what equipment was available to assist with this.
- Reporting mechanisms for Crossing Operatives.
- Responsibility for recruitment of Crossing Operatives.
- Number of reported near misses and enforcement actions.
- What Traffic Regulation Orders were in place.
- School travel plans and drop off zones.
- Potential funding opportunities.

School Crossing Patrol falls under the Deputy Leader's portfolio, which has the priority 'Every Child Arrives at School Safely and Ready to Learn', which links with a range of other facilitators such as transport, walking buses, and routes to schools.

When seeking information on the aspects above, it came to light that a similar meeting with the same service leads aiming to achieve similar outputs was already in existence. Working as one group will assist in achieving a better understanding of all outputs, operational opportunities as well as challenges. It will be a more efficient and effective use of both Elected Members' and Officers' time and look to coordinate our overall approach to children, in relation to road safety.

An initial meeting with Councillor Cusworth, Councillor Williams (as Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy), Councillor Tinsley, (as Chair of the Review Group), and the Assistant Director Property & Facilities Services was held on 23 June 2025.

### 6.3 Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc) Update:

- Street Safe Team - Off-Agenda Briefing in the autumn – This would be to provide an update on the recruitment process along with information on the role.
- Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements in the autumn - Off-Agenda Briefing – This would be to provide an update on how this was progressing.

- Rural Strategy - Briefing Note followed by Spotlight Review if required.
- Update on the impact of 'Awaab's Law' – This will be for the commission to consider the impact on the Council of any implications associated with the introduction of 'Awaab's Law'.

Awaab's Law was passed as part of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023. The law set time limits for social landlords to address hazards like damp and mould in residents' homes. While the law was in effect, its phased implementation was scheduled to begin in October 2025.

#### 6.4 Items for Future Consideration Update:

Consideration of the Our Places Fund and the outcome of the Waste Policy pilot have been added as a result of recommendations from previous meetings.

### **7. Options considered and recommended proposal**

7.1 The report is submitted for information.

### **8. Consultation on proposal**

8.1 The report is submitted for information.

### **9. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

9.1 The report is submitted for information.

### **10. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

10.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly arising from this report.

### **11. Legal Advice and Implications**

11.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **12. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

12.1 There are no Human Resource implications directly arising from this report.

### **13. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

13.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, or Vulnerable Adults directly arising from this report.

#### **14. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 14.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications directly arising from this report.

#### **15. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

- 15.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly arising from this report.

#### **16. Implications for Partners**

- 16.1 There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

#### **17. Risks and Mitigation**

- 17.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

#### **Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	07/07/2025
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	03/07/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	03/07/25
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive	30/06/2025

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