

**Councillor Brian Steele – Chair of the Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board**

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18th September 2025

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: Simon.Ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Ball

Question at Council – Wednesday 10th September 2025

Thank you for you're the question you raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 10th September. I have set out your question and my response below:

Why has scrutiny failed to halt Labour's project slippages in the capital programme?

As Chairperson of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, I work with the Committee to set agendas and ensure scrutiny meetings are conducted efficiently. Scrutiny is meant to support the Council, but it can only address a limited number of issues at Council meetings.

The contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report indicated that throughout 24/25, Scrutiny considered 84 substantive items, there were 29 pre-decision reports scrutinised, two decisions were called in, seven workshops held, one site visit conducted and there were 26 off-agenda briefings. The Improving Lives Select Commission also co-opted three external members.

Scrutiny meetings are usually set for two hours, but over the past year, I have often extended them to ensure members have enough time to review agenda items thoroughly.

Additionally, a Committee member criticised the agendas for being too lengthy. My intention in setting the agendas is to ensure that issues raised during full Council could be properly scrutinised. Councillor Bacon also expressed support for concerns about the agendas being too long. As a result, I decided to reduce their length.

Councillor Ball, the OSMB Committee establishes the agenda through the Forward Plan. There has not been a comprehensive review of delays in the capital programme; this topic has never appeared as an agenda item. The matter was first raised in a meeting when Councillor Bacon referenced an audit report that had addressed the issue. As a result, it was deemed unnecessary for scrutiny to revisit the matter after the audit had already been completed.

I am grateful to all those who serve on any scrutiny committee for their dedication and commitment to the rigorous work of scrutiny. Their efforts are invaluable to the effective functioning of our council. Additionally, when I reviewed the committee memberships, I noted that, as it stands, you are not currently listed as a member of any scrutiny committee.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Brian Steele
Rawmarsh West Ward
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board