

**MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Present:** Councillor S Barnes (Chair), Ashworth (Vice Chair), Driver, M Smith (sub), Eaton (sub), S Smith, Bauld

**In attendance:** Clare Law, Head of People and Policy  
Hannah Callan, Executive and Democratic Services Officer

**Also present:** Councillor Lythgoe

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received by Councillor McMahon (Councillor M Smith subbed), Councillor Harrison (Councillor Eaton subbed), Co-opted member James Heaton and Director of Economic Development David Smurthwaite.

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**4. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**5. Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**6. Chair's Update**

6.1 There was no update.

**ORDINARY BUSINESS**

**7. Quarter 3 Performance Management Report**

7.1 The committee is asked to note and consider the Council's performance during Quarter 3 2025-2026.

7.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- It was clarified that officers are hoping to secure planning permission for Bacup Market in April, after which procurement will be completed. In relation to Union Street, a consultation has been held with retailers and their feedback has been gathered, a follow up session is being organised to review the designs and consider amendments to better support their requirements. At the Bingo Hall, demolition will take a few more weeks, although good progress has been made on the interior. Once demolition is complete, an archaeological survey will be undertaken, resulting in a short pause in works, with overall completion expected in early 2027. It was clarified that the bus stop has been moved due to scaffold encroaching into the bus lane. It was confirmed that it has been moved further up the street and communications were circulated in early February. The traffic management plan will keep the new bus stop location until the completion of the works in 2027.

- It was confirmed that the responses to the Resident Survey are still being analysed in relation to the question in relation to how safe do residents feel. However, engagement with the Community Safety Partnership is ongoing, and the data does not currently align.
- It was clarified that there is no theme to the FOI's that have been received.
- If residents have any concerns or issues with the recent distribution of the waste caddies then they should log this with the Council's Corporate Support team and it will be dealt with accordingly. It was also confirmed that additional staff have been appointed to support and advise residents in relation to this.
- It was confirmed that there are still pressures in relation to staffing in the Environmental Health department. Job adverts are still live and shared working is being explored. Work has also been bought in; however, this is costly.

**Resolved:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Council's performance during Quarter 3 2025-2026.

**8. Final Report of the Task and Finish Group: Temporary Accommodation**

8.1 The committee is asked to note and make the recommendations at 2.1 to 2.3 of the report.

8.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- It was clarified that work has commenced on developing a clear and deliverable strategy for Council-owned sites, with a particular focus on providing one-bedroom bungalows to meet identified housing need. Dates for an all-member briefing are currently being explored for April. Officers have contacted owners of properties that have been vacant for more than five years to explore opportunities for acquisition and bringing these homes back into use. In addition, the Homeless Prevention Officer advert is currently live.
- It was agreed that a further update would be provided to the Committee after 6 months have passed.

**Resolved:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Final Report of the Task and Finish Group in relation to Temporary Accommodation and approved the recommendations at 2.1 to 2.3 of the report.

**9. Forward Plan**

9.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Members were encouraged to submit their questions in advance in relation to items on the next agenda.

**Resolved:**

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7:25pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....