

**Teignbridge District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
16th September 2025
Part i**

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and Issue Prioritisation Survey

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with the results and analysis of the Work Programme Issue Prioritisation survey, conducted from 4th to 29th August 2025.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Receive the results of the survey
- (2) Consider the results of the survey when determining their Work Programme for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

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Legal Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

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Risk Assessment

There are no risk assessment implications from this report.

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

There are no environmental or climate change implications from this report.

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Executive Member

Councillor John Parrott – Executive Member for Finance and Corporate.

Appendices/Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Issue Prioritisation Survey results

1. Introduction/Background

The Overview and Scrutiny (OS) work programme lists the upcoming items for consideration by the OS Committee and their expected date at Committee. It is published on our website: [Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan 2025 - Teignbridge District Council](#)

The OS Work Programme is member-led and owned by the Committee. Members decide what should and should not be included and how those items and issues are considered through the various ways of working e.g. via Committee, Informal Meetings, Briefings, Spotlight Reviews or Task and Finish Groups.

Whilst Members own the work programme, the formulation of the work programme should be supported from across the Council to ensure that Members have the most relevant information, it covers the most pressing issues and has scope for impact to make improvements.

The [Overview and Scrutiny statutory guidance](#) (published 2019, updated 2024) states the importance of Overview and Scrutiny planning their work programme to ensure there is a defined impact and tangible difference to the work of the Council.

The statutory guidance highlights effective overview and scrutiny should:

- provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge
- amplify the voices and concerns of the public
- be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
- drive improvement in public services and strategic decision-making

The [Centre for Governance and Scrutiny](#) highlight that an effective work programme underpins the work and approach of Overview and Scrutiny.

Work Programme Session

The OS Committee held a Work Programme session on 15th July 2025 as an informal meeting of the Committee. As part of that meeting, a number of management information tools (Council Strategy, Corporate Risk Register and Customer Feedback data) were presented to provide information to Members about potential topics for inclusion.

Members used the session to suggest a long-list of potential topics for inclusion:

- Financial State of Teignbridge (budget gap)
- Local Government Re-organisation
- Planning Performance
- Economic Development in Teignbridge
- Review of Carbon Action Plans
- Single Sex Spaces
- Safeguarding

- Health and Safety Legislation Risks
- Emergency Planning for Major Emergencies
- Cyber Security Failure and ICT Security Measures
- Recruitment and Retention of Staff and Workforce Planning
- Leisure Policy / Strategy
- External Organisation/Service: South West Water
- External Organisation/Service: Health and Dentistry
- External Organisation/Service: Education
- External Organisation/Service: National Grid
- External Organisation/Service: Sibelco
- External Organisation/Service: Valencia

Issue Prioritisation Survey

As a result of the long-list of topics, the Committee agreed to consult the public on them via a survey. The survey ran from 4th to 29th August 2025 and asked members of the public to rank the issues based on their priorities.

The Council publicised the survey via its resident's newsletter, town and parishes newsletter, social media accounts and with support from the community and voluntary sector.

Survey Results

The survey received 142 responses. The survey asked for respondents to rank topics from 1-10, where 1 was the most important and 10 was the least important. Therefore, those with the lowest averages were the most important topics.

The weighted averages of the topics were as follows:

1. Health and Dentistry — **3.61**
2. Safeguarding — **3.70**
3. Financial State of Teignbridge (budget gap) — **3.72**
4. Cyber Security Failure and ICT Security Measures — **3.79**
5. Economic Development in Teignbridge — **4.07**
6. South West Water — **4.10**
7. Emergency Planning for Major Emergencies — **4.28**
8. Education — **4.26**
9. Unauthorised Encampments — **4.39**
10. Planning Performance — **4.39**
11. Valencia - Waste Management — **4.41**
12. National Grid — **4.51**
13. Town and Parish Councils Working Agreement — **4.36**
14. Health and Safety Legislation Risks — **4.75**
15. Leisure Policy/Strategy — **4.80**
16. Recruitment and Retention of Staff — **4.93**
17. Local Government Re-organisation — **4.77**
18. Review of Carbon Action Plans — **5.56**
19. Single Sex Spaces — **5.57**
20. Sibelco - Industrial minerals, clay etc — **5.58**

In addition, 25 additional responses were received from the open text box where respondents could add their own topic.

The full results and analysis can be found in the appendix document.

2. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

There are no direct financial, legal, risk or environmental/climate change impacts from this report.

4. Alternative Options

The survey is purely consultative, the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme is wholly owned and decided by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is for Members to determine which topics they wish to review in their Work Programme.

5. Conclusion

Members are asked to consider the results and analysis of the Work Programme Issue Prioritisation survey, conducted from 4th to 29th August 2025, in order to put forward topics for their Work Programme.