OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



The Overview & Scrutiny annual report highlights activity and the work of the committee and its working groups during the preceding year.

What does the Overview & Scrutiny Committee do?

All local authorities operating a cabinet system will have at least one Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Non-cabinet members conduct the overview and scrutiny role; Gedling has one politically balanced committee of thirteen. The committee meets every eight weeks and like most council meetings it is open to the public.

The committee is not a decision-making body but one which monitors and influences those that do it, is a mechanism for achieving open and democratic accountability.

The role of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is to ask questions, to assure themselves that issues are being addressed and emerging risks are recognised and acted upon. Effective scrutiny utilises information and ideas from a wide range of sources and involves holding the Council and other organisations to account, providing 'critical friend' challenge to the councils' executive and other service providers. In doing this, members seek to reflect the aspirations and concerns of residents and communities.

Scrutiny is a flexible process and can be conducted in a variety of ways. Areas of enquiry can be drawn from:

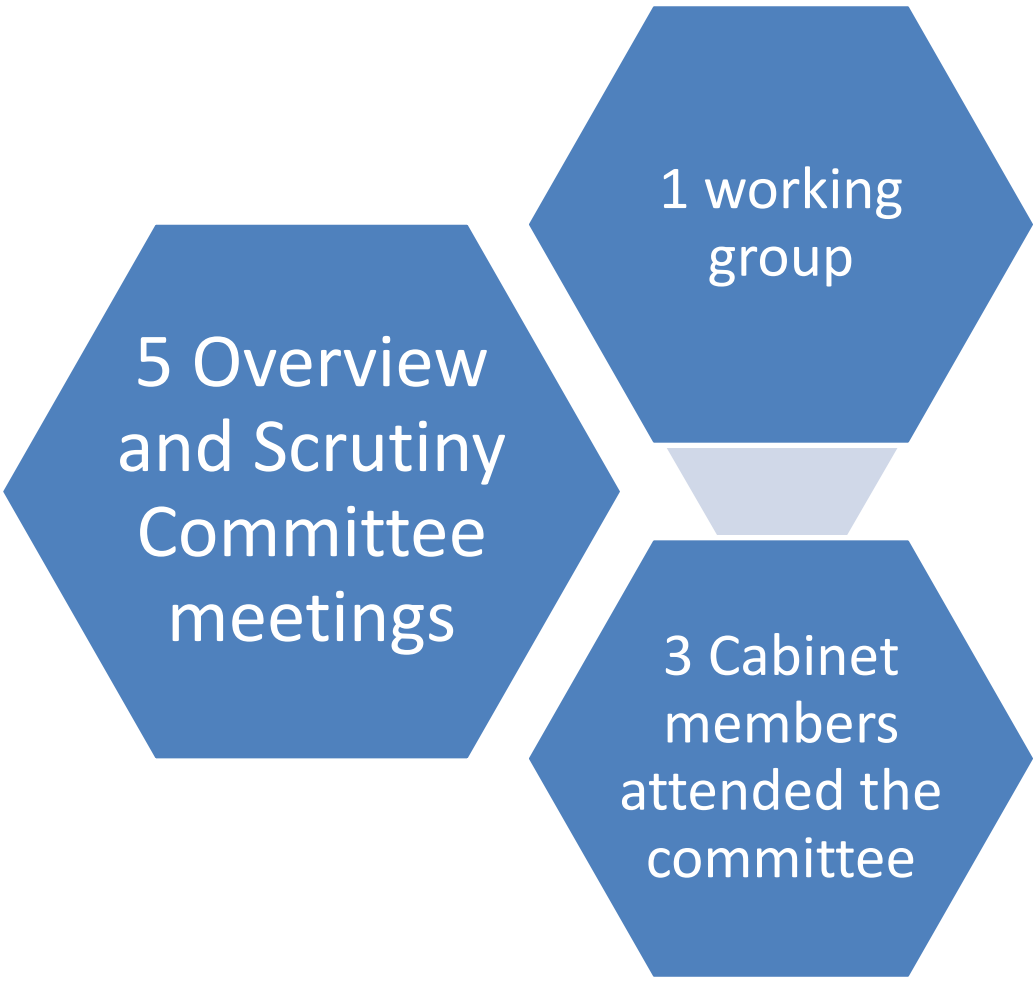
- Performance reports
- The Corporate Risk Scorecard
- Compliments and Complaints data
- Matters of local interest raised by members of the committee
- Issues raised by the wider Council membership
- Public and community engagement

At Gedling, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's role in performance monitoring enables members to scrutinise detailed performance information on a quarterly basis to help identify areas of performance that require improvement. The committee can also consider the Council's Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is a document that contains details of key executive decisions the Cabinet, cabinet members and officers are likely to take over a six-month period, this enables the committee to monitor the executive decision-making programme and undertake pre decision scrutiny if they consider there is an issue of concern.

What Overview & Scrutiny does not do?

The committee is not a mechanism for the investigation of individual complaints; the Council has a separate process for this. It is also not able to look at individual planning or licensing decisions.

Work conducted during 2025/26



Scrutiny Working Groups

Working groups do much of the work of the committee by providing members with the opportunity to investigate issues in depth and recommend improvements through the gathering, and consideration, of evidence from a broad range of sources. This enables robust and effective challenge, as well as an increased likelihood of delivering outcomes. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports its recommendations to the Cabinet which then decides whether the recommendations will be accepted and acted upon, and if not, why not.

Fly-Tipping, Litter & Waste Management working group

This working group was established in September 2025 to undertake a detailed review of fly tipping, litter management, and waste management across the Borough.

The working group met on five occasions during the review and gathered evidence from a range of internal and external stakeholders, in accordance with the agreed scope of the review, which was considered at the group's first meeting.

All meetings were held on a hybrid basis, with Members and guests able to attend either in person at the Chappell Room or remotely via Microsoft Teams. Members noted that this approach provided greater flexibility and accessibility, helping maximise attendance and participation throughout the review.

The review focused on developing a detailed understanding of current waste, litter and fly-tipping services, including operational performance, enforcement activity, partnership working, resident behaviour, future legislative changes, and opportunities for service improvement.

The working group received evidence and presentations from the following stakeholders:

- Andrew Burgin – Parks Operations Manager, Gedling Borough Council
- Antony Greener – Head of Waste Management, Notts County Council
- William Langston – Principal Environmental Health Officer
- Lucy Lee – Regional Manager, WISE
- Kevin Nealon – Community Protection Manager, Gedling Borough Council
- Councillor Paling – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Operations)
- Julie Snowdon – Assistant Director, Environmental Services (Operations)
- Esther Storer – Waste and Street Care Operations Manager
- Sarah Troman – Director of Operations

In addition, Members undertook a visit to the Materials Recycling Facility in Mansfield to gain a greater understanding of the recycling process, the challenges associated with contamination, and the end destination of materials collected through the Borough's recycling service.

<u>Key findings:</u>

Service improvement: Depot modernisation, service restructuring and the Whitespace system are supporting better operational data, route management, and monitoring. Missed collections remain a concern; a 90-day improvement plan has been introduced, with early signs of improvement but further work required.

Enforcement: The report records more than 1,100 Fixed Penalty Notices since the WISE contract began in November 2025, generating over £77,000 in income. Members highlighted uneven geographical coverage, difficulties securing evidence and resource constraints on CCTV deployment.

Recycling and future changes: Reported contamination rates fell from 17% to 13%. Food waste collections, flexible plastics, and other national reforms will require coordinated planning, clear resident communications, and consideration of financial impacts.

Public understanding and partnership working: Clearer information is needed on recycling, fly tipping, private-land responsibilities, bulky waste, hazardous waste, and reporting. Stronger coordination between services, enforcement partners, businesses, residents, and volunteers is central to improvement.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Communications

That the Council enhances public communications on:

- Recycling contamination, correct materials, and dangerous materials (Lithium batteries)
- Bulky waste and what constitutes fly tipping, including fly tips on private land.
- Resident use of Household Waste Recycling Centres and expectations around waste separation
- Food waste collections ahead of implementation date
- Targeted local littering issues such as cigarette butts and incorrect disposal behaviours.
- Dog fouling, including responsible disposal of dog waste and available reporting routes.
- Residents' responsibilities under the Household Waste Duty of Care Regulations

2. Online Reporting

That the Council promotes the use of the online reporting system for fly tipping (including photo uploads) to improve reporting efficiency and enforcement outcomes.

3. Hazardous Waste and Asbestos

The working group express concerns to the current procedure and delays to collections of hazardous waste and recommends that the Council:

- Considers introducing clear on-site signage or messaging for complex fly tipping cases (e.g. asbestos fly tipping) to explain delays and manage public expectations.
- Works with the County Council to review current processes where appropriate, particularly in light of Local Government Reorganisation

- Reviews how communication could be clearer where hazardous waste cannot be removed immediately.

4. WISE Enforcement Coverage

The working group recognises the positive aspects of the current contract and wishes to maintain appropriate scrutiny by recommending that the Council:

- Reviews the geographical spread of WISE enforcement activity to ensure appropriate coverage across all wards, including lower density areas.
- Monitors and reviews enforcement data on an ongoing basis

5. Intelligence Sharing

That the Council continues to strengthen intelligence sharing between enforcement and operational teams, particularly in relation to:

- Fly tipping hotspots.
- Use of fly capture data

6. Member Engagement (Ward Walks)

That the Council fosters Member-led ward engagement (e.g. ward walks with enforcement teams) in areas of concern with a focus on targeted hotspot areas rather than whole ward coverage.

7. Community Litter Picking Groups

That the Council strengthens engagement and partnership with community litter picking groups, by:

- Creating clearer reporting routes for organised litter picks
- Ensuring timely collection of gathered waste
- Exploring opportunities for joint activity with enforcement teams (WISE)
- Promoting, celebrating, and recognising the work of volunteer litter pickers
- Improving public awareness of litter picking activity (e.g. blue bags awaiting collection)
- Ensuring clearer communication of support available, including equipment, safe handling information, and guidance

8. Education and Behaviour Change

That the Council supports increased educational engagement on fly tipping litter and waste management, including:

- Work with schools on littering and environmental crime.

- Public awareness campaigns aligned with national messaging.
- Use of operational data to guide service deployment
- A stronger focus on locally relevant issues (e.g. cigarette butts, battery disposal, littering behaviours within the Borough)

9. Enforcement Tools / CCTV

The working group acknowledges the financial, legal and resource constraints of using additional enforcement tools and recommends that the Council:

- Reviews whether additional enforcement tools (e.g. enhanced technology such as CCTV) could be utilised, subject to cost.
- Focuses on targeted use in identified hotspot areas with regular fly tipping and graffiti.
- Considers introducing a process whereby persistent fly-tipping hotspots, evidenced through repeated reports and intelligence, trigger a formal review to determine whether the deployment of CCTV or other enforcement tools would be appropriate and operationally feasible.
- Considers future opportunities for collaboration through Local Government Reorganisation

10. National Policy and Partnership Working

That the Council:

- Keeps under review the impact of national waste policy changes (including the Emissions Trading Scheme, Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer Responsibility)
- Works in partnership with the Waste Disposal Authority and other councils
- Reviews and works collaboratively with national organisations such as APSE or LGA on best practice and guidance.
- Considers implications in the context of Local Government Reorganisation and longer-term planning.
- Focuses on ongoing monitoring and reviews rather than immediate implementation.

11. Transformation of Waste Services

That the Council recognises the achievements of the Waste Services, Customers Services and Transformation teams in implementing the Whitespace system, which had enabled improved data collection, enhanced service monitoring, and more informed operational decision-making.

These recommendations were accepted at the Cabinet meeting on 3 September 2026.

Future Work Programme 2026/27

The committee has recently agreed a new work programme for the forthcoming municipal year. Key to developing the overview and scrutiny work programme is ensuring that the issues that really matter to residents are reflected in the work for the year ahead. It is also agreed that the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation across Nottinghamshire remains a priority for the committee.

Scrutiny of cabinet members will remain central to the work of the committee and working with external organisations will play an important part of the committees work as it looks to find improvements to important local issues.

The work programme will be considered at each committee to enable it to remain flexible and to respond to current issues. The committee will strive to continue to deliver an interesting, varied, and challenging work programme.