

Easy Read Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26

**This report explains how Councillors checked
and improved Council decisions**

What is Scrutiny?



Scrutiny is when Councillors ask questions



They check decisions are right



They speak up for residents

What this report is about?



This report explains what the Council's **four Overview & Scrutiny Committees** have been working on throughout 2025 and 2026.

It sets out what topics they have looked at, who they have worked with and where they can suggest changes that will benefit the residents of RCT. They have looked at matters that they think can make a difference to residents.

They have put forward **suggested changes** to the Cabinet who make the Council's decisions.



What are the four Scrutiny Committees called and what do they look at?

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee- This is the main committee and looks at the general topics that affect residents and the issues that the Council thinks are important for everyone in RCT.

The Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee – This Committee looks at matters that affect Education, Schools, pupils and their families and services that the Council provides to young people.

The Community Services Scrutiny Committee – This Committee looks at issues that involve the health and wellbeing of everyone that lives in RCT which means feeling healthy or happy. Topics such as leisure services, social services for adults and public health.

The Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee – This Committee looks at issues such as Waste, Recycling and

Highways and how the Council is doing its part to tackle Climate Change.

- There are **14 Councillors** on each Scrutiny Committee.
- Meetings are held **every month**, or more if they are needed.
- Residents **can watch the meetings live** or after they have finished to see what happened.
- Residents can also ask if they would like to attend a **meeting in person**.

Big Achievements



The Scrutiny Committees have made **131 suggestions for change**

27 people from outside the Council have attended the meetings to help give advice and information to the Committee Members

They also sent 11 letters to the Cabinet to make changes on certain ideas in report

What they talked about



The Overview & Scrutiny

Committee looked closely at how the Council want to spend money before it was agreed and

at looked at what the public said to make sure it was a fair process by reaching as many people as possible for their thoughts.



The Education & Inclusion

Scrutiny Committee looked at changes the Government want to make to Healthy Eating in

Schools (They wrote a letter to Welsh Government with their suggested changes on costs and special dietary needs).



The Community Services Scrutiny Committee had the chance to look at the report for the how unpaid Carers are supported before Cabinet made any decisions. It made a number of suggested changes to ensure that unpaid carers get the best support.



The Climate Change, Prosperity & Frontline Services Scrutiny Committee looked at the Welsh Government 20mph Speed Limit. Members raised a few points they wanted to be taken into consideration alongside what the public said to make sure where some roads were changing back to 30mph, it was done safely.

What difference did we make?

Scrutiny has made a difference by putting forward a number of changes for Cabinet to think about before it makes any decisions.

Scrutiny has given feedback to a number of consultations, which is how peoples' voices can be heard before decisions are made by Welsh Government.

Scrutiny has worked with partners, organisations and community groups when it needs expert advice and another point of view, to help support the Councillors with their work.

Scrutiny has welcomed members of the public to its meetings which is really important, to make their voices heard by the Council.

Scrutiny plans ahead and puts together a list of topics to talk about every year, this makes it easier to get things done.

How you can get involved

- **You can watch Scrutiny meetings online**
- **You can see what Councillors are discussing**
- **You can contact your local councillor**
- **You can share your views or raise concerns**
- **You can suggest topics to look at**
- **This helps councillors focus on issues that matter to you**

➤ **You can read reports on the council's website**

Next Year



Next year Scrutiny in RCT wants to continue to do good work and so it has decided to concentrate on some areas:

- **Goal 1:** Work with the residents of RCT and encourage more public to attend meetings.
- **Goal 2:** Continue to look at topics that affect residents so Scrutiny can make a difference.

- **Goal 3:** Make sure the Scrutiny Committee members get the best support possible to carry out their work.