

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group – July 2024**Review of scrutiny item requests

<b>Scrutiny request pro-forma</b>	<b>Request details</b>
<b>No. 22</b>	
<b>1. Member request</b>	<b>Councillor S Morgan</b>
<b>2. Area of scrutiny requested and reasons for it</b>	<b>The Council's conduct in the relation to the appeal against application 22/00344/FULPP-11053774 for a travellers' site beside A414 at Woodham Mortimer, by way of a weak and ill-prepared submission, and the failure to monitor compliance with a time-limited condition imposed by the appeal Inspector even though a compliance certificate was issued.</b>
<b>3. Indicate which part of the Committee's remit the request falls within</b>	<b>Matters relating to the review or scrutiny of decisions made or actions taken.</b>
<b>4. If other, give further details</b>	
<b>5. Has the matter been raised directly with Officers or another Committee?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>6. If yes to 5, give further details including dates and any response</b>	
<b>7. Expected outcome of this requested scrutiny item</b>	<b>Answers to the following questions:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Why a more robust defence of the Council's decision of refusal was not made.</b></li> <li><b>2. Why no mention was made in the Council's case of the significant environmental damage that would occur, and of the anti-social behaviour exhibited by the occupiers of the site.</b></li> <li><b>3. Why deadline for compliance with a condition imposed by the appeal Inspector was missed, and does this invalidate the original application and if not, why not.</b></li> <li><b>4. What are the lessons learned and procedures being put in place to avoid this happening again.</b></li> </ol>

Officer review and comments

1. These matters clearly fall within the remit of the Committee for potential review and scrutiny.
2. A briefing paper seeking to address the points of concern raised in this scrutiny item request is attached alongside this pro-forma to enable the Working Group to carry out an initial assessment.
3. It is for the Working Group to identify whether in the light of the above Officer response there are any issues requiring actual scrutiny and recommend accordingly to the Committee with a view to this being added to the scrutiny workplan.