

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2026-27 - Environment, Communities and Partnerships

Forward Agendas

Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review
2 nd July 2026		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on OL Solar Panel Projects • Community Health and Wealth Update
3 rd September 2026		Annual Climate Report
1 st October 2026		
5 th November 2026	Council Tax Support 2027/28	
3 rd December 2026		
4 th February 2027		
4 th March 2027		Armed Forces Covenant Annual Update Report
1 st April 2027		

Unscheduled Agenda Items

Item	Notes	Progress
Community Safety Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider bringing forward a paper to review and understand what Huntingdonshire District Council has done or is currently doing in relation to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). • Given the importance of community safety, I believe it would be beneficial to examine the CSP's activities, outcomes, and any ongoing initiatives to ensure transparency and alignment with local needs, thus improve local understanding. • Is it working, could this be improved? 	Report being developed ahead of scheduling onto the Agenda.

O&S Topics Identified For Further Consideration

Subject	Brief	Status
Hydro-electric and small wind turbines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that a pub in St Neots has a very small hydro electric system in place • How can HDC influence the community to invest in these projects? • Available grants? 	DSO to discuss with relevant Officers and bring to the Climate Working Group as a topic
Disabled Facility Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to discuss with CCC to hear the obstacles they have encountered. • Working group on DFGs has previously been undertaken and is now concluded. • DFG performance is published within the Corporate Performance Quarterly reports on O&S P&G 	More info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
Hinchingsbrooke Country Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the development project • Update on commercial ventures at the Park • This is covered by the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group and One Leisure Shadow Board 	No further action
CPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for the Mayor to attend to update the Panel on his plans for investment, environment and leisure in the district • Noted that some subjects may fall under the O&S P&G Panel 	More info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
Black Cat Junction Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern with the impending completion of the junction improvement works that Buckden village will be used as a cut through in the event of main road congestion • What is the environmental impact of this? 	DSO to pick up with relevant Officers for a response to the Councillor.
Air quality and congestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the Council monitor Air Pollutants in the district? 	DSO to discuss with relevant Officers and bring to the Climate Working Group as a topic

Great Fen Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for a site visit to understand the work being undertaken. 	DSO has arranged a site visit for all members
Immigration Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National reform on this is due Autumn 2026 – concern that this will have an increased impact on homelessness and crisis payments due to more people not having recourse to public funds Potential increase in pressure on Local Authorities. What is the projected scale of this? 	To remain on the work programme topics identified list and revisit once the national work on this has been completed.
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village playparks and open spaces – how do Parish Councils access funding for installation and maintenance? How do parishes earmark suitable land for installation? Noted that the Council have a Play Sufficiency Report and approved Strategy 	DSO to liase with relevant Officers and schedule onto the All Member Briefing.
One Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the impact of concessionary services inc financial and social values, the return for the Council. Concern about accessibility for eligible residents in rural areas 	DSO to arrange meeting for the relevant Officers and Councillor to discuss.
Alternative Fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is the Council dealing with alternative fuels? What fuels are already being used by the Council? Noted that a report on this has previously been seen by O&S E,C&P 	DSO to liase with relevant Officers and schedule onto the All Member Briefing.
Food Waste Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for an update on the scheme What to see the benefits of the service, any common issues, collection rates and tonnage 	<p>DSO to liase with relevant Officers to arrange;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Member Briefing Site Visit Update report to Panel after data from the first 6 months of the scheme becomes available.

Recycling and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the take up on recycling services? • Concern that HMOs and Flats with communal bins experience barriers to the service • General overview on the recycling service • How much waste is collected across the service and what amount is rejected? What happens to rejected waste? 	DSO to liase with relevant Officers to arrange meeting and visit to Eastfield House for the relevant Councillors.
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Council doing on this? • Is the focus on business or residential? • What gives good value for money? • Noted that the matter has previously been reviewed by the Climate Working Group but that an update on developments would be wise. 	DSO to discuss with relevant Officers and bring to the Climate Working Group as a topic
Alternative Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative planting schemes in the district – does this include native species to encourage pollinators? • Noted that a report had previously been presented to O&S E,C&P 	DSO to provide links to the previous report and if still necessary request more info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
Shared Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will this look after LGR? • Noted that this may be covered by the LGR Scrutiny Committee 	DSO to request more info and scoping from the Cllr to refine the request
Climate Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractors costs from the Climate Strategy. • Advised that the Annual Climate Report will be seen at O&S (E,C&P) Panel in September which may satisfy the request 	DSO to review with Councillors following the September meeting that questions have been answered or to seek further clarity on the request.

	NOTE This item has been moved from the O&S P&G Work Programme	
One Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for more information Noted that One Leisure is covered by O&S (E,C&P) Panel as well as the One Leisure Shadow Leisure Board. <p>NOTE This item has been moved from the O&S P&G Work Programme</p>	More info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
Community Infrastructure Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the broad support for Town and Parish Councils? Concern that applications are digital and that there is a generational technology barrier to access this Does CIL favour bigger communities? Smaller Parishes have less resources to submit applications do they loose out to bigger parishes? What will happen to CIL reserves with the integration following LGR? <p>NOTE This item falls under O&S P&G and will be moved to their Work Programme</p>	DSO to share CIL information to Members and to arrange inclusion on the matter within a future All Member Briefing.
Civil Parking Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to see and understand the performance of CPE Operational Delivery How is this performing against expectations? Previously agreed that an annual review would be brought to Members to show findings from the first year of CPE <p>NOTE This item falls under O&S P&G and will be moved to their Work Programme</p>	DSO to schedule into the All Member Briefings calendar at an appropriate date once 12 months of CPE has elapsed and the data is available.

Working Groups

Climate Working Group
Members: Cllrs T Alban, A Bulat, S Claffey, C Lowe, S Mokbul and S Lancaster Lead Officer: Adjusted to suit the topic, enquiries to B Buddle
Progress: November 2022: Initial Meetings held to establish Terms of Reference for the group. April 2023: Regular meetings established. Evidence and information gathering to be progressed. Group to be involved in the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development. January 2024: Meetings held to discuss proposed work plan for the group and to discuss HVO Fuels project November 2024: Meeting to discuss future proposed projects January 2025: Group met to review the HVO draft report prior to its consideration by the Panel August 2025: Group met twice to discuss both the Energy Strategy and the Fleet Decarbonisation Project for initial feedback prior to their inclusion in the democratic cycle of meetings over Autumn 2025 February 2026: Group invited to comment on the Interim RECAP Partnership Waste Strategy. This will be brought to Members through the Members Briefing. Next Steps: Meetings to be scheduled as required to allow involvement in proposed works. Topics identified for future meetings; hydro-electric power, air quality in the district, Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Update
Disabled Facilities Grants Group
Members: I P Taylor, B Banks, C Tevlin and C Lowe Lead Officer: Claudia Deeth
Progress: February 2024: Councillors invited to express their interest in being involved with the project. August 2024: initial meeting held and scope of project discussed February 2025: Further meeting held to update the group on the progress of the project Next Steps: Work is now complete and the Group will be disbanded.