

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

Forward Agendas

Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review
3 rd September 2026		• Annual Climate Report • Community Safety Partnerships • Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 9th July)
1 st October 2026	• One Leisure Commercial Opportunities Report (Private) • Commercial Sustainability Report – Parks and Open Spaces • Social Value Policy	• Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 1st October)
5 th November 2026	• Council Tax Support 2027/28 • Homelessness Strategy	• One Leisure 2025-26 Performance Review • Alternative Fuels – 12 month Review
3 rd December 2026		Food Waste Collections – 6 month Review
4 th February 2027		Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 16 th December)
4 th March 2027		Armed Forces Covenant Annual Update Report
1 st April 2027		Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 30 th March)

Unscheduled Agenda Items

Item	Notes	Progress
CPCA	• 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	DSO to reach out to CPCA to gauge viability and reassess progress once that is advised.

O&S Topics Identified For Further Consideration

Subject	Brief	Status
Disabled Facility Grants	• 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
Black Cat Junction Infrastructure	• 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.
Great Fen Project	• Request for a site visit to understand the work being undertaken.	DSO has arranged a site visit for all members
Immigration Reforms	• 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.

One Leisure	• 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.
Recycling and Waste	• 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.
Alternative Land Management	• 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	• 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	• 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 NOTE This item has been moved from the O&S P&G Work Programme	DSO to review with Councillors following the September meeting that questions have been answered or to seek further clarity on the request.

One Leisure	• 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. NOTE This item has been moved from the O&S P&G Work Programme	More info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
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Items identified for Member Briefings

Item	Notes	Progress
Playgrounds	• 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.

Working Groups

Items identified for Working Groups

Item	Notes	Progress
Hydro-electric and small wind turbines	• 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

Air quality and congestion	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
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	• 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

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: Ongoing group which meets as required to look at specific topics 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. August 2026: Meeting of the Group to comment on the Annual Climate Plan prior to it's consideration by the Panel at the September meeting. 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