

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

Forward Agendas

Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review
5 th November 2026	• Council Tax Support 2027/28 • Homelessness Strategy • Safeguarding Strategy Update	
3 rd December 2026		• Food Waste Collections – 6 month Review • Alternative Fuels – 12 month Review
4 th February 2027		• Community Safety Partnership Working Group Report • Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 16th 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 pick up conversation with CPCA

O&S Topics Identified For Further Consideration

Subject	Brief	Status
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 • Full scoping request received	DSO liaising with Officers to establish working group
Shared Services	• How will this look after LGR? • Noted that this may be covered by the LGR Scrutiny Committee	Paused due to delays LGR
CPCA Local Nature Recovery Scheme	• Full scoping request received	DSO liaising with Officers to establish how to progress.
Hinchingbrooke Country Park	• To scrutinise the development project at HCP at the request of the Chair	DSO liaising with Officers to establish how to progress.

Items identified for Member Briefings

Item	Notes	Progress
Recycling and Waste	• General overview on the recycling service • How much waste is collected across the service and what amount is rejected? What happens to rejected waste? • What is the take up on recycling services? • Concern that HMOs and Flats with communal bins experience barriers to the service	Member briefing scheduled for 1 st December.
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	Member briefing scheduled for new year

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 – timescales being established
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– timescales being established

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– timescales being established
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Climate Working Group

Members: Cllrs A Bulat, D McIlwain, 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 and appropriate timelines being established with officers; hydro-electric power, air quality in the district, Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Update

Community Safety Partnerships Working Group

Members: Cllrs S Bywater, A Bulat, M Burke, J Francis, D McIlwain

Lead Officer: C Deeth

Progress:

2nd October 2026: Group met to establish Terms of Reference and to confirm anticipated timeline of the project with a view to bringing the final report to the February 2027 meeting of the Panel.

23rd October 2026: Meeting to further discuss themes for the group. Membership of the group was discussed and will be discussed further at the November meeting of the Panel.

Next Steps – 5th November 2026: discuss membership of the group at the Panel meeting

20th November 2026: Meeting arranged to discuss progress on identified themes