

# Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

## Forward Work Programme 2024 – 2025

Chairman: Keith Witham | Scrutiny Officer: Dilip Agarwal  
Democratic Services Assistant: Jacob Schanzenbach

Date of meeting	Type of scrutiny	Issue for scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant organisational priority	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
<b>February 2025</b>						
<b>12 February 2025</b>	Pre-decision	<b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan</b>	Review interest after 5 Feb Briefing session and decide how to factor into Scrutiny plans. Plan under consultation. Due to be approved and finalised end of March 2025.	Progress check on progress of the proposed improvements.	Enabling a greener future  Empowered and thriving communities	Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment  Simon Crowther, Director for Environment Property and Growth  Carolyn McKenzie, Director for Environment
	Strategy Update	<b>Waste Infrastructure Update</b>	To provide a progress update on the delivery of the Strategic Waste Infrastructure Plan by the Resource & Circular Economy Service, along with the proposed programme of work to 2029.	Progress check on performance	Enabling a greener future	Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment  Simon Crowther, Director for Environment Property and Growth  Carolyn McKenzie, Director for Environment

	Performance Review	<b>Surrey Fire and Rescue Service performance update</b>	Update Members on the performance status of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.	Progress check on performance	Empowered and thriving communities	Kevin Deanus, Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue, and Resilience  Dan Quin, Executive Director of Community Protection and Emergencies (Chief Fire Officer)
--	--------------------	--	---	-------------------------------	------------------------------------	---

**April 2025**

<b>10 Apr 2025</b>	Progress update	<b>EIG Performance Report</b>	Annual update to inform the Committee on progress	Progress check on performance	Empowered and thriving communities	Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth  Natalie Bramhall, Cabinet Member for Property, Waste and Infrastructure  Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment  Simon Crowther, Executive Director - Environment, Property & Growth
--------------------	-----------------	-------------------------------	---	-------------------------------	------------------------------------	---

	Performance review	<b>Climate Change Adaption Plan</b>	<p>Select Committee to receive an update on progress on the ongoing Adaptation Plan.</p> <p>To receive a report that sets out how Surrey needs to adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change such as increased flooding, droughts, heatwaves and wildfires.</p>	The Committee is reassured that the Council's adaption strategy is realised and that the Committee is able to endorse a robust plan.	<p>Empowered and thriving communities</p> <p>Enabling a greener future</p>	<p>Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment</p> <p>Simon Crowther, Interim Executive Director for Environment, Property &amp; Growth</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie, Director for Environment</p>
		TBC				

**WRITTEN UPDATES, INFORMAL BRIEFING SESSION, VISITS or WORKSHOPS**

Tentative Date	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priority	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
TBC		<p><b>Greener Futures – Communications &amp; Engagement Strategy</b></p> <p>To be considered initially at GFRG followed by an update to the CEHS Committee in October as part of the Climate Change item.</p>	<p>Recommendation from 5 July Committee Session on Greener Finance Strategy: that the Committee requests an update on progress in early 2024 including on the Communications &amp; Engagement Strategy and steps taken to engage residents on Net Zero.</p> <p>This should cover actions taken to implement the Climate Action Motion agreed by Council in July 2022 tabled by Lance Spencer.</p>	<p>The Greener Futures Group Manager committed to an update on progress to the committee in early 2024 to include an update on the Communications and Engagement approach and strategy. 25/09/2023.</p>	<p>Enabling a Greener Future</p>	<p>Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie, Director – Environment</p>

## ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED

Tentative Date	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priority	Cabinet Member/ED/Lead Officer
TBC	Pre-decision <i>(Moved out from October session)</i>	<b>Surrey Transport Delivery Plan (Local Transport Plan 4)</b>	First sight of the new Surrey Transport Delivery Plan. Committee reviewed the approach to developing the de-livery plan in October 2023. To include: <b>EV rollout up-date</b> and review of progress to align high-ways policies with LTP4.	The Committee to provide input on the new delivery plan.	Empowered and thriving communities	Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member  Owen Jenkins, Director Highways Infrastructure & Planning  Paul Millin, Lucie Monie.
TBC	Policy development	<b>The Nature recovery strategy</b>	Item to include countryside, rural matters and land management. Purpose to review draft Nature recovery strategy and provide input to development.		Enabling a Greener Future	
TBC	Progress Update	<b>Partnership in towns update</b>	Update on developing approach following Committee Workshop in April 2024.			
TBC	Progress Update	<b>River Thames scheme</b>	Update Members on the scheme. Some local opposition to aspects.		Enabling a Greener Future	
TBC	Progress Update	<b>£2 bus fare cap and implications of fare increase since beginning of 2025</b>	Update on bus companies that are taking part in the bus fare cap scheme, and the implications of the fare increase.			
TBC	Progress Update	<b>Operation Horizon: Highway maintenance investment programme update</b>	Update on the Horizon team and the core functions, decision making and money resourcing.			

## SPECIAL SESSIONS ON UTILITIES (Private)

The Select Committee has set up a time limited series of Special Sessions on Utilities with a focus on achieving better alignment of Surrey’s and the Utilities strategic priorities in order to support and facilitate Surreys growth and net zero ambitions, as well as improving residents’ wellbeing. Utilities are defined as water, energy, telecoms. The aim of the Special Sessions is to identify:

- what is going well and what the issues are and how these can be better managed, resolved and mitigated
- a set of joint actions to progress more collaborative strategic planning with a strong place based focus
- a future mechanism for strategic engagement

Date	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priority	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
January 2024	Water Scrutiny	<b>Special Session on Water &amp; Waste</b>	To Committee to probe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better coordination of operational works</li> <li>- Better communication between stakeholders &amp; engagement with the public esp in emergency</li> <li>- Waste management, harmful dis-charge/sewage overflows &amp; long-term environmental improvements</li> <li>- More effective &amp; resilient strategic planning</li> <li>- Understanding vulnerable customers</li> </ul>			Thames Water Affinity Water South East Water SES Water Water Resources South East
April 2024	Energy Scrutiny	<b>Special Session on Energy</b>	To Committee to probe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better coordination of operational works</li> <li>- Better communication between stakeholders &amp; engagement with the public esp in emergency</li> <li>- Grid Connections</li> <li>- LEAP development</li> <li>- More effective &amp; resilient strategic planning</li> <li>- Understanding vulnerable customers</li> </ul>			SSE SGN Cadent UKPN

Date	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priority	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
February 2025	Digital/ Telecoms Scrutiny	Report on Digital/Telecoms				
TBD	Regulators & Government	Special Session with Local Government, Government & Regulators				

### GREENER FUTURES MEMBER REFERENCE GROUP

Date	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priority	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
<b>December 2024</b>						
2 December 2024		Local Environment Improvement Plan (LEIP)	To inform on a new framework approach SCC is trialling on behalf of Gov (DEFRA)			
		Solar update	Progress with solar farms, roof mounted solar on SCC estates and solar finance mechanisms (PPAs) (this needs an early steer prior to eventual Cabinet)			
		LEAD (Local Energy Advice Demonstrator)	To inform on related plans for scheme launch			
<b>March 2025</b>						
20 March 2025		Procurement update	To update the progress and next steps to introduce service-specific standards			
		Results from the 2030 target review by ARUP	Update on progress after CCDP Assessment going to Cabinet in Dec 2024			
		Climate Change Delivery Plan 2026 – 2031	Early input			

