

Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

Forward Work Programme 2025 – 2026

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
April 2025						
10 April	Performance monitoring	Utilities Engagement	<p>To provide an overview of progress on implementing outcomes from the Water and Energy utilities sessions and improving strategic engagement with utility providers.</p> <p>To provide an overview of digital utilities issues and engagement and how this is being addressed by the existing Utility Task Force meetings or other mechanisms.</p>	<p>The Select Committee is assured that recommendations and outcomes from water and energy utilities sessions have been implemented.</p> <p>The Committee is assured that Streetworks improvements have been achieved following the work of the Task Group.</p>	<p>Empowered and thriving communities</p> <p>Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit</p>	<p>Jonathan Hulley, Cabinet Member for Strategic Highways;</p> <p>Simon Crowther, Executive Director - Environment, Property & Growth;</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie, Director – Environment.</p>

				The Select Committee is updated on digital sector issues and engagement.		
Overview, policy development and review	Surrey Transport Delivery Plan (Local Transport Plan 4)	Update on the proposed plan in light of central government's national transport planning. To include: EV rollout up-date and review of progress to align highways policies with LTP4.		The Committee to provide input on the new delivery plan.	Empowered and thriving communities Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit	Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth; Owen Jenkins, Executive Director - Highways, Infrastructure & Planning.
Performance overview	Ringway Contract Review	To review performance of the Ringway contract over the last two years.		Performance Monitoring	Empowered and thriving communities	Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth; Owen Jenkins, Executive Director - Highways, Infrastructure & Planning.

July 2025

3 July	Policy development and pre-decision scrutiny	The Nature Recovery strategy to include countryside, rural matters and land management.	To review draft Nature recovery strategy and provide input to development ahead of a September Cabinet decision.	The Committee to provide input on the new strategy.	Enabling a Greener Future	Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment; Simon Crowther, Executive Director - Environment, Property & Growth.
	Background briefing session	Flood Prevention	To provide an update to the Committee on performance in this area to see if the Committee wants to scrutinise further.	Post briefing, Committee to determine if they require further work in this area.	Enabling a greener future Empowered and thriving communities	Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment; Simon Crowther, Executive Director - Environment, Property & Growth.

October 2025

9 October	Performance Review	Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report	To provide the Select Committee with performance information on the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.	The Committee to review the performance, provide oversight and feedback.	Empowered and thriving communities Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit	Kevin Deanus, Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue, and Resilience Dan Quin, Executive Director - Community Protection & Emergencies • Community Protection & Emergencies
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	Performance Review	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	Select Committee to receive an update on progress on the ongoing adaptation strategy.	The Committee to review the performance, provide oversight and feedback.	Empowered and thriving communities	Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment Simon Crowther, Executive Director for Environment, Property & Growth
December 2025						
5 December	Budget Scrutiny	Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy	Select Committee to receive draft budget proposals for 2025/26.	The Select Committee scrutinises the Council's budget proposals, provides feedback and makes recommendations, if required.	Empowered and thriving communities Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit	David Lewis, Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources
March 2026						
12 March						

May 2026

7 May	Performance Review	Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report	To provide the Select Committee with performance information on the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.	The Committee to review the performance, provide oversight and feedback.	Empowering communities Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit	Kevin Deanus, Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue, and Resilience Dan Quin, Executive Director - Community Protection & Emergencies • Community Protection & Emergencies

2026

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
March 2025	Background briefing session	Aviation and Sustainable Transport	To provide an update to the Committee on performance in this area to see if the Committee wants to scrutinise further. Aviation will consider Gatwick, Heathrow and also Farnborough Airport with regard to flight paths and noise pollution.	Post briefing, Committee to determine if they require further work in this area.	Enabling a greener future Empowered and thriving communities	Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth; Owen Jenkins, Executive Director - Highways, Infrastructure & Planning.
March 2025	Background briefing session	Horizon Highway Asset Maintenance programme	A significant amount of Highways spend relates to Horizon. To provide an update to Vice-Chairman Mark Sugden on the management and oversight of the budget and the work achieved.	Post briefing, the Chairman and Vice Chairmen will determine if they require further scrutiny.	Empowered and thriving communities	Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth; Owen Jenkins, Executive Director - Highways, Infrastructure & Planning.

<p>TBC <i>(April or July)</i></p>		<p>Greener Futures – Communications & Engagement Strategy</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 & 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>Empowered and thriving communities</p> <p>Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit</p>	<p>Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment;</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie, Director – Environment.</p>
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ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED

Tentative Date	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priority	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
		Place performance report	Annual update to inform the Committee on progress.			
	Overview, policy development and review	Partnership in Towns Update	Update on developing approach following Committee Workshop in April 2024.	Performance Monitoring	Empowered and thriving communities	Denise Turner-Stewart, Cabinet Member Owen Jenkins, Director Highways Infrastructure & Planning;
TBC		Emergency Management	Awaiting discussion at Forward Work Planning meeting on 6 Feb 2025.			Kevin Deanus, Cabinet Member Dan Quin, Executive Director
TBC		Trading Standards	Note: this is a shared service with Bucks Co Council. The work is overseen by a joint Committee (Committee Manager is Joss Butler).		Empowered and thriving communities	Kevin Deanus, Cabinet Member Dan Quin, Executive Director
TBC		Community Safety			Empowered and thriving communities	Kevin Deanus, Cabinet Member Dan Quin, Executive Director

TBC <i>(September 2025)</i>	Policy Development	Climate Change Adaption Plan	The committee to provide its feedback on the proposed Climate Change Adaptation Plan. 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.	The Committee is reassured that the Council's adaption strategy is realised and that the Committee is able to endorse a robust plan.	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
TBC	Progress Update	River Thames Scheme	Update Members on the scheme. Some local opposition to aspects.	Performance Monitoring	Enabling a Greener Future Empowered and thriving communities	Marisa Health, Cabinet Member Simon Crowther, Interim Exec Director

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	Special Session on Water & Waste	To Committee to probe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better coordination of operational works - Better communication between stakeholders & engagement with the public esp in emergency - Waste management, harmful dis-charge/sewage overflows & long-term environmental improvements - More effective & resilient strategic planning - Understanding vulnerable customers 			Thames Water Affinity Water South East Water SES Water Water Resources South East
April 2024	Energy Scrutiny	Special Session on Energy	To Committee to probe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better coordination of operational works - Better communication between stakeholders & engagement with the public esp in emergency - Grid Connections - LEAP development - More effective & resilient strategic planning - Understanding vulnerable customers 			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	To update Committee on work achieved to date.	Committee to consider work achieved.	Empowered and thriving communities	
TBD	Regulators & Government	Special Session with Local Government, Government & Regulators	To be determined if necessary.			

GREENER FUTURES MEMBER REFERENCE GROUP

Date	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priority	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
March 2025						
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.			

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