

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

November 2024

Below is the work programme of Herefordshire Council’s Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.

Work programmes are subject to change, with revised programmes agreed at the end of formal committee meetings.

Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Committee Meeting

18 November 2024 **report deadline** **NEW** 6 November 2024 **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning** 7 November 2024

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
<p>AMENDED Tree and hedgerow management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise council tree and hedgerow management policy and its alignment with the work on the local nature recovery strategy and landscape recovery and climate change adaptability. • Understand the findings of the recent Defra consultation on hedgerow management. • Consider the county tree strategy as an enabler for Herefordshire to become a carbon offset trading partner with others. • Examine countywide action on ash dieback and replacement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council policy on tree and hedgerow management • Draft work on the local nature recovery strategy. • Findings of the Defra consultation on hedgerow management. • The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024 (legislation.gov.uk) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Herefordshire • CPRE (formerly Council for the Protection of Rural England) • Policy leads on tree and hedgerow management • Head of Highways and Traffic • Phosphate Mitigation Lead

Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer
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Committee Meeting

20 January 2025 **report deadline** **NEW** 8 January 2025 **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning** 9 January 2025

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
River Lugg water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate work to improve the water quality of the River Lugg and the prospect of getting some of the £35 million earmarked for the River Wye improvement diverted to the River Lugg. Understand the implications of poor water quality on the ability to plan and build new housing. Evaluate the progress on developing new wetland areas on river improvement and their impact on housing development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five years of analysis of water quality data (from Nutrient Management Board or Environment Agency) Evidence from Merry Albright (Home Builders Federation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herefordshire Construction Industry Lobby Group Natural England Environment Agency Natural Resources Wales Defra River Wye champion
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

24 March 2025 **report deadline** **NEW** 12 March 2025 **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning** 13 March 2025

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Energy Efficiency and Retrofitting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the outcomes of the building retrofit and supply chain development funded by Climate Reserve fund. Evaluate progress on Keep Herefordshire Warm and HUG initiatives. Consider whether new houses and self-build properties are 'zero carbon ready'. The role of fuel replacement to heat homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Reserve fund financial reports Stats of surveys undertaken, grants awarded, work completed Future Homes Standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gareth Ellis – Sustainability & Climate Change Officer Andrew Cooper – LGA, previously Renewable Energy Assoc., Yorkshire Energy Services Jackie Jones – Building Sense
Waste contract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six-month review of the operation of the council's new waste contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be confirmed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Boswell - Head of Environment Climate Emergency and Waste Services
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

12 May 2025 report deadline **NEW** 29 April 2025 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning May 2025

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
NEW Road User Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do speed limits impact on road user safety and what is council policy on them. Looking at the administration of TROs across the council. Look at best practice on the provision of road architecture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant evidence from the LTP consultation. Evidence on the effectiveness of 20mph speed limit zones. A map of existing/pending 20 mph speed zones across the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety Officer West Mercia Police Head of Highways and Traffic Western Bypass consultant
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

7 July 2025 report deadline **NEW 25 June 2025** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning June/July 2025

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
<p>AMENDED Provision of bus services across the county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the council’s response to the government white paper on authorities running their own bus services. Examine the opportunities to develop ‘on-demand’ bus services. Scrutinise council policy on free access to public transport for disadvantaged groups. Scrutinise the outcome of the £1,064,000 grant allocation to Herefordshire Council by the Department for Transport to improve bus services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence from the local transport plan consultation. Best practice examples from other local authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of Transport and Access Services Bus services user groups
<p>Work programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

8 September 2025 report deadline **NEW 27 August 2025** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning August/September 2025

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
<p>Land management and use</p>		
<p>Work programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*The Corporate Director, Economy and Environment and Cabinet Member, Environment, both have a standing invitation to the meeting.