

Supplement to the agenda for

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 16 September 2025

2.00 pm

Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE

Pages

9. WORK PROGRAMME

3 - 26



Title of report: Work programme 2025-26

Meeting: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: 16 September 2025

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All Wards

Purpose

To consider the draft work programme for Herefordshire Council's Children and Young People for the municipal year 2025-26.

Recommendation(s)

That:

a) The committee agree the draft work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee contained in the work programme report attached as appendix 1, which will be subject to monthly review, as the basis of their primary focus for the remainder of the municipal year.

Alternative options

- 1. The committee could decline to agree a work programme for its future committee meetings. This would likely result in unstructured and purposeless meetings.
- 2. The committee could also decline to identify areas of potential collaboration or alignment of work with other committees. This could result in duplication or overlap of work.

Key considerations

3. A fundamental part of good scrutiny is planning and agreeing a programme of work for the committee to undertake. A well-considered work programme:

- a. identifies priorities for the committee's work that align with corporate and partnership priorities, as well as reflecting community concern;
- b. ensures that each identified topic has clear objectives that focus the committee's work;
- c. creates a timetable for the committee's programme of work so that the committee carry out its work at the optimal time; and
- d. provides officers and partners with requirements for evidence that will support the committee in providing evidence-based scrutiny
- 4. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is the council's most recently published forward plan of key decisions.

Community impact

5. Effective scrutiny enables the committee to reflect community concern, one of the four purposes of scrutiny as outlined by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

Environmental impact

6. This report contains no direct environmental impacts. However the work that the committee will undertake resulting from agreeing this work programme may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline their potential environmental impact.

Equality duty

7. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. This report contains no direct equality impacts. However the reports and issues that the committee will consider may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline the any associated equality impacts for committee consideration.

Resource implications

8. This report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. Similarly, a programme of work undertaken by committee is an integral part of the council's 'business as usual'. There is no resource implication in setting or agreeing a work programme. However agreed topics in the work programme, in particular any requests for bespoke research or the involvement of outside experts or community groups, may incur resource costs. These will be contained in any reporting or planning of agreed topics within this work programme.

Legal implications

- 9. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
- 10. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

Risk management

11. There are no risks identified in the committee agreeing an effective and timely programme of work. However there is a risk to the council's reputation if committees fail to set a work programme, or set a programme of work that does not address local authority, partnership or community priorities.

Consultees

- 12. In drafting this work programme, consideration has been given to:
 - a. The previous work of scrutiny committees;
 - b. Priorities suggested by members of the committee; and
 - c. Work with Herefordshire Council officers to develop topics and agree optimum timings to bring items for consideration.
- 13. This work programme is subject to ongoing review, which may involve additional consultees.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee work programme 2025-26 Appendix 2 – Herefordshire Council Forward Plan 12 September 2025

Background papers

None



Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

16 September 2025 report deadline 4 September 2025 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 11 September 2025

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*		
 Youth Justice Scrutinise the annual youth justice plan Scrutinise the performance of the service April-June 2025 	West Mercia Youth Justice Service Annual Plan	 Lorna Tilley, West Mercia Police Gareth Boulton, Chief Executive West Mercia Police and Crime Commission Youth Justice Board team manager - Herefordshire 		
 Improvement Plan and Quality Assurance Framework Update on complaints to Children and Young People Directorate 	Updated Improvement Plan	 Tina Russell, Director of Children's Services Suzanne Simms, Service Manager Quality Assurance Tilly Page – Complaints and Compliments 		
Work programme Review work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer		

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Committee Meeting

11 November 2025 report deadline 30 October 2025 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Pursue Prevent Protect Prepare	Evidence to be agreed	Tina Russell - Director of Children's Services
Objectives to be agreed		Kayte Dixon-Thompson – Community Resilience Manager
		Vicky Leader Service Manager Early Help and Prevention
		Holly Powell – Team Manager, Get Safe
		 Niall Crawford – Lead Officer for Education Safeguarding Social Inclusion and Elective Home Education
		 Christine Wellington – Head of Service, Children in Need of Support and Assessment
Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual review of effectiveness	Evidence to be agreed	Kevin Crompton – Independent Scrutineer, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
• Scrutinise the partnership's work for 2024-2025.		Angela Wilson – Safeguarding Partnerships Business Manager
		Board Partners
		Tina Russell, Director of Children's Services
		Leanne Lowe
		Natalie Solomon
		Sub Group Chairs
		Heather Manning
		Dylan Harrison
		Christine Wellington
		Liz Farr

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Work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Review work programme		

^{*}The Corporate Director, Children and Young People and Portfolio Holder, Children and Young People, both have a standing invitation to each committee meeting. It is assumed that the portfolio holder will attend each meeting.

Committee Meeting

3 February 2026 report deadline 22 January 2025 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*	
Topic to be agreed	Evidence to be agreed	Attendees to be determined	
Objectives to be agreed			
Work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer	
Review work programme			

Committee Meeting

12 May 2026 report deadline 30 April 2025 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Review work programme		

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Committee Briefings

The committee will carry out a number of briefings, dates to be agreed

Topic	Objectives
Fostering	Update to the committee following its scrutiny in June 2024
School Capital Programme	Provide an overview to the committee on the current programme and its priorities
Families First Programme	Overview of funding origins, purpose and delivery

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN



This document, known as the Forward Plan, sets out the decisions which are expected to be taken during the period covered by the Plan by either Cabinet as a whole, or by individual Cabinet Members. The Plan is updated regularly and is available on the Herefordshire Council website (www.herefordshire.gov.uk) and from Council Offices. This edition supersedes all previous editions.

The council must give at least 28 days' notice of key decisions to be taken. A key decision is one which results in the council incurring expenditure or making savings of £500,000 or more, and/or is likely to be significant in terms of the strategic nature of the decision or its impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the council to a significant number of people living or working in the locality affected.

Current cabinet members are listed below. For more information and links papers for Cabinet meetings please visit https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251

Councillor Jonathan Lester	Corporate Strategy and Budget (Leader of the Council)
Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst	Environment (Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Carole Gandy	Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Ivan Powell	Children and Young People
Councillor Harry Bramer	Community Services and Assets
Councillor Graham Biggs	Economy and Growth
Councillor Pete Stoddart	Finance and Corporate Services
Councillor Barry Durkin	Roads and Regulatory Services
Councillor Philip Price	Transport and Infrastructure
Councillor Dan Hurcomb	Local Engagement & Community Resilience

Documents submitted in relation to each decision will be a formal report, which may include one or more appendices. Reports will usually be made available on the council website at least 5 clear working days before the date of the decision. Occasionally it will be necessary to exempt part or all of a decision report from publication due to the nature of the decision, for example if it relates to the commercial or business affairs of the council. Other documents may be submitted in advance of the decision being taken and will also be published on the website unless exempt.

To request a copy of a decision report or related documents please contact governancesupportteam@herefordshire.gov.uk or telephone 01432 261699.

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead officer and lead cabinet member	Directorate	Notice of decision first published / ID	Issue Type and exemptions
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FORWARD PLAN FOR 12 September 2025 ONWARDS

The following information is provided for each entry in the Forward Plan:

Heading	Contains
Report title and purpose	A summary of the proposal
Decision Maker and Due date	Who will take the decision and the date the decision is expected to be made
Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	The cabinet member with responsibility for this decision and the officers producing the decision report.
Directorate	The directorate of the council responsible for the decision.
Date uploaded onto plan	The date the decision was first uploaded and the notice period started for key decisions.
Decision type, exemptions and urgency	Whether the decision is a Key or Non-Key decision, if the report is expected to be fully open, partly exempt or fully exempt and if urgency procedures are being followed.

Decisions to be taken by Cabinet at a formal meeting are listed first, ordered by date, and include both Key and Non-Key decisions. Decisions to be taken by individual Cabinet Members are then listed, grouped by portfolio area and sorted by date. These include Key and Non-Key decisions.

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency	
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Corporate Peer Challenge To receive the report on the outcome of the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge, held 23-26 June 2025, and to approve the council's action plan in response to the recommendations for publication	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member finance and corporate services Hilary Hall, Corporate Director Community Wellbeing, Caroline Marshall, Project manager, Paul Walker, Chief Executive Hilary.Hall@herefordshire.gov.uk, caroline.marshall3@herefordshire.gov.uk, paul.walker@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260249,	Corporate Support Centre	5 September 2025	Non Key Open
Herefordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy To approve, for publication, a new Suicide Prevention Strategy (2024-2029) for Herefordshire	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Lindsay MacHardy, Public Health Principal, Kristan Pritchard, Public Health Lead - Mental Health Lindsay.MacHardy@herefordshire.gov.uk, Kristan.Pritchard@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260554, Tel: 01432383144	Community Wellbeing	5 September 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Medium Term Financial Strategy - Update to Cabinet To provide an update on the key headlines from the Spending Review June 2025 and potential impact of local authority funding reform on the council's future financial position.	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member finance and corporate services Rachael Sanders, Director of Finance Rachael.sanders@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383775	Corporate Support Centre	5 September 2025	Non Key Open
Q1 2025/26 Budget Report To report the forecast position for 2025/26 at Quarter 1 (June 2025), including explanation and analysis of the drivers for the material budget variances, and to outline current and planned recovery activity to reduce the forecast overspend.	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member finance and corporate services Rachael Sanders, Director of Finance Rachael.sanders@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383775	Corporate Support Centre	5 September 2025	Non Key Open
Q1 Performance Report To report on the Council's progress and performance in Q1 against the Delivery Plan 2025/26.	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member finance and corporate services Jessica Karia, Head of Corporate Performance and Intelligence jessica.karia@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260976	Corporate Support Centre	5 September 2025	Non Key Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Risk Management Update Quarter 1 2025-26 To provide an update on the Corporate Risk Register at Quarter 1 2025/26 and an overview of current and planned risk management activity across the council.	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member finance and corporate services Rachael Sanders, Director of Finance Rachael.sanders@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383775	Corporate Support Centre	5 September 2025	Non Key Open
West Midlands Safe Centre To approve the establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and agrees for Herefordshire to join the SPV and be part of a formal partnership with other local authorities in the West Midlands in terms as set out in the report.	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Tina Russell, Corporate Director Childrens and Young People tina.russell@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260 267	Corporate Support Centre	5 September 2025	KEY Part exempt
Local Transport Plan 5	Cabinet 23 October 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Local Walking and Cycling Plan adoption To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Local Walking and Cycling Plan	Cabinet 23 October 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager ### fion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open
New care facility To consider and agree the business case to invest in and develop the council's own care facility in Herefordshire to meet future demand	Cabinet 23 October 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Hilary Hall, Corporate Director Community Wellbeing Hilary.Hall@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	5 September 2025	KEY
Hereford Western Bypass Phase One Land Acquisition CPO Resolution by cabinet to acquire land for the construction of the Hereford Western Bypass Phase one project through a compulsory purchase order.	Cabinet 27 November 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Part exempt

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
The New Public Realm Service This report seeks approval to award the council's Public Realm Service contract.	Cabinet 18 December 2025	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open
Cabinet Member Decisions (Key and Non Key de	ecisions)				
Portfolio: adults, health and wellbeing					
Drug and Alcohol Service 2-year Extension To approve the extension of the Drug and Alcohol Service provided by Turning Point for 2 years.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 3 October 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Natalie Johnson-Stanley, Public Health Lead - Substance Misuse / Tobacco Natalie.Johnson-Stanley@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383230	Community Wellbeing	5 September 2025	KEY Open

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Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Reprocurement of Herefordshire Independent Adult Advocacy Services To approve the reprocurement of Herefordshire Independant Adult Advocacy Services, bhy way of an open tender process.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 28 November 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing John Burgess, Senior Commissioning Officer John.Burgess3@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	5 September 2025	KEY Open

Portfolio: children and young people

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Children's Emergency Out of Hours Duty Team (EDT) Service To agree to the direct award, by exemption, of this contract to the incumbent service provider. The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) Service exists to provide an emergency responsive service for children and young people up to the age of 18, but in line with the Leaving Care Act 2000 the service is available to any care experienced young person aged up to 25. The service is provided when a child or young person is believed to be at risk of significant harm, and from whom delay until the next working day would be detrimental to their welfare and safety. The service ensures that they continue to be safeguarded in the immediate term. There is a statutory duty for local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need. This is Section 17(1) of the Children Act 1989.	Cabinet member children and young people 10 November 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Sam Westwood, Commissioning Officer, All Age Disability, Community Wellbeing Sam.Westwood@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383097	Community Wellbeing	5 September 2025	KEY Open

Portfolio: community services and assets

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Retaining of the swimming pool at Peterchurch Primary School To approve the retention of and structural improvements to the swimming pool at Peterchurch Primary School	Cabinet member community services and assets 26 November 2025	Cabinet member community services and assets Quentin Mee, Head of Educational Development Quentin.Mee@herefordshire.gov.uk	Children and Young People	5 September 2025	Non Key Open
Portfolio: economy and growth					
Portfolio: environment					
Allocating the Climate and Nature Reserve Phase 2 To Allocate the balance of the Climate and Nature Reserve for the delivery of projects which will positively impact the climate and natural environment of Herefordshire to the benefit of all who reside in the county.	Cabinet member environment 6 October 2025	Cabinet member environment Richard Vaughan, Sustainability & Climate Change Manager Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Herefordshire Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy (H-THAWS). To consider and endorse the new countywide Herefordshire Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy (H-THAWS).	Cabinet member environment 23 October 2025	Cabinet member environment Mandy Neill, Senior Landscape Officer mandy.neill@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open
Solar Car Ports at Plough Lane To approve the scoping and construction of solar car ports at Plough Lane	Cabinet member environment 31 October 2025	Cabinet member environment Katie Ainsworth, Senior Project Manager, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability & Climate Change Manager, Rosanna Willmott, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer katie.ainsworth2@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk, rosanna.willmott@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192, Tel: 01432 261749	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open

Portfolio: finance and corporate services

Portfolio: local engagement and community resilience

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Herefordshire Flood Risk Mitigation The purpose of this report is to set out how the £2.055 million for Herefordshire Flood Risk Mitigation is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience 26 September 2025	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience Steve Hodges, Directorate services team leader sthodges@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 261923	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open
The New Public Realm Service - Fleet This report seeks approval to procure the internal fleet required to deliver the New Public Realm Service from 1 June 2026.	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience 30 September 2025	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
The New Public Realm Service – Depot Facilities This report seeks approval to procure and undertake any necessary works to depot and other facilities as required to deliver the New Public Realm Service from 1 June 2026.	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience 30 September 2025	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open
The New Public Realm Service – Highways and Public Realm Schemes Framework As part of preparations for the New Public Realm Service, this report seeks approval for the procurement of a new Highways and Public Realm Schemes Framework. The new framework will be used for the delivery of schemes, forming part of a mixed economy model approach for the service alongside the new Public Realm Contract that will come into place on 1st June 2026.	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience 1 October 2025	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Play Area Investment The purpose of this report is to set out how the £1 million for Play Area Investment is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so. Portfolio: roads and regulatory services	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience 3 October 2025	Councillor Dan Hurcomb Leigh Whitehouse, Group Manager-Streetscene, Public Rights of Way and Traffic Management leigh.whitehouse@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	KEY Open
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Parking Technology Upgrade To approve the tender process for upgrading of VRMS and modems, retro fitting of parking machines and maintenance.	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services 30 September 2025	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Michelle Price, Project manager michelleprice@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383778	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	Non Key Open
Portfolio: transport and infrastructure					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Capability and Ambition Fund 2025/26 allocation The purpose of the report is to confirm what Herefordshire Council will deliver with the Capability and Ambition Fund grant	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 12 September 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability & Climate Change Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192	Economy and Environment	5 September 2025	Non Key Open