

Title: Work Programme 2026-27

Meeting: Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Monday 21 September 2026

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Report purpose

The report:

- Provides the committee with a draft work programme for the committee, for approval.
- Provides the committee with a copy of the council's forward plan of key decisions to assist the committee in deciding its programme of work.
- Lists the recommendations made by the committee since January 2025, and any responses to these recommendations.

Background

1. 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.

Meeting objectives

2. To agree the committee's work programme.
3. To note the work programmes of Herefordshire Council's other scrutiny committees.

Report information

4. The most recent work programme was published September 2026 and is attached as Appendix 1.
5. Since the most recent work programme was published, it has become apparent that the terms of reference for the proposed spotlight review to look at flooding would not be ready in time for this meeting. This is reflected in the attached copy of the work programme, which

now proposes to look at the terms of reference for the spotlight review at the committee's next meeting in December.

6. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is the council's most recently published forward plan of key decisions.
7. Appendix 3 is a list of all recommendations made by the committee in 2025 and 2026.

Consultees

8. To prepare this work programme, the committee chairs have met with officers of the council to identify potential priority areas of work for the committee. These priority areas have been scheduled within the work programme to ensure the committee considers topics when it is most useful to do so. A draft of this work programme has then been circulated to the council's corporate leadership team and other key senior directors, alongside committee chairs, for further comment and refinement.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme September 2026 (revised – see paragraph 5 above)
Appendix 2 – Herefordshire Council Forward Plan 4 September 2026
Appendix 3 – Recommendations made by Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee in 2025 and 2026.

Background papers and resources

None