



SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

September 2026 – March 2027

Below are the work programmes of Herefordshire Council's five scrutiny committees and their six task and finish groups.

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

Please note that no meetings will be scheduled after March 2027 until after the 2027 Council elections have concluded.

Table of Contents

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	2
Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.....	4
Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.....	5
Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.....	7
Scrutiny Management Board.....	9

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

6 October 2026 **report deadline 28 September 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 2 October 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Alternative provision - Review of capital programme relating to alternative provision. - Overview of existing provision.	Officer report	Liz Farr - Louise Tanner, Head of Learning and Achievement - Hilary Jones, Head of Additional Needs - Jane Morse - Commissioning
Children and Young People NEET - Impact of data updates on NEET average figures. - Overview of focussed service action plan with milestones.	Officer report	Liz Farr - Alexia Heath - Louise Tanner, Head of Learning and Achievement
Work programme Review work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

10 December 2026 **report deadline 2 December 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC December 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Youth Strategy	Draft strategy	Tina Russell Hereford Rural Media Will Lindsey HVOSS Lindsay McHardy

11 March 2027 report deadline **3 March 2027** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC March 2027

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Fostering Objectives to be agreed	To be agreed	Tori Lynch - Natasha Newton
Participation strategy Objectives to be agreed	To be agreed	Suzanne Sims - Andrea Busk

Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

23 October 2026 **report deadline 15 October 2026** **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 19 October 2026**

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Review of projects funded - Examine future funding opportunities	Overview of funded projects	- Service Director, Economy and Growth Economic Development Manager
Public participation in planning task and finish group - Review final report - Agree report recommendations	Final report	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Work programme Review work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

27 January 2027 **report deadline 19 January 2027** **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC**

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Year of delivery – capital projects End of year review of capital projects taking place in 2026.	- Council capital programme - Individual programme progress reports	To be determined

*The Corporate Director, Economy and Environment, Cabinet Member, Economy and Growth, Cabinet Member, Community Services and Assets, Cabinet Member, Roads and Regulatory Services, and Cabinet Member, Transport and Infrastructure, all have a standing invitation to the meeting.

Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

2 December 2026 **report deadline 24 November 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 27 November 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Carbon Management in Herefordshire - Identify progress in achieving carbon neutrality within: - The council and - Herefordshire more widely. - Scrutinise evidence, resident and business experiences, and project feedback to highlight - resident and business issues - evidence gaps, and - project progress. - Review the cost of carbon management programmes within the council and across the county. - Outline aims and objectives of Herefordshire Environment Board.	- Fourth Carbon Management Plan - Climate adaptation pilot feedback - Resident or business feedback and case studies - Best practice elsewhere, including the use of biochar	Richard Vaughan - Daniel Lenain - Mary Burton - Gareth Ellis - Outside representatives to be determined.
Rail Strategy - To test the ambition of the rail strategy - To establish progress to restore the Hereford-Ross-Gloucester rail link. - To seek assurance that the policy supports the objectives of the Local Transport Plan 5. - To establish how the strategy supports potential coordination of bus and rail services.	- Rail strategy - Buses task and finish group report (any West Midlands rail strategy)	- John Hobbs Ffion Horton - David Land

Flooding spotlight review – terms of reference To agree the terms of reference for a proposed spotlight review to scrutinise flood risk management and flood emergency responses.	Spotlight review terms of reference	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
--	---	---

Prospective spotlight review
February/March 2027

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Flooding and flood risk management Terms of reference to be agreed.	Evidence to be agreed	- John Hobbs - Other TBC

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

Health Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

8 December 2026 (TBC)** **report deadline 30 November 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning December 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Right Care Right Person Deferred update on work to deliver acute community mental health support in Herefordshire.	West Mercia Police Situation Report	Iain Richmond, Head of Adult Social Care Operations Nigel Webster, West Mercia Police Jake Wright, West Mercia Police Paul Abernethie, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
Shaping neighbourhood health - Analyse how the health partnership identifies health needs in communities. - Scrutinise provision of current and future neighbourhood health services.	2Neighbourhood health bid - Taurus Out of Hours GP service - Worcestershire Council papers	Zoe Clifford, Director of Public Health Sarah Shingler, Managing Director Wye Valley NHS Trust Nigel Fraser, Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB Alan Dawson, Wye Valle NHS Trust Lauren Parry, Taurus Healthcare
Adult Social Care budget outturn Scrutinise financial outturn against budget savings plans	Quarterly budget outturn and performance monitoring	Hilary Hall, Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing
Work programme Review work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*The Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing and Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing, both have a standing invitation to the meeting.

**As of 28 September, we plan to move this committee meeting date from 14 December to 8 December 2026. This will be confirmed shortly.

Scrutiny Management Board

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

12 October 2026 **report deadline 02 October 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
Temporary accommodation - Provide assurance that the council understands and is actively managing the growing demand and financial pressures associated with temporary accommodation, - Examine whether temporary accommodation services are meeting the needs of homeless households - Assess the effectiveness of prevention and support activity. - Identify the wider causes of homelessness and prolonged stays in temporary accommodation, including housing supply, demand trends and policy influences.	- Demand trends, causes of homelessness, turnover and household profiles. - Temporary accommodation costs, funding sources, capital investment and future financial pressures. - Resident experiences, prevention outcomes, housing supply constraints and options for reducing demand and length of stay.	Head of Supported Housing
Inequalities task and finish group final report Agree final report	Final report	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Commercialisation task and finish group final report Agree final report	Final report	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Annual review of effectiveness Agree final report	Scrutiny annual review	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
Hoople spotlight review terms of reference Agree terms of reference	Terms of reference	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Work programme Review work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

1 December 2026 **report deadline 23 November 2026** **member briefing 24 November 2026** **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 27 November 2026**

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
Hoople spotlight review report Agree findings and recommendations of the Hoople spotlight review.	Terms of reference	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
The voluntary and community sector Objectives to be agreed.		
Work programme Review work programme.	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

January 2027 (date TBC) **report deadline TBC January 2026** **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC January 2026**

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
Budget 2027/2028 To understand the executive's proposed revenue and capital budgets and its medium-term financial strategy.	2027/2028 revenue budget report 2027/2028 capital budget report	Cabinet members Directors

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
To make recommendations for the executive to consider before proposing the budget to Council.	2027-28-2030/31 medium-term financial strategy report - Supplementary information as requested by the committee.	