

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Background

The remit of the Committee is defined in the Constitution (Article 9.5.3). It is responsible for the scrutiny of:

- The economy of Essex
- Economic development and regeneration
- Employment related Skills and apprenticeships
- Strategic Highways and transportation
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Country Parks and other green assets
- Library services
- Broadband and public communications infrastructure
- Planning
- Environmental services
- Community Safety (not Domestic Violence or Youth Offending Team)
- Emergency Planning
- Waste and recycling
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards
- Housing
- Gypsies and travellers

Work so far

Since Full Council on 25 May 2021, the Committee has held its first formal meeting and organised four informal induction sessions including discussions with the relevant Cabinet Members on their portfolio and key responsibilities, key challenges being faced, and suggestion for where scrutiny can contribute.

Tuesday 6 July 2021

Cllr Lee Scott (Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)
Cllr Lesley Wagland (Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning)
Cllr Graham Butland (Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture)

Monday 23 August 2021

Cllr Malcolm Buckley (Waste Reduction and Recycling)

Emerging Work Programme

Provisional Date	Topic Title	Purpose/Format
September	Local Highway Panels	To consider their funding, remit, and effectiveness
September	Bus Back Better Strategy	To consider the emerging strategy ahead of reports to Cabinet on a Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership for Essex <i>This will be held as a member briefing session</i>
TBC	Climate Change	To receive regular updates following the presentation to the July meeting

TBC	Libraries	To consider emerging joint-scrutiny work with the People and Families (PAF) Policy and Scrutiny Committee following its 9 September meeting.
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Other topics identified (by portfolio):

Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport

Home-to-School Transport (suggest referral to the Scrutiny Board as this crosses the remit of PSCs)

Members-led pothole scheme (funding, continuation, extension of the scheme)

Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning

Request for further presentation given the scope of the portfolio to include Anchor Institutions and plans for Investment Fund for Growth

Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture

Attracting inward investment (specifically the role of arts/heritage in this)

Maintenance and expansion of heritage sites

Trading Standards (current performance and further improvements)

Sustainability of country parks

Opportunities for further devolution (suggest referral to the Scrutiny Board as this crosses the remit of PSCs)

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Emerging strategies for waste minimisation, disposal, and recycling including public engagement.

Council's response to the Environment Bill

Next Steps

It is proposed that Members note the work undertaken to this point and the emerging work programme. Further discussions will take place between the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen and will be reported to the 28 October 2021 meeting along with any proposals from the Scrutiny Board meeting in early October.