

BCP Council Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Refreshed Work Plan, DRAFT

Updated 11.05.26

Guidance notes:

- 2/3 items per committee meeting is the recommended maximum for effective scrutiny.
- The Environment and Place O&S Committee will approach work through a lens of **SUSTAINABILITY**
- Items requiring further scoping are identified and should be scoped using the Key Lines of Enquiry tool.

	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report Information/ Updates
Meeting Date: 15 July 2026				
4	Local Transport Plan	Pre-decision Scrutiny of a Cabinet Report	PH – Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Cllr Andy Hadley Amy Beasley	Item originally scheduled for May 2026 and moved to track a decision date change on Cabinet FP.
5	Christchurch Harbour - Environment Agency and Wessex Water discussion	No report - discussion item.	PH – Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Cllr Andy Hadley	Overview: An invitation to the Environment Agency and Wessex Water to discuss improvements required to promote water quality in Christchurch Harbour and progress against any improvements already identified. Scope of work – to be confirmed – committee to identify their questions and information request for submission in advance to invitees. Background - This item relates to a Council petition that was referred to the Committee in March 2025

Key:  Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item  Proactive Scrutiny item

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				following a full Council submission. The petition requested that the Council consider establishing a Christchurch Harbour Protection Policy and inclusion of this in the Local Plan, to protect the harbour against harmful pollution. A proposed scope, submitted to the committee by Cllr Vanessa Ricketts is available to view here .
6.	Floating hold - rapporteur updates	Verbal update	Cllr Felicity Rice	To receive updates from identified committee rapporteurs on the progress of work.
Meeting Date: 9 September 2026				
7	Van Life – hold potential 2 hour slot.	Committee report and deep dive discussion including: - Parking officers - Insight gathered by committee directly from van dwellers - Local plan lead officers - Homelessness team officers	Scrutiny officer report detailing with appendices of data gathered from council departments	This committee deep dive will report on and conclude work relating to the topic of 'Van Life'. Proposed scope of work – • Review data on the number of vans recorded as parking across the BCP area during summer months. • Review information on existing van parking areas and facilities available in BCP and any data on takeup of these facilities. • Review insight gathered by committee members directly

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				from van dwellers on their needs. • Review statutory requirements within developing local plan regarding site provision and progress towards this and which categories of van dwellers this will support. • Review latest quarter data from St. Mungo's to verify levels of van dwellers known to the homelessness team. • Consider any recommendations required to Cabinet in light of the above. Background – This item relates to a motion that was agreed at Council and passed to the Committee in February 2025 asking for the creation of a Community Pact to balance the needs of van dwellers with bricks and mortar residents. The Council motion is available to view here. The Key Lines of Enquiry document drawn up by the committee is available to view here.
8.	Floating hold – recommendation tracking	Discussion item with invitees tbc.	TBC – committee to identify which	Hold to ensure sufficient capacity within work programme for a substantive discussion on previous

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			recommendations require discussion.	recommendations made by the committee, with invitees attending to report on implementation updates relating to recommendations. Date of this slot may move or not be required.
9	Reserved for Pre-Cabinet Scrutiny			Any items of pre-decision scrutiny to be identified using Cabinet Forward Plan.
Briefing date in October - TBC				
Meeting Date: 18 November 2026				
10	Sustainable Energy: Finance Models and Energy Saving Initiatives for Council Owned Buildings 2 hour slot reserved for in depth item	Committee report led by Sustainability team. Invitation to directorates to attend to contribute to discussion – officers to be identified.	PH – Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Cllr Andy Hadley	This work will be informed by a discussion with the South West Net Zero Hub, scheduled for May 2026 Committee meeting. Proposed scope of work: - Explore potential BCP models for financing sustainable energy - Review successful financing models used elsewhere (to be informed by SW Net Zero Hub discussion in May 2026.) - Identify and recommend potential models that may be appropriate for BCP to adopt. - Identify energy saving initiatives required across council buildings/housing stock

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				– information to be provided by identified directorates. - Use the above information to identify any strategic work that may be required by the Council to achieve energy saving ambitions.
11	Reserved for Pre-Cabinet Scrutiny			Any items of pre-decision scrutiny to be identified using Cabinet Forward Plan.
Briefing date December or January TBC				
Meeting Date: 24 February 2027				
12	Reserved for proactive Scrutiny matters			
13	Floating hold – reactive scrutiny			Hold to ensure sufficient capacity within work programme to respond to any arising issues that cannot be planned for in advance. Date of this slot may move or not be required.
14	Climate Action Plan – Pre-decision scrutiny.	Committee report	PH – Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Cllr Andy Hadley Martin Gardner/Gail Scholes	Annual scrutiny of the Climate Action Plan prior to Cabinet consideration.
Items agreed as priorities in 2026 work planning workshop.				

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	None – all top priorities agreed have been plotted above.			
Items agreed as reserve items in 2026 work planning workshop. Allocate dates if capacity is available:				
15	BCP Homes 5 Year Strategic Plan	Committee report.	PH – Housing and Regulatory Services Cllr Kieron Wilson Kelly Deane	To review the strategy prior to implementation. Strategy will address issues such as property condition, asset management and resident involvement. Likely Cabinet decision date of March 2027, although the committee can review this earlier. Agreed by committee as first reserve item.
16	Community Owned Renewable Energy	Committee report.	PH – Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Cllr Andy Hadley Gail Scholes	Legacy work programme item arising from a budget working group recommendation in 2024 . Agreed by committee to retain as a reserve item and advance if appropriate following other items on sustainable energy.
17	Urban Forest Strategy	Committee report	TBC	To receive an update report on the implementation of this strategy, previously scrutinised by the committee prior to agreement.
18	Temporary Accommodation Strategy	Committee report Pre-decision scrutiny	PH – Housing and Regulatory Services Cllr Kieron Wilson Kelly Deane	Committee agreed to schedule as a pre-decision scrutiny item when strategy has been developed (likely 2027 or beyond).

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Annual recurring items (dates already plotted into work programme)				
18	Climate Action Plan	Committee report	PH – Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Cllr Andy Hadley Martin Gardner/Gail Scholes	Pre-decision annual report, February.
19	Housing Strategy Review	Committee report	PH – Housing and Regulatory Services Cllr Kieron Wilson Kelly Deane	Pre-decision annual report, May
Commissioned Items (Non-committee items, including working groups and rapporteurs)				
20	Rapporteur topic - Pedestrian Crossing Update	Verbal updates	Councillor Rice	Cllr Rice agreed as a rapporteur in May 2025 to progress this area of work with officers. Updates to be received by committee as appropriate. Referenced in the work plan item of the minutes here
21.	Rapporteur topic - Play Streets	Verbal updates	Councillor Rice	Councillor Rice agreed as rapporteur on this topic in October 2025. Updates to be received by committee as appropriate. As referenced in the minutes of the meeting here
22.	Van Life – Working Group	1 x working group meeting to gather direct insight from van dwellers. Meeting date	Cross cutting issue – led by Scrutiny Officers.	Background – This item relates to a motion that was agreed at Council and passed to the

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		of 10 June proposed. Will inform item 7 above. Working group members to be identified and agreed in May 2026 meeting.	Working group membership tbc at May 2026 committee meeting.	Committee in February 2025 asking for the creation of a Community Pact to balance the needs of van dwellers with bricks and mortar residents. The Council motion is available to view here . The Key Lines of Enquiry document drawn up by the committee is available to view here .
Briefing Sessions – dates to be allocated				
	Chemicals Scrutiny – Information session requested for this at May 2024 meeting.	Informal Briefing	Kate Langdown/Martin Whitchurch	Date to be assigned.
	Building Regs Update	Informal briefing	Rhys Bright	To receive a briefing on the Government changes to building regs. Timing tbc when changes have been confirmed. Follows a council motion on this topic.

Items not included in the work programme –

The following items were proposed during the committee's work planning exercise in 2026 and have not been prioritised for scrutiny at this time. Brief notes of committee informal agreements made during work planning workshop are included, including reasons for not prioritising scrutiny on these topics at this time.

- **Heat Network Development in BCP** – officer suggested topic arising during work planning.
Reasons: significant area of work with limited resources to progress. Retain on long list for potential future action.
- **HMOs** – scrutiny request made by Cllr Marion LePoidevin.

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Reasons: Duplication with remit of cross- party Housing Strategy working group. Committee agreed to pass the scrutiny request to the cross- party Housing Strategy working group asking for them to incorporate into their work, noting that the work of this group reports into the E&P O&S Committee via annual Housing Strategy Review reports.

- **Life Traffic, Flooding and Infrastructure Resilience for BCP** – [Council motion referred to Committee](#).

Reasons: Limited ability to have influence over issue as some elements are out of scope of Council powers. Suggestion that this work may be undertaken by a Flood Advisory Group, previously active in predecessor councils. Committee is required to report back to Council with this view.

- **Climate and Nature**- legacy work programme item relating to a council motion referred to the committee.

Reasons: Committee agreed that this work is being addressed via other issues included in the work programme, and that an update on the urban forest strategy may be appropriate to fulfil 'nature' related scrutiny (included as reserve item). Committee is required to report back to Council with this view.

- **Redhill Paddling Pool** – legacy work programme item relating to a [council petition referred to the committee](#).

Reasons: Duplication with O&S Board remit of work. Committee suggested that the O&S Board be asked consider the future of Redhill Paddling Pool in any asset / Town Council related scrutiny to be undertaken within their own programme of work. Agreement to refer the item to the O&S Board with this advice, and a requirement to report back to Council with this view.

- **Achieving Carbon Emission Neutrality** – legacy work programme item following a [budget working group held in 2024](#).

Reasons: Committee agreed that other work programme items will address this matter with a more refined scope.

- **Safe Accommodation Strategy** – multiple legacy work programme items relating to the Safe Accommodation Strategy which was reviewed by a [working group of the Committee](#). The items related to considering commissioning related to the strategy, review of strategy after implementation, and identification of KPIs to monitor effectiveness of strategy.

Reasons: Duplication with O&S Board remit of work. The committee noted that the strategy was planned for pre-decision scrutiny by the O&S Board within a wider suite of strategies and agreed to pass these work recommendations to the O&S Board for progression.