



## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025**

**10.30 AM (OR AT THE CONCLUSION OF CABINET, WHICHEVER IS LATER) COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES**

**MEMBERSHIP** - Councillors Keith Glazier (Chair), Nick Bennett, Bob Bowdler, Chris Collier, Johnny Denis and David Tutt

## **A G E N D A**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2025 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
2. Apologies for absence
3. Disclosures of interests  
Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
4. Urgent items  
Notification of items which the Chair considers to be urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
5. Neonatal Care Leave and Pay (*Pages 7 - 14*)  
Report by the Chief Operating Officer
6. Appointments to Outside Bodies (*Pages 15 - 18*)  
Report by the Deputy Chief Executive
7. Conservators of Ashdown Forest - Appointment of Council representatives (*Pages 19 - 20*)  
Report by the Deputy Chief Executive
8. Scrutiny Activity Update (*Pages 21 - 56*)  
Report by the Deputy Chief Executive
9. Any non-exempt items previously notified under agenda item 4
10. Exclusion of Public and Press  
To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Namely information relating to any individual; to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information); and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

11. Conservators of Ashdown Forest - Appointment of Council representatives (*Pages 57 - 66*)  
Report by the Deputy Chief Executive
12. Sea Change Sussex Membership (*Pages 67 - 74*)  
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
13. Any other exempt items considered urgent by the Chair

PHILIP BAKER  
Deputy Chief Executive  
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16 June 2025

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## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 22 April 2025.

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PRESENT Councillors Nick Bennett, Bob Bowdler, Johnny Denis, David Tutt and Bob Standley

ALSO PRESENT Councillors Matthew Beaver, Colin Belsey, Godfrey Daniel, Johanna Howell, and Trevor Webb.

### 52. Appointment of Chair

52.1 Councillor Bennett was appointed as the Chair of the meeting.

### 53. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2025

53.1 RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 4 March 2025 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 54. Apologies for absence

54.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collier and Glazier.

54.2 It was noted that Councillor Standley was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Glazier.

### 55. Reports

55.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

### 56. Appointments of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Other Bodies

56.1 The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive on the appointment of members to committees, sub-committees, panels and other bodies.

56.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Tutt and was seconded:

*The Scrutiny Committees should each be chaired by a member of the opposition.*

56.3 The amendment was lost (by 3 votes to 2).

56.4 The Committee RESOLVED to recommend to County Council to allocate to political and independent groups the places on, and membership of:

- (1) The main committees in appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) other committees and panels listed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (3) Chair and Vice Chair positions on Scrutiny Committees and other Committees as set out below:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Regulatory	<b>Conservative</b>	
People Scrutiny Committee	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>
Place Scrutiny Committee	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Green</b>
Audit Committee	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>
Governance Committee	<b>Conservative</b>	
Planning Committee	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
Pension Committee	<b>Conservative</b>	
Standards Committee	<b>Conservative</b>	

## 57. Appointments to Outside Bodies

57.1 The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive regarding the appointments to outside bodies.

57.2 The Committee RESOLVED to approve the following appointments to take effect from the 20 May 2025 (the date of the annual Council meeting), and the term of such appointments will be to the annual meeting in the next Council full election year unless indicated otherwise or unless the Council resolves to terminate the appointees term before then:

<b>Organisation</b>	
General Assembly of the Local Government Association	Councillor Bennett Councillor Tutt Councillor Glazier Councillor Collier (substitute Councillor Denis)  Councillor Glazier has the second vote.
East Sussex Fire Authority	Councillor Azad Councillor Chris Dowling Councillor Geary Councillor Lambert Councillor Maples Councillor Marlow-Eastwood Councillor Osborne Councillor Pragnell Councillor Redstone Councillor Scott Councillor S Shing Councillor Ungar
County Councils Network Council	Councillor Bennett Councillor Glazier Councillor Tutt Councillor Webb (substitute Councillor Daniel)

Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Councillor Liddiard (substitute Councillor Hilton)
Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	Councillor Adeniji Councillor Liddiard Councillor Murphy
South Downs National Park Authority	Councillor Chris Dowling (substitute Councillor Maples)
Conservators of Ashdown Forest	Councillor Howell Ms E Drury Mr T Reid Mrs R St Pierre Mr R Stogdon Ms F Thomas Vacancy Mr J Squire
Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	Councillor Claire Dowling
Joint Waste and Recycling Committee	Councillor Claire Dowling  (+ 1 Substitute - the Leader has delegated authority to appoint a substitute to this meeting, the substitution must be drawn from Cabinet members.)
Sussex Police and Crime Panel	Councillor Bob Standley (Substantive appointment)  Councillor P Lunn (substitute)  <i>Councillor Ian Hollidge (second representative – 1 year term until June 2026)</i>
ACCESS Joint Governance Committee (Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Pooling)	Councillor Fox (substantive appointment)  <i>Councillor Redstone (substitute)</i>

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**Report to:** Governance Committee

**Date of meeting:** 24 June 2025

**By:** Chief Operating Officer

**Title:** Neonatal Care Leave and Pay

**Purpose:** To seek the Governance Committee's approval to implement Neonatal Care Leave and Pay provision based on the statutory provisions.

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Governance Committee is recommended to approve the implementation of the Neonatal Care Leave Policy based on the statutory provisions for Neonatal Care Leave and Pay.**

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### **1 Background**

1.1 From April 2025, parents have the legal right to take up to 12 weeks neonatal care leave if their baby needs medical or palliative treatment. The number of weeks' leave is equal to the number of full weeks a baby needs neonatal care.

1.2 Neonatal Care Leave and Pay is intended to ease the financial and emotional burden on parents with babies needing neonatal care in the first weeks of their life. Approximately 14% of births in the UK need some neonatal care but this provision particularly benefits parents of babies who are born prematurely, which occurs in approximately 10% of births (sourced from Bliss charity).

1.3 Neonatal Care Leave is available to all employees whose child is born on or after 6 April 2025, regardless of their length of service, however a service requirement is necessary for employees to be eligible to receive pay, see paragraph 1.6. The leave is available to the parents of a child whose neonatal care starts within a period of 28 days from birth and lasts seven days or more without interruption. Neonatal care leave must be taken within 68 weeks of the baby's date of birth. Employees would need to exhaust maternity, paternity, adoption and/or shared parental leave, before utilising neonatal care leave.

1.4 This leave is available to take in two tiers.

- The tier 1 period provides for the employees' immediate need to take leave during a stressful time. Tier one leave can be taken in non-continuous blocks of a minimum of one week.
- The tier 2 period helps to reimburse those 'lost weeks' an employee would have received had their baby not needed neonatal care. Tier two leave must be taken in continuous blocks of one week or more and can be taken up to 68 weeks after the child's birth.

1.5 Tier 1 will be beneficial to employees who have returned to work having exhausted existing leave provisions, more likely applicable to non-birthing partners, for example, a father whose paternity leave is limited to 2 weeks. The tier 2 period is more likely to be applicable to birthing partners/primary adopters who will already be on maternity/adoption leave in the first few weeks after the birth. Employees are required to give reasonable notice to take tier 1 leave, although under the circumstances employers will of course need to be flexible. For tier 2, employees must give 15-28 days' notice depending on the amount of leave they want to take.

1.6 Statutory Neonatal Care Leave Pay is payable to employees who meet a minimum service requirement of 26 weeks at 15 weeks prior to the expected week of birth and who meet the lower earnings limit. Employees who do not meet this service requirement, but are otherwise eligible to take Neonatal Care Leave, can do so (see paragraph 1.3) but their leave will be unpaid. The rate of statutory Neonatal Care Leave Pay is £187.18 per week for 2025/26 set by the Government for the relevant tax year, or at 90% of an employees' average weekly earnings (whichever is lower). Employers reclaim 92% of statutory Neonatal Care Leave Pay in line with other statutory maternity related pay.

## **2 Supporting information**

### **Neonatal care statistics**

2.1 Research indicates that approximately 14% of babies need neonatal care. Generally, the earlier a baby is born, the more likely they will need an extended period of neonatal care. Parents from a low socio-economic background and those from some ethnic minorities are more likely to experience a pre-term birth.

2.2 In the last three years, an average of 101 corporate employees per year took maternity or paternity leave, with another 124 per year in schools. Based on this workforce data and research suggesting 14% of babies need neonatal care, we could expect 14 employees (plus 17 in schools) to experience their child in Neonatal Care in a given financial year. However available research suggests many of these babies would not need extended periods of care of seven days or more, meaning that parents would not qualify for Neonatal Care Leave in those instances.

### **Neonatal care pay and benchmarking**

2.3 Employers have discretion to provide an enhanced rate of neonatal care leave pay that is greater than the statutory minimum. However, subject to Governance Committee's approval, it is proposed that the Council does not offer an enhanced rate. This is in line with the majority of our neighbouring authorities.

2.4 The financial impact of Neonatal Care Leave is expected to be minimal due to the low likelihood of cases where extended periods of neonatal care are needed in newborn babies. Additionally, the County Council will reclaim 92% of statutory Neonatal Care Leave Pay from the government in line with other statutory maternity related pay. Any cost associated with this provision is likely to be associated with indirect costs of lost labour or working arrangements for temporary cover.

2.5 Whilst the financial impact is expected to be low, the consideration of neonatal care leave and pay sits within the context of the significant financial challenges facing the Council, as well as the policy position of our neighbouring Councils and the range of flexible working arrangements and special discretionary leave options available to employees including compassionate leave and enhanced parental leave. A copy of the proposed policy is attached at Appendix 1.

## **3. Conclusion**

3.1 Neonatal Care Leave is a welcome provision for parents to help manage what can be a very stressful time and support families both emotionally and financially. It particularly benefits parents who experience a premature birth, who prior to this provision would receive the same number of weeks leave as an employee whose baby is born at full term yet miss out on time spent with their baby in their first year of life.

3.2 Parents of babies needing neonatal care can be further supported by the County Council's flexible working options, as well as existing special discretionary leave, where appropriate. In terms of emotional support, the County Council maintains a comprehensive wellbeing offer to employees including a dedicated counselling service.

3.3 In light of existing supportive provisions, and in the context of significant broader financial challenges faced by the County Council, it is proposed to not enhance neonatal care leave pay and implement the Neonatal Care Leave Policy attached at Appendix 1.

**Ros Parker**  
**Chief Operating Officer**

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# Neonatal Care Leave



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## Key points

- This policy applies to all County Council employees.
- Employees should provide notice of Neonatal Care Leave as soon as reasonably practicable using the [Neonatal Care Leave Form](#).
- Content shown in [blue text](#) is available from the Intranet/Webshop.  
[Underlined blue text](#) links to a bookmark elsewhere in this document.

## 1. Summary

1.1. Subject to eligibility, employees have a legal right to Neonatal Care Leave. Neonatal care leave is designed to assist parents of babies who are admitted into neonatal care.

1.2. Neonatal care includes:

- medical care that your child receives in a hospital.
- palliative or end-of-life care.
- medical care that your child receives in any other place providing:
  - your child was previously admitted to a hospital as an inpatient and needs continuing care after leaving the hospital.
  - the care is under the direction of a consultant.
  - the care involves ongoing monitoring and visits from healthcare professionals arranged by the hospital where your child was an inpatient.

## 2. Entitlement

2.1. Employees have a statutory right to take neonatal care leave. You will be eligible to take neonatal care leave if:

- your child was born, placed for adoption or entered Great Britain (for overseas adoptions) on or after 6 April 2025.
- your child started receiving neonatal care within 28 days, starting from the day after the date on which they were born.
- the neonatal care has lasted seven days or longer without interruption, counted from the day after care begins.
- you are taking the leave to care for your child.

2.2. In addition to the criteria explained above, at the date of the child's birth you must be:

- the child's parent or adopter and have responsibility for the upbringing of the child; or
- the partner of the child's mother or prospective adopter and have main responsibility for the upbringing of the child (apart from the mother) or
- the child's overseas adopter and have or expect to have responsibility for the upbringing of the child; or
- the partner of the child's overseas adopter and have main responsibility for the upbringing of the child (apart from your partner).

- 2.3. If you are having a child through a surrogacy arrangement, in addition to the criteria at 2.1 above, you are entitled to neonatal care leave if at the date of the child's birth:
- you have applied or intend to apply for a parental order within a period of six months.
  - you expect the parental order to be granted; and
  - you have or expect to have responsibility for the upbringing of the child.
- 2.4. There is no service requirement to take neonatal care leave. However, to receive neonatal care pay, employees must meet service and earnings requirements as described in [Neonatal Care Pay](#) below. For both leave and pay, employees must also comply with the relevant notice and declaration requirement explained in '[Notice to take neonatal care leave](#)' below.
- 2.5. You may also be entitled to neonatal care leave if your child passes away or your adoption placement is interrupted. Please see [Bereavement or disruption of adoption placement](#) for more information.

### **3. Taking Neonatal Care Leave**

- 3.1. The amount of neonatal care leave that you can take is one week for every week your child has spent in neonatal care without interruption. A week is defined as a period of seven days starting from the day after the neonatal care began.
- 3.2. The maximum number of weeks that you can take as neonatal care leave is capped at 12 weeks.
- 3.3. Any neonatal care leave must be taken in blocks of at least one week.
- 3.4. You can take only up to 12 weeks' neonatal care leave, even if multiple children from the same pregnancy require neonatal care.

#### ***Timing of Neonatal Care Leave***

- 3.5. You can start your leave on any day after your child has received seven days of uninterrupted neonatal care.
- 3.6. The seven days are counted from the day after the neonatal care started. For example, if your child's started receiving neonatal care on 7 April, the seven-day count begins on 8 April. This means that you can start your neonatal care leave on any day from 15 April.
- 3.7. Any neonatal care leave must end within 68 weeks of your child's date of birth.
- 3.8. The right to neonatal care leave is in addition to any other statutory leave that you may be entitled to, such as maternity, adoption, paternity, ordinary parental, parental bereavement or shared parental leave (see Other statutory leave below).

#### ***How Neonatal Care Leave can be taken***

- 3.9. Neonatal care leave is available to take in two tiers:

- The "tier 1 period" applies during the time your baby requires neonatal care. It begins when your child starts receiving neonatal care and ends on the seventh day after your child's care requirements are completed. If you take neonatal care leave in the tier 1 period, you can take it in one continuous block, or a number of non-continuous blocks of a minimum of one week at a time.
  - The "tier 2 period" is any remaining period (within 68 weeks after your child's date of birth) that is not part of the tier 1 period. If you take neonatal care leave during the tier 2 period, you must take the leave in one continuous block.
- 3.10. You should be aware that the relevant notice requirements differ depending on whether you take your leave in the tier 1 or tier 2 period (see [Notice to take neonatal care leave](#)).
- 3.11. An employee can choose to utilise both tiers, if they have the weeks available to them. If an employee is already on maternity related leave during the tier 1 period, then they must exhaust this first, please see [Interaction with other Leave](#).

## **4. Notice to take Neonatal Care Leave**

- 4.1. Your neonatal care leave will start on the date that is specified in your notice. Alternatively, if you give notice on the same day that you want to begin your leave and you are already in work on that day, your neonatal care leave will start on the following day.

### ***Notice during the tier 1 period***

- 4.2. For each week of neonatal care leave that you wish to take in tier 1, you should notify your line manager by phone or email, preferably before your first day of absence in that week. However, we understand that this is likely to be a challenging time for you, so please give notice as soon as is reasonably practicable for you to do so.
- 4.3. You are also required to give notice of your intention and entitlement to take neonatal care leave using our [Neonatal Care Leave Form](#).
- 4.4. There is no expectation on you to complete this form straightaway while your child is receiving neonatal care. However, we do request that the form is sent to Employee Services within 28 days of the first day of your neonatal care leave, or if this is not possible, as soon as it is reasonably practicable.

### ***Notice during the tier 2 period***

- 4.5. If you wish to take neonatal care leave in the tier 2 period, you will need to give notice in writing of your intention and entitlement to take neonatal care leave using our [Neonatal Care Leave Form](#).
- 4.6. If you are taking a single week of neonatal care leave, your notice should be received by us at least 15 days before the first date that you have chosen for your leave to start, or if this is not possible, as soon as it is reasonably practicable.

- 4.7.If you are taking two or more consecutive weeks of neonatal care leave, your notice should be received by us at least 28 days before the first date that you have chosen for your leave to start, or if this is not possible, as soon as it is reasonably practicable.

#### ***Changing Neonatal Care Leave plans***

- 4.8.If you have submitted a [Neonatal Care Leave Form](#) to take neonatal care leave during the tier 2 period but wish to cancel your leave, you must inform your manager and Employee Services as soon as practicable.

## **5. Neonatal Care Pay**

- 5.1.Statutory neonatal care pay is payable during your neonatal care leave period, provided you are entitled to it.
- 5.2.The rate of statutory neonatal care pay is set by the Government for the relevant tax year, or at 90% of your average weekly earnings (whichever is lower).
- 5.3.You will qualify for statutory neonatal care pay if all the following apply:
- you are entitled to take neonatal care leave.
  - you have at least 26 weeks' continuous employment with us at the end of the relevant week.
  - you remain in continuous employment from the end of the relevant week (or from the child's birth if they were born before the relevant week).
  - your average weekly earnings are not less than the lower earnings limit for national insurance contributions.
  - you have complied with the relevant notice requirements and are able to provide the declarations as set out in this policy.
  - you have confirmed when you wish to start receiving statutory neonatal care pay within your form to provide notice of intention and entitlement to take neonatal care leave.
- 5.4.The "relevant week" means the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth if you are entitled to statutory maternity or paternity pay. In all other cases, it means the week before the neonatal care begins. In cases of adoption, the "relevant week" is the week in which you are notified of being matched with the child.
- 5.5.Neonatal care pay is treated as earnings and is therefore subject to PAYE and national insurance deductions.

## **6. Interaction with other leave**

### ***Maternity related leave***

- 6.1.You are entitled to take neonatal care leave in addition to any other maternity related leave that you may be entitled to, including maternity, adoption, paternity, ordinary parental, parental bereavement and shared parental leave.

- 6.2.If you have already started a period of maternity related leave, but subsequently become eligible for neonatal care leave, you can take your neonatal care leave after completing other maternity related leave, provided that your neonatal care leave is taken within 68 weeks of your child's birth date. For example, if you are already on maternity leave during the tier 1 period, and during this time your baby is discharged from neonatal care, you can utilise any accrued Neonatal Care Leave weeks during the tier 2 period.
- 6.3.If you have already started a period of neonatal care leave during the tier 1 period but need to begin another type of maternity related leave, your neonatal care leave will be temporarily paused immediately before the other leave begins. You can then resume the remaining weeks of your neonatal care leave in one of two ways:
- If you are still within the tier 1 period - immediately after the end of the other period of maternity related leave; or
  - if you have transitioned into the tier 2 period - immediately after any other neonatal care leave taken during the tier 2 period.
- 6.4.You cannot take neonatal care leave in the tier 2 period if, at the time of giving notice, you are aware that the leave will overlap with another type of leave.

#### ***Annual leave***

- 6.5.You will continue to accrue your holiday entitlement during your neonatal care leave.
- 6.6.Any holiday entitlement that has not been taken because of neonatal care leave can be carried over into the next annual leave year.

#### ***Other discretionary leave***

- 6.7.Further discretionary leave provisions are outlined in the County Council's [Paid and Unpaid Leave Policy](#).

### **7. Bereavement or disruption of adoption placement**

- 7.1.Employees who have accrued entitlement to neonatal care leave can still take the neonatal care leave that they have accrued if their child passes away or the adoption placement is disrupted.
- 7.2.Employees may also be entitled to compassionate leave and parental bereavement leave, please see [Paid and Unpaid Leave Policy](#) for further information.
- 7.3.If you have suffered a bereavement, please contact your manager who will discuss how they can best support you. Any information disclosed by you during discussions with your line manager will be treated sensitively and in strict confidence.
- 7.4.Our counselling and Employee Assistance Programme is available 24 hours a day (0333 212 8382). This is a fully confidential service and can provide counselling in the event of a bereavement.

**Report to:** Governance Committee

**Date:** 24 June 2025

**By:** Deputy Chief Executive

**Title of report:** Appointments to Outside Bodies

**Purpose of report:** To consider appointments to outside bodies

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Governance Committee is recommended to appoint Councillors to the outside bodies listed in paragraph 1.4 and Appendix 1 of this report. The appointments will be for the term set out in paragraph 1.3.**

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## **Supporting Information**

1.1 The County Council is invited to appoint Members (and in some cases non-County Councillors are eligible) to serve on a range of outside bodies whose role has a relationship to a function of the County Council. The appointments are a vital part of the County Council's working in partnership with voluntary sector bodies, statutory agencies and the public and private sectors.

1.2 Attached at Appendix 1 is a schedule of the organisations to which appointments are to be made and the number of places to be filled for each body. In making appointments the Committee may wish to consider the issue of continuity. Where no names are mentioned, it can be assumed that the position is currently vacant.

1.3 Unless otherwise stated appointments are made for a term until the date of the annual council meeting in the next Council election year, or (where applicable) the Councillor ceases to be a member of the Council whichever is the sooner, or unless the appointee resigns or is removed before then. Nominations have been sought from each political and independent group and a list of nominations received is set out in Appendix 1.

1.4 At a meeting of the Governance Committee on 22 April 2025, the appointments to the Sussex Inshore Fisheries were agreed. Since then, Councillor Liddiard has resigned from this position, and the Conservative Group wish to appoint Councillor Redstone in his place.

## **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Committee is recommended to appoint Councillors to serve on the outside bodies as set out in paragraph 1.4 and Appendix 1 of this report for the term set out in para 1.3 above.

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Organisation	No. of reps	Current Appointments	Nominations
<b>Education</b>			
University of Sussex – Sussex Annual Forum	2	Cllr Standley Vacancy	Cllr Cross Cllr Standley
<b>Economic Development / Regeneration Partnerships</b>			
Love Hastings	1	Daniel	Cllr Daniel
Rye Regeneration Partnership	1	Glazier	Cllr Glazier
Hastings Plan for Neighbourhoods Board	1	Pragnell	Cllr Pragnell
Eastbourne Plan for Neighbourhoods Board	1	di Cara	Cllr di Cara,  <b>or</b> Cllr Wright
Bexhill Plan for Neighbourhoods Board	1	Hollidge	Cllr Hollidge
<b>Environment</b>			
High Weald – Joint Advisory Committee	1	Kirby-Green	Cllr Kirby-Green
Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee	1 + Sub	Bowdler Lunn (substitute)	Cllr Bowdler Cllr Lunn (substitute)
Dungeness A & B Power Stations – Local Community Liaison Council	3	Glazier Maynard Redstone	Cllrs Glazier, Maynard and Redstone
Viridor in East Sussex Fund	1 Cllr and 1 Officer	C Dowling Waste Team Manager	Cllr Claire Dowling
Woodland Enterprises Ltd	1	Kirby-Green	Cllr Kirby-Green
Chailey Common Local Nature Reserve Management Committee	2	Maples and Milligan	Cllrs Maples and Chris Dowling
Coombe Valley Countryside Park Community Interest Company	1	Beaver Pragnell (substitute)	Cllr Beaver and Cllr Pragnell (substitute)
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee	2	Glazier Redstone	Cllrs Glazier and Redstone
Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee	1	Glazier	Cllr Glazier

Organisation	No. of reps	Current Appointments	Nominations
South Downs National Park Authority Seven Sisters Country Park Stakeholders Advisory Group	1	Adeniji	Cllr Chris Dowling,  or  Cllr Tutt
<b>Safer Communities Partnerships</b>			
Safer Eastbourne and Lewes	1	di Cara Milligan (substitute)	Cllr di Cara
Safer Wealden	1	C Dowling	Cllr Claire Dowling
Safer Hastings	1	Azad Pragnell (substitute)	Cllr Hollidge Cllr Pragnell (substitute)
Safer Rother (previously appointed to as Hastings and Rother)	1	Vacancy	Cllr Hollidge Cllr Pragnell (substitute)
<b>Transport</b>			
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Adjudication Committee (July 20)	1	Hollidge	Cllr Hollidge
<b>Other organisations</b>			
South East Employers	3 + 3 substitutes <i>(entitlement has changed since the appointments in 2021 and 2024)</i>	Lunn di Cara	Cllr Denis, Cllrs Lunn and di Cara
Armed Forces Champion	1	Bowdler	Cllr Bowdler Cllr Hollidge (substitute)

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Governance Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24 June 2025</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Conservators of Ashdown Forest – Appointment of Council representatives</b>
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	<b>To appoint representatives to the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Governance Committee is recommended to consider whether to confirm the appointment of 3 Council representatives on the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest for the term set out in this report.**

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### **1. Supporting Information**

1.1 The County Council is invited to appoint Members (and in some cases non-County Councillors are eligible) to serve on a wide range of outside bodies whose role has a relationship to a function of the County Council. The appointments are a vital part of the County Council's working in partnership with voluntary bodies, statutory agencies and the public and private sectors.

1.2 The County Council appoints eight of the 15 Conservators of Ashdown Forest. Of the remaining seven, two are appointed by Wealden District Council and five are elected by the commoners. In addition, the Chairman of the County Council serves on the Board of Conservators to represent the County Council as Lord of the Manor. The Council representatives do not have to be Councillors. It is the duty of the Conservators to regulate and manage the Forest as an amenity subject to the existing rights of common, to protect the Forest from encroachments and to conserve it as a quiet and natural area of outstanding beauty. The political balance provisions apply to the County Council's appointments to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

1.3 The allocation of places to groups agreed by the Governance Committee on 22 April 2025 was: 4 Conservative; 2 Liberal Democrats; 1 Labour and 1 Green. The Conservative Group's nominations, which were agreed in April 2025, were Councillor Howell; Mr T Reid, and Mr R Stogdon. A vacancy for the fourth appointment remained.

1.4 Since these nominations were agreed, Mr T Reid and Mr R Stogdon have advised that they wish to resign from the Board of Conservators. It is therefore necessary to reappoint to the 3 vacancies. The Conservative Group wish to nominate the following 3 representatives:

- Brett Akker;
- Matthew Street; and
- Peter Young.

1.5 As these three proposed appointees are neither existing Conservators nor County Councillors the Governance Committee is asked to consider their CV/supporting statement. The CVs and supporting statements for these nominations

do not contain any specified personal or pecuniary interests. If the nominated representatives are successfully appointed, they will be required to sign the Conservators of Ashdown Forest Code of Conduct and Form of Acceptance. The CVs and supporting information contain exempt information and are set out in a later item on the agenda.

1.6 Appointments to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest shall be for a term of four years, or until resignation or removal prior to the completion of the term.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the further information provided in item 11 and decide whether to confirm the appointments of the 3 persons referred to in paragraph 1.4 as Conservators of Ashdown Forest, for a four year period.

**PHILIP BAKER**  
**Deputy Chief Executive**

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Governance Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>24 June 2025</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Activity Update</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To provide an overview of scrutiny activity being undertaken by the People, Place and Health Overview Scrutiny Committees and an update on the work of the Audit Committee.</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Governance Committee is recommended to note the updates on Scrutiny and Audit Committee activity and the current work programmes at Appendices 1- 4.**

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## **1 Background**

1.1 These six-monthly reports aim to provide the Governance Committee with a summary of scrutiny activity and issues of note across the People, Place and Health Overview Scrutiny Committees and the work of the Audit Committee to support the visibility and effectiveness of the Council's scrutiny activity.

1.2 This report outlines developments since the last update in December 2024, particularly from the committee meetings held in late November 2024 and in March 2025. The current work programmes for the committees are attached at Appendices 1-4. An overview of planned scrutiny review and reference group activity over the coming months across the three scrutiny committees is attached at Appendix 5.

1.3 In February 2025 the Scrutiny and Audit Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Group discussed the approach to scrutiny oversight and engagement in local programmes of work related to devolution and local government reorganisation and agreed a proposal for a joint scrutiny Reference Group with membership drawn from both Place and People Committees, recognising the cross-cutting impacts of the reforms on Council services. On the recommendation of Governance Committee, Full Council subsequently agreed in March to extend the remit of Place Scrutiny Committee as the lead committee to facilitate this. Chairs and Vice Chairs also noted the ongoing oversight role for Audit Committee in relation to related risks, and agreed to keep these arrangements under review, ensuring appropriate Scrutiny and Audit Committee engagement in the work as it progressed. Details of the establishment of the Reference Group are in the Place Scrutiny section of this report.

1.4 All committees continue to be supported to develop their scrutiny practice and to deepen their understanding of the context for services and issues within their remit. Members of People and Place Scrutiny have requested that training is delivered primarily through 'bite-sized' sessions and these briefing or training sessions continue to be arranged as topics are identified by the committees. Recent sessions have included briefings on the Life Transitions Service (open to all Members) and on preparation for the Care Quality Commission assessment of Adult Social Care.

1.5 Following a change to the membership of People Scrutiny Committee, a new committee member received an induction to support them in taking up their role. Recruitment for two Independent Member positions on the Audit Committee was unsuccessful in 2024. New recruitment for the positions will commence in 2025 and if successful, the independent co-opted

members will be appointed by the Governance Committee in due course under delegated authority.

## **2 People Scrutiny Committee**

2.1 The latest version of the committee's work programme (attached at Appendix 1) captures the full range of activity underway or planned. Key elements are outlined below.

### ***Committee meetings***

2.2 The committee met in November 2024 to consider:

- **East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report** – the committee received an annual update on the work of the ESSCP and discussed and asked questions about safeguarding persistently absent children and home educated children, and recorded sexual offences related to Looked After Children.
- **Transition in Services** – the committee received a report by Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH), in partnership with the Children's Services Department (CSD), on transition in services, including the Preparing for Adulthood Model. The committee discussed the role of parents in transition arrangements; eligibility for services; and employment and education support.
- **Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)** – the committee discussed the RPPR update report considered by Cabinet earlier in the month which provided an update on the policy context, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), capital programme, and the Council's response to significant financial pressures. The committee discussed the challenging financial outlook for the Council, in particular the pressures facing ASCH and CSD, as well as the impact of recent announcements in the Government's Autumn Budget, and the Council's response to these pressures, including its approach to identifying savings.
- **Work programme update** – the committee considered feedback from scrutiny activity undertaken since the September meeting and agreed updates to the work programme as discussed at its annual awayday in October.
- **Loneliness Stewardship Group** – the committee received a report on the progress of the Connected People and places project focussed on tackling loneliness in East Sussex. The committee welcomed the report and discussed partner engagement and work with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector; loneliness in rural communities; community groups; and digital inclusion.
- **ASC Peer Review and Care Quality Commission (CQC) preparations** – the committee received an update on the preparation for the upcoming CQC assessment. The committee welcomed the engagement with scrutiny and commented on the thorough preparation undertaken by the ASCH Department.

2.3 In March 2025 the committee met to consider:

- **Call-ins** – the committee considered call-ins of two decisions made by Cabinet regarding the proposal to close the Linden Court Day Service for people with a learning disability and merge it with Beeching Park day service, and the proposal to reduce the funding for the Housing-Related Floating Support Service. The committee considered the information provided by the Director of ASCH in response to the points raised and discussed a range of issues including the impact of the decisions on a future unitary authority and on district and borough councils; the impact of public consultations; alternative provision; and the wider implications of the proposals. Following discussion, the committee voted to refer both matters to Full Council for further consideration.
- **School Exclusions Scrutiny Review** – the committee received a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the School Exclusions Scrutiny Review.
- **National policy developments in Children's Services** – the committee received a report on key national policy developments in Children's Services, including the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The committee discussed costs and funding to deliver the reforms; the department's use of agency workers, departmental priorities and educational

outcomes. The committee agreed to include regular updates on this item on its work programme.

- **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report** – the committee received the annual report which outlined the work of SACRE for 2023-24. The committee welcomed the work of SACRE, including the addition of a Humanist representative and school visits arranged by SACRE.
- **RPPR update** - the committee reviewed scrutiny input into the 2024/25 RPPR process, including ensuring relevant topics were incorporated into the scrutiny work programme to support the committee's ongoing contribution to RPPR.
- **Work programme update** – the committee considered feedback from scrutiny activity undertaken since the November committee and agreed to establish a Reference Group focussed on Children's Services Reforms; establish a scoping board for a potential scrutiny review on transport for all age care; and to receive a report on the Climate Change Health Impact Assessment.
- **Equality and Inclusion in ASCH Scrutiny Review** – the committee received a progress report on the recommendations of the Equality and Inclusion in ASCH Scrutiny Review. The committee welcomed the positive outcomes in the report and discussed the East Sussex Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Health Inequalities Partnership Group and the ASCH complaints process.

2.4 Future committee agenda items include:

- Climate Change Health Impact Assessment;
- Progress on the recommendations of the Healthy Ageing Scrutiny Review;
- Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (ASEND) inspection report;
- Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report;
- Annual Review of Safer Communities; and
- Work on the 2025/26 RPPR process.

### **Reference Groups**

2.5 People Scrutiny Reference Groups continued their work to provide Member input to areas of work being led by departments:

- **School Attendance** – Reference Group (membership: Councillors Field and Howell and John Hayling (Parent Governor Representative)). This Group was established to provide timely input into targeted programmes in relation to school attendance. The Group met in January 2025 and considered the latest attendance data, national guidance and legislation, and progress of current initiatives. The Group welcomed the number of initiatives underway to improve school attendance and discussed engagement with parents and support for families, attendance for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and mental health support. The Committee agreed at its March 2025 meeting to combine the work of this group with the Reference Group focussed on Prevention in Children's Services into one Reference Group that would consider both areas, as well as the Department's response to wider national policy reforms.
- **RPPR Board** - The committee forms an RPPR Board annually to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and spending and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the scrutiny committee. The Board met on 5 December 2024 and considered the financial outlook for the Council, relevant department portfolio plans, and savings proposals. The Board expressed concern about the financial challenges facing the Council and recognised the need to take steps to reduce the budget deficit. The Board welcomed the work and priorities of the departments, including a focus on prevention and managing demand.

## Scrutiny Reviews

2.6 The committee has completed a scrutiny review and has recently scoped a potential future scrutiny review, as outlined below. The committee continues to monitor progress with implementation of recommendations from its earlier reviews.

Healthy Ageing	<p>This review considered how Adult Social Care and Health, and the Council more broadly, could respond to the needs of an increasing older population in East Sussex, including through preventative approaches which support people to age well. The committee's report and the department's response were reported to Full Council in February 2025.</p> <p>The committee will consider progress reports at approximately 6 and 12 months.</p> <p>Review Board membership was Councillors Geary, Pragnell, Ungar (Chair) and Webb.</p>
Transport for all age care	<p>At its 2024 away day the committee discussed the challenges in transport for care and home to school transport and agreed that this, in collaboration with Children's Services and Adult Social Care and Health, could be a potential topic for a future scrutiny review.</p> <p>An initial scoping board was held on 8 May 2025 where Members considered current statutory duties around transport in both adult social care and education; cost pressures; and programmes of work, planned and underway, to address these.</p> <p>The Board agreed that it was not currently the right time for a scrutiny review into this area, due to work in progress, but that an update on transport policy in ASCH would be brought to the Committee when appropriate. The Board agreed that a rapid review in the autumn into some specific issues in home to school transport could add value. A further scoping board will be arranged to look at these areas in more detail.</p> <p>Membership of the Scoping Board: Cllrs Belsey, Cross, Howell and Pragnell and John Hayling (Parent Governor representative)</p>

## 3 Place Scrutiny Committee

3.1 The committee's latest work programme (attached at Appendix 2) outlines the full range of activity underway or planned. Key elements are outlined below.

### **Committee meetings**

3.2 The committee met in November 2024 to consider reports on:

- **Water Supply Future Demand Planning and Water Supply Issues** – Members received a presentation from South East Water on their plans for future water supply in East Sussex and their response to recent water supply issues in the county. The committee received a separate presentation from Southern Water on the process of developing its latest Water Resources Management Plan.
- **RPPR** – as with People Scrutiny, the committee considered the RPPR update report considered by Cabinet earlier in the month, which included an updated MTFP, savings proposals and capital programme update. The committee discussed the challenging financial outlook and the potential impacts on some areas of focus for the committee, including climate change and highway maintenance.
- **Fees and charges (RPPR)** – the committee considered a report on the fees and charges applied by the services within the remit of the committee in order to understand how the council maximises its income as part of the RPPR process.
- **Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy** – the committee received the report of the Review Board, which represented the first stage of the committee's work on this issue.

The committee noted that further work was required to explore some of the issues raised by Members and retained a potential further review of this topic on its future work programme.

- **Call-In of Decision Made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment regarding Eastbourne Town Centre Management and Access Package - Phase 2a Revised Scope** – the committee considered the call-in and the department's response to points raised in the call-in request. In its response the department confirmed that, in line with the initial call-in request, public display boards would be provided in Eastbourne to inform residents of the revised scheme, and the committee agreed to take no further action.
- **Work programme update** – the committee considered feedback from scrutiny activity undertaken since the September meeting including the work of the Climate Emergency Action Plan working group. The committee also agreed to establish a working group to provide input to the update of the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

3.3 The committee held an additional meeting on 13 March 2025 to consider a report on:

- **Call-in: Decision made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment regarding the Proposed implementation of a booking system at Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS)** – the committee considered the call-in and additional information provided by the department in response to the issues raised in the initial call-in request. The committee discussed how the booking system would operate, the public consultation response, traders' use of HWRS, potential impact on fly-tipping, queuing at sites, out of area use of HWRS and the Equality Impact Assessment. The committee resolved to take no further action on the call-in.

3.4 The committee met again on 20 March 2025 to consider reports on:

- **RPPR** – the committee reviewed scrutiny input into the 2024/25 RPPR process, including ensuring relevant topics were incorporated into the scrutiny work programme to support the committee's ongoing contribution to RPPR.
- **Review of the Flexibus Service** – the committee received a report evaluating the use and success of the Flexibus service. The committee commented on the success of the service and the high level of customer satisfaction and asked about future funding for the service beyond the current Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) allocation period.
- **Scrutiny Review of Pothole Management update** – the committee received a second update report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the scrutiny review. All but one of the recommendations had been implemented and work to deliver the remaining recommendation relating to the development of a drainage strategy was underway.
- **Work programme update** - the committee reviewed the current work programme. Following the agreement of the committee's revised terms of reference by Council, the committee agreed to establish a Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation reference group, to include members of the People Scrutiny Committee. The committee noted that devolution and local government reorganisation (LGR) would be significant areas of work for the committee to examine, and this may need to take priority over other issues on the work programme.

3.5 Future committee agenda items include:

- work on the 2025/26 RPPR process, including consideration of the 2024/25 year end Council Monitoring report and the State of the County report in July;
- the highways maintenance contract end of year 2 update report;
- an update on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP); and
- the first update report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy.

## Reference and Working Groups

3.6 Place Scrutiny Reference Groups continued their work to provide Member input to areas of work being led by departments:

- **Asset Management Strategy** – Working Group (membership: Councillors Hilton, Hollidge, Lunn, Murphy (Chair), Redstone and Wright). The group was established to provide scrutiny input into the update to the Council's Asset Management Strategy. The group met in March and the department sought Member views on how best to proceed with the update to the strategy in the context of changes to local government as a result of devolution and LGR. The group recommended a light refresh of the existing strategy, and agreed to meet again at an appropriate time after Government feedback on the East Sussex interim LGR proposal had been received.
- **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation** – Reference Group (membership: all Place Scrutiny Committee members, and People Scrutiny members Councillors Cross, Geary, Howell and Pragnell. Chair: Cllr Hollidge). The group has been established to provide timely scrutiny input into the development of plans for both devolution and LGR. An initial meeting was held in May, and the Reference Group will continue to meet as these processes develop.
- **RPPR Board** – The committee forms an RPPR Board annually to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and spending and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the scrutiny committee. The Board met on 9 December 2024 and considered the financial outlook for the Council, relevant department portfolio plans, and savings proposals. The Board commented that while it would not wish for the Council to make savings, it recognised the very challenging financial position, and that savings were necessary to address the budget deficit.

## Scrutiny Reviews

3.7 The committee has recently completed a scrutiny review and continues to monitor progress with implementation of recommendations from its earlier reviews.

Scrutiny Review of Speed Limit Policy	<p>The review considered the local speed limit policy and the arrangements for setting and reviewing local speed limits, where the Council is able to set speed limits on local roads not part of the strategic road network. As part of the terms of reference, the review was split into two parts, with the second part subject to the committee's agreement and the completion of the Local Transport Plan 4 Request Assessment Process. The committee's report and the department's response were reported to Council in February 2025.</p> <p>The committee will consider progress reports at approximately 6 and 12 months.</p> <p>Review Board membership was Councillors Beaver, Hilton, Hollidge (Chair), Kirby-Green, Lunn, Murphy, Redstone and Wright.</p>
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## 4 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

4.1 Key work priorities for HOSC are set out in the attached work programme (Appendix 3) with highlights below:

### Committee meetings

4.2 The HOSC met in December 2024 to consider reports on:

- **NHS Sussex Winter Plan 2024/25** – to scrutinise local NHS organisations' preparations and plans for the winter period.
- **Changes to Paediatric Service Model at Eastbourne District General Hospital** – an update on the implementation of changes to this service made by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust following HOSC's review and recommendations.
- **Ambulance Handovers at the Royal Sussex County Hospital** – a progress report on work to reduce hospital handover delays at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton.

- **Proposed changes to Colorectal Cancer Surgery Pathway at University Hospitals Sussex (UHSx)** – the committee received an overview of proposed changes to elective colorectal cancer surgery across UHSx hospital sites. After exploring the impact of the proposals for East Sussex patients, Members agreed that the plans did not constitute a substantial variation in services.
- **HOSC future work programme** – the committee considered and agreed its future work programme priorities.

4.3 The committee met again in March 2025 to consider:

- **Access to NHS Dentistry Services** – a report from NHS Sussex on progress with enhancing access to routine and urgent NHS dental care in the county.
- **Ophthalmology Transformation at East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT)** – a report updating the HOSC on the implementation of ESHT’s ophthalmology transformation programme and progress with HOSC’s recommendations in its review of the changes conducted in 2022.
- **SECamb update** – an update report on the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb) performance and progress in improving services and organisational culture as part of the NHS England Recovery Support Programme following its 2022 CQC inspection.
- **HOSC Review of Audiology Services in East Sussex** – to agree the report and recommendations of the HOSC Review Board following its review of NHS audiology services.
- **HOSC future work programme** – the committee considered and agreed its future work programme priorities and requested additional progress reports on access to NHS dentistry.

4.4 Key future committee agenda items include:

- a feedback report on the NHS Sussex Winter Plan for 2024/25;
- a report on the implementation and mobilisation of the new Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service contract;
- a progress update on work to improve primary care access;
- a further update on the paediatric service model changes at Eastbourne District General Hospital; and
- a response from NHS Sussex to the HOSC Review of Audiology Services.

### ***Reference Groups and briefings***

4.5 HOSC representatives are also involved in regular informal meetings with Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) and other Sussex HOSC Chairs and Vice Chairs to consider the Trust’s work and other mental health service issues.

### ***Scrutiny Reviews***

4.6 The committee has recently completed a scrutiny review and continues to monitor progress on the implementation of service changes that have been subject to its earlier reviews, as well as upcoming changes to the delivery of the health services for the residents of East Sussex that it may wish to review.

Scrutiny Review of Audiology services in East Sussex	<p>The committee conducted a review of audiology services following concerns and issues raised about the provision and access to services, including treatments for earwax removal, and a report on the services considered at the July 2024 meeting.</p> <p>The Review Board reported its findings and recommendations to the HOSC in March 2025, having concluded that audiology services are currently unsatisfactory and have substantially diminished since before the COVID-19</p>
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	<p>pandemic. The Board found there was a lack of clarity on what services people were entitled to receive on the NHS and had concerns about the level of funding being made available for the recommissioning of a new age-related hearing loss contract. NHS Sussex will provide the committee with a response to the report and recommendations at the September 2025 meeting.</p> <p>The review board was comprised of councillors Azad, Belsey, Marlow-Eastwood, Robinson (Chair), and Shuttleworth.</p>
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## 5 Audit Committee

5.1 The committee's future areas of focus are set out in the work programme attached at appendix 4.

### ***Committee meetings***

5.2 The Audit Committee met in November 2024 and March 2025 to discuss reports on:

- Internal Audit Progress Report – Quarters 2 and 3 2024/25
- Audit Committee Oracle Working Group Update;
- Review of Annual Governance Report and 2023/24 Statement of Accounts
- Review of Annual Pension Fund Governance Report and 2023/24 Statement of Accounts
- Auditor's Annual (Value for Money) Report on East Sussex County Council 2023/24
- Treasury Management – Stewardship Report 2023/24 and Mid-Year Review 2024/25
- Annual update on the Council's Property Assets
- External Audit Plan 2024/25
- External Audit Plan for the East Sussex Pension Fund 2024/25
- East Sussex County Council and East Sussex Pension Fund: IT Systems Audit Findings Report
- Strategic Risk Monitoring – Quarters 2 and 3 2024/25; and
- Audit Committee work programme.

5.3 The committee's future agenda items include the usual quarterly consideration of Internal Audit reports and the Strategic Risk Register, together with:

- Assessment of the Corporate Governance Framework and Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25
- Internal Audit Services Annual Report and Opinion 2024/25
- Counter Fraud Annual Report
- Audit Committee Annual Report
- Internal Audit Self-Assessment against new Global Internal Audit Standards and updated Internal Audit Charter
- Financial Management Code

### ***Briefings and working groups***

5.4 The Working Group which provides oversight of the Oracle Implementation programme met monthly in November, December, January, February and March leading up to go-live for Phase 2 of the programme, reporting progress to the Audit Committee in March. The group met again on 1 May following go-live and will provide a further report of progress to the Audit Committee in July.

5.5 Audit Committee Members attended a planning session with Internal Audit in January 2025 to plan for the next financial year of internal audit work.

## **6 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

6.1 This report provides an overview of recent Scrutiny and Audit Committee work and a look forward at planned activity for the Governance Committee to note.

**PHILIP BAKER**

**Deputy Chief Executive**

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## People Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
Transport for all age care	<p>At its 2024 away day the Committee discussed the challenges in transport for care and home to school transport and agreed that this, in collaboration with Children's Services and Adult Social Care and Health, could be a potential topic for a future scrutiny review.</p> <p>An initial scoping board was held in May 2025 where Members considered current statutory duties around transport in both adult social care and education; cost pressures; and programmes of work, planned and underway, to address these.</p> <p>The Board agreed that it was not currently the right time for a scrutiny review into this area, due to work in progress, but that potential upcoming changes to transport policy in ASCH would be brought to the Committee when appropriate. The Board was keen to scrutinise areas in Home to School Transport and agreed that a rapid review in the autumn into some specific cost avoidance measures could add value. A scoping board to look at these areas in more detail will be arranged.</p> <p>Membership of Scoping Board: Cllrs Belsey, Cross, Howell and Pragnell and John Hayling (Parent Governor Representative)</p>	Further Scoping Board July 2025
Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics		
Suggested Topic	Detail	
Carers Partnership Strategy	At its 2024 away day the Committee agreed to recommend that a report on the progress of the Carers Partnership Strategy be brought to the Committee and that it may wish to consider this topic for a future scrutiny review.	
Recruitment of foster carers	At its 2024 away day the Committee discussed the vital role of foster carers and agreed that exploring ways to improve the recruitment and application process, including seeking best practice in other local authorities, could be a potential topic for a future scrutiny review.	

Elective Home Education	<p>The Committee heard at their 2021 work planning awayday that issues relating to the increase in the numbers of children being electively home educated (EHE) remain a concern for the Children’s Services Department and expressed an interest in scrutinising the work the Department is doing in response.</p> <p>The Committee received additional updates on the local situation, as well as national updates, at their November 2022 and November 2023 meetings, including information at the November 2023 meeting on a DfE Consultation that has opened on revised home education guidance for Local Authorities to provide more clarity about ‘suitable education’ and support to be provided for home educators. In the absence of legislation for a statutory register, the guidance proposes Local Authorities set up a voluntary registration scheme for parents who home educate.</p> <p>The Committee agreed at the November 2023 meeting to retain this as a potential area for review but will await further information from the DfE consultation.</p>	
Scrutiny Reference Groups		
Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Children’s Services Reforms	<p>The Committee agreed at its March 2025 meeting to convert the existing Prevention in Children’s Services Reference Group and the Attendance Reference Group into a single Reference Group focussed on national reforms relating to Children’s Services, with a particular focus on the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The Reference Group will consider the impact of these reforms on ESCC and scrutinise the Department’s response to these. The Committee agreed to look at the recruitment of foster carers as part of this work.</p> <p>Membership of the Reference Group: Cllrs Belsey, Geary and Howell and John Hayling (Parent Governor Representative)</p>	16 June 2025
CQC Preparation Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed at its 2023 awayday to establish a Reference Group to support ASCH with the upcoming CQC inspection and LGA Peer Review.</p> <p>The Reference Group last met on 17 June 2024 and received a presentation from the Department on findings from the recent LGA Peer Review and the Department’s response to these findings, including the development of an ASCH Departmental Priority Action Plan. The Group welcomed the positive findings from the LGA report, discussed some of the areas for consideration, and agreed to continue to provide scrutiny support to the Department in its preparations for the upcoming CQC assessment.</p> <p>The next meeting is planned for autumn 2024 and will consider progress on the Departmental Priority Action Plan.</p>	TBC (depending on CQC report)

	Membership of the Reference Group: Councillors Cross, Geary (Chair), Howell and Webb.	
Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Reference Group to monitor progress of the East Sussex Health and Social Care Integration Programme and identify areas for future scrutiny. It reviews HASCIP progress reports provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board and meets on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.</p> <p>The Group last met on 24 June 2024 to consider the Shared Delivery Plan year 2 refresh. The Group welcomed the progress of integrated care in East Sussex and discussed the new governance arrangements, hospital discharge, NHS funding, and the specific are of focus in the SDP on Children and Young People at a pan-Sussex level.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, Geary (Chair) Howell and Webb.</p>	Next meeting: 18 June 2025
Adult Social Care reforms Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed at its 2022 work planning awayday to establish a Reference Group to consider the impact and implementation of the national Adult Social Care reforms. Implementation of the reforms was subsequently delayed in the 2022 Autumn Statement from October 2023 to October 2025 and the first meeting of the Group will take place closer to implementation.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillor Geary</p>	TBC pending further developments
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) Board	RPPR Board meets annually to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and spending and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the scrutiny committee.	Next meeting: December 2025
<b>Reports for Information</b>		
<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Proposed Date</b>
<b>Training and Development</b>		
<b>Title of Training/Briefing</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Proposed Date</b>
<b>Future Committee Agenda Items</b>		<b>Author</b>
<b>14 July 2025</b>		

East Sussex Housing Partnership Strategy	To inform the Committee of work to develop an East Sussex Housing Partnership Strategy	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Healthy Ageing Scrutiny Review	6 month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
SEND inspection report	To update the Committee on the outcomes of the recent SEND inspection and the Department's response.	Director of Children's Services
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To commence the Committee's involvement with the RPPR process for 2025/26 financial year by reviewing the information in the Quarter 4 (end of year) (2024/25) Council Monitoring report and the State of the County report.	Chief Executive
<b>22 September 2025</b>		
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2025/26 financial year.	Chief Executive
Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report	The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report outlines the safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex during the previous financial year, as well as some of the main developments in place to prevent abuse from occurring.	Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board
Annual Review of Safer Communities	To update the Committee on performance in relation to Safer Communities in 2024/25 and the priorities and issues for 2025/26 that will be highlighted in the Partnership Business Plan.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
<b>20 November 2025</b>		
East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report	Presentation of the annual report of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership.	Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
Equality and Inclusion in ASCH	To update the Committee on the progress of the Equality and Inclusion Strategy in ASCH.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Review of ASCH savings proposals	At its 2024 away day the Committee agreed to recommend that a report on the impacts of any agreed savings be brought to the Committee in September or November 2025 as part of its Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) item.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Climate Change Health Impact Assessment	A report to the Committee on the draft Climate Change Health Impact Assessment report.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2025/26 financial year.	Chief Executive
<b>12 March 2026</b>		
East Sussex Education Attainment and Performance	To update the Committee on the education attainment results for the 2023/24 academic year.	Director of Children's Services
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2025/26 financial year.	Chief Executive
Healthy Ageing Scrutiny Review	12 month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health

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## Place Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
To be agreed		
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
To be agreed		
List of Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review or Reference Group Topics		
Suggested Topic	Detail	
Footway (Pavement) Maintenance	This topic was discussed as part of the Scrutiny Review of Pothole Management and the Review Board has suggested that the Committee may wish to carry out a scrutiny review on this topic. Some of the issues regarding additional investment in pavement maintenance may be similar to those examined as part of the pothole review.	
Highway Drainage	The Review Board who worked on the Scrutiny Review of Pothole Management has also suggested that the Committee may wish to carry out a scrutiny review on highway drainage. This topic has links to storm overflows, flood risk management and climate change mitigation measures.	
Climate Change	The Committee has agreed to consider scoping a review to examine the Council's countywide work on climate change, which could look at countywide actions and how the Council works with other organisations (e.g. District and Borough councils) on this issue.	
Parking Policy	A potential review of parking policy examining how the Council manages highway space in relation to allowing vehicles to park on street including for Electric Vehicle charging; the rational for pricing and could it be revised (e.g. can parking policy influence or encourage to more Active Travel); how the	

	Council uses any parking revenue surplus and how that can be used under 2004 Traffic Management Act to fund other transport measures in areas where public expect ESCC to deliver services or projects where the Council does not have funding.	
Local Speed Limit Policy – Part 2	Part 2 of the Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy including: the work undertaken to review speed limits, their funding and cost; the role of speed limits in the context of the LTP4; the LTP4 prioritisation process and available resources; and the policy framework and budget allocation for 20mph limits and zones of other local authorities and the approaches they have taken to 20mph limits.	
Scrutiny Reference and Working Groups		
Reference Group Title	Subject Area	Meetings Dates
Asset Management Strategy Working Group	The Committee has established a Working Group to provide scrutiny input into the update of the corporate Asset Management Strategy. Membership of the Working Group consists of Cllr Hilton, Cllr Hollidge, Cllr Lunn, Cllr Murphy (Chair) and Cllr Redstone.	TBC summer 2025.
Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) Reference Group	The Committee agreed at the meeting held on 20 March 2025 to establish a Reference Group, together with members of the People Scrutiny Committee, to provide scrutiny input into the work on Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation (LGR). Membership of the Reference Group consists of all Place Scrutiny Committee members and People Scrutiny Committee members Cllr Cross, Cllr Geary, Cllr Howell and Cllr Pragnell.	23 July 2025, 11 September 2025
Reports for Information/Briefings		
Subject	Detail	Proposed Date
Increased Use of Artificial Intelligence.	For the committee to have a briefing or report on the increased use of AI, including what was happening currently, a risk analysis and the potential benefits (e.g. where AI could be used to gain efficiencies in areas such as process documentation).	Summer 2025
The Keep	A report or briefing on The Keep including information on who uses it, how the service works, what are the costs of the service and how it generates income, together with a site visit for committee members.	To be agreed
Funding bids and opportunities from Government	A report or briefing outlining how ESCC can work collaboratively with District and Borough councils in East Sussex to ensure funding allocated as part of Levelling Up and Town Deals etc. (managed by Government and the relevant	To be confirmed

	District or Borough councils) improves Traffic Management, Movement and Access, Highway improvements and the Public Realm in these areas which are ESCC's responsibility.	
<b>Training and Development</b>		
<b>Title of Training/Briefing</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Proposed Date</b>
To be agreed.	To be agreed.	
<b>Future Committee Agenda Items</b>		<b>Author/Witnesses</b>
<b>22 July 2025</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To commence the Committee's involvement with the RPPR process for 2026/27 by reviewing the information in the Quarter 4, end of financial year (2024/25) Council Monitoring report and the State of the County report.	Chief Executive / Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
Highways Maintenance Contract	To receive an update report on the key performance indicators of the Highways Maintenance Contract at the end of year 2 of the contract.	Assistant Director Operations / Highways Contract Manager
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
<b>29 September 2025</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2026/27, by considering any RPPR updates, reviewing service-based information and Portfolio Plans.	Chief Executive / Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Active Travel Ratings.	To receive an update report on the LCWIP to understand what progress is being made and the update of the LCWIP that will be undertaken as part of the LTP policy review.	Director of Communities Economy and Transport / Assistant Director Economy

Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy	To receive the first update report on the implementation of the recommendation from the Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy	Assistant Director Communities / Head of Communities
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
<b>17 November 2025</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	The Committee will examine any additional information requested at the September meeting and consider any updated RPPR information for 2026/27.	Chief Executive / Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
<b>19 March 2026</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	The Committee will review its input into the RPPR budget setting process, and the impact of any recommendations or comments made by the Committee.	Chief Executive / Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy	To receive the second update report on the implementation of the recommendation from the Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy	Assistant Director Communities / Head of Communities
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Scrutiny and Policy Adviser
<b>Future Items – to be scheduled</b>		<b>Witnesses</b>
Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) Road Collisions	The Committee requested an update report on the effectiveness of the interventions that have been put in place to try and reduce the number of KSI collisions on the County's roads and have an outline of the measures that other local authorities have put in place to tackle this issue.	Director of Communities Economy and Transport / Assistant Director Communities

## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
To be agreed.		

Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
To be agreed.	To be agreed.	To be agreed

List of Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics	
Suggested Topic	Detail
To be agreed.	

Scrutiny Reference Groups		
Reference Group Title	Subject Area	Meetings Dates
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) HOSC liaison group	Regular informal meetings with SPFT and other Sussex HOSC Chairs and Vice Chairs to consider the Trust's work and other mental health issues.  Membership: Cllrs Belsey and Robinson	Next meetings: April 2025
Reports for Information		
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date
To be agreed.		
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date
Visit to Ambulance Make Ready station and new Operations Centre – East.	A visit to the new Medway Make Ready station and new Operations Centre for 999 and 111 services once the new centre is operational.	TBC
Visit to the new Inpatient Mental Health facility at Bexhill	A visit to the new Inpatient Mental Health facility due to be built at a site in North East Bexhill to replace the Department of Psychiatry at Eastbourne District General Hospital (EDGH).	TBC but likely 2025
Visit to new Sussex Surgical Hub at Eastbourne District General Hospital	A visit to see the new minor surgical hub that has been built at Eastbourne District General Hospital.	July 2025

Future Committee Agenda Items		Witnesses
<b>26 June 2025</b>		
NHS Sussex Winter Plan	To receive an update report on the Winter Plan to review how the Plan was implemented this year and to highlight any learning or other issues to be taken forward into the next Plan or actioned separately. The report to include an update on ambulance handover times at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and the work being undertaken on delayed discharge from hospital	Representatives from NHS Sussex, University Hospitals Sussex (UHSx), ESHT, SPFT and SECamb.
Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS)	To receive an update report on the implementation and mobilisation of the new contract for Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS) in Sussex.	Representatives from NHS Sussex.
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
<b>18 September 2025</b>		
Access to Primary Care Services – GPs and Primary Care Network (PCN)	An update report on the working being undertaken to improve access to GP services and appointments in East Sussex, including Primary Care Network (PCN) performance and services provided. Report to include an update on primary care (GP surgery) estates issues, especially in areas of housing growth, GP recruitment and the availability of being able to book online appointments.	Representatives from NHS Sussex.
HOSC Review of the Provision of Audiology Services in East Sussex.	To receive a response from NHS Sussex to the HOSC Review of Audiology Services and the recommendations contained in the report of the Review Board agreed at the HOSC meeting held on 6 March 2025	Representatives from NHS Sussex.
Paediatric Service Model at Eastbourne District General Hospital (EDGH)	To receive an update report on the changes made to Paediatric Service Model at EDGH after 18-20 months operation of the new model, to include an update on APNP staffing and the use of the former Scott Unit for paediatric services.	Representatives from ESHT
CYP Mental Health update	To receive an update report on mental health services for children and young people, including CAMHS, mental health in schools, and neurodevelopmental services.	Representatives from NHS Sussex and SPFT

Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
<b>11 December 2025</b>		
NHS Sussex Winter Plan	To receive a report on the Winter Plan for 2025/26. The report to include an planning across the health system for East Sussex including services provided by ESHT, UHSx, MTW, SECamb and SPFT that provide services to East Sussex residents.	Representatives from NHS Sussex, University Hospitals Sussex (UHSx), ESHT, SPFT MTW and SECamb.
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
<b>5 March 2026</b>		
SECamb CQC report	To receive a further update report on the progress of South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb) improvement journey and exiting the Recovery Support Programme (RSP).	Representatives from SECamb
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
<b>Items to be scheduled – dates TBC</b>		
Uckfield day surgery	To receive a report from ESHT on the findings and outcomes of its pilot of non-complex day surgery cases that currently take place at Uckfield Community Hospital carried out at Eastbourne District General Hospital and Conquest Hospital. Timescales to be agreed but likely September 2025.	Representatives from ESHT
Access to NHS Dentistry Services	To receive a further update report on the progress being made to improve access to NHS Dentistry services in East Sussex. Timescales to be agreed.	Representatives from NHS Sussex
Ophthalmology Transformation Programme	To receive an update report on the implementation of the ESHT Ophthalmology Transformation Programme when more detail is known about	Representatives from ESHT and NHS Sussex.

	the plans for implementing phase 3 of the Programme. Timescale to be agreed with colleagues from ESHT.	
East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT) Capital Works Programme	To receive a report on the ESHT planned capital works programme detailing the infrastructure works that are going ahead and those that are being deferred at the Conquest, Eastbourne District General (EDGH) and Bexhill Hospitals once the impact of the announcement on the New Hospitals Programme and any additional capital funding has been evaluated.	Representatives from ESHT and NHS Sussex.
University Hospitals Sussex (UHSx), General Surgery and Neurosurgery	To receive an assurance report on the provision and safety of current general surgery and neurosurgery at UHSx Hospitals and in particular the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH), following the widening of the Police investigation into these services. To be programmed in liaison with NHS colleagues.	Representatives from NHS Sussex, University Hospitals Sussex (UHSx),
UHSx CQC report.	To receive an update report on University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust's (UHSx) response to the August 2023 CQC inspection report (with a particular focus on the actions being taken at Royal Sussex County Hospital on patient safety).	Representatives from UHSx
Cardiology transformation Programme	An update report on the implementation of the ESHT Cardiology transformation Programme including the transport and access recommendations and measures made as part of the review of this transformation programme.  <i>Note: Timing is dependent on ESHT implementation timescales.</i>	Representatives of ESHT and NHS Sussex.
Implementation of Kent and Medway Stroke review	To consider the implementation of the Hyper Acute Stroke Units (HASUs) in Kent and Medway and progress of rehabilitation services in the High Weald area.  <i>Note: Timing is dependent on NHS implementation process</i>	Representatives of NHS Sussex/Kent and Medway ICS
Specialised Children's Cancer Services – Principal Treatment Centres (PTCs)	To receive an update report from NHS England, London and South East on implementation of the changes to the Specialised Children's Cancer Services	NHS England, London and South East

	<p>– Principal Treatment Centre located in south London which serves East Sussex.</p> <p><i>Note: timing of the report will be dependent on the implementation of the changes which are not due until 2026 at the earliest.</i></p>	
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## Audit Committee – Work Programme

List of Suggested Potential Future Work Topics		
Issue	Detail	Meeting Date
Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.	As the agenda develops.	TBC
Audit Committee Working Groups		
Working Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Oracle Implementation (MBOS) Sub-Group	Oversight of the Oracle Implementation programme.	11 Sep 2025
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Date

Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
4 July 2025		
Assessment of the Corporate Governance Framework and Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25	Sets out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements and includes an improvement plan for the coming year, and the annual governance statement (AGS) which will form part of the statement of accounts.	Philip Baker, Deputy Chief Executive

Internal Audit Services Annual Report and Opinion 2024/25	An overall opinion on the Council's framework of internal control, summarises the main audit findings and performance against key indicators (includes Internal Audit Progress reports – Quarter 4, 2024/25, (01/01/25 – 31/03/25).	Nigel Chilcott, Audit Manager / Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor
Counter Fraud Annual Report	Annual report on Counter Fraud work	Simon White, Audit Manager – Counter Fraud / Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor
Strategic Risk Monitoring	Strategic risk monitoring report – Quarter 4, 2024/25 (01/01/25 – 31/03/25)	Ros Parker, Chief Operating Officer / Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Oracle Subgroup Update	Update from the Oracle (Previously MBOS) Subgroup.	Ros Parker, Chief Operating Officer
Audit Committee Annual Report	Annual Report 2024/25 of the Audit Committee: meeting a requirement of the CIPFA Position Statement for Audit Committee	Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer, Sophie Webb, Interim Senior Governance and Democracy Officer
Committee Work Programme	Discussion of the future reports, agenda items and other work to be undertaken by the Committee.	Sophie Webb, Senior Governance and Democracy Officer

<b>19 September 2025</b>		
Internal Audit Progress Report	Internal Audit Progress report – Quarter 1, 2025/26 (01/04/25 – 30/06/25)	Nigel Chilcott, Audit Manager/Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor
Internal Audit Self-Assessment against new Global Internal Audit Standards and updated Internal Audit Charter	A report setting out how the East Sussex Internal Audit Service complies with the new Global Internal Audit Standards based on a completed self-assessment and a proposed updated Internal Audit Charter in compliance with the new standards.	Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor
Financial Management Code	Report of the Financial Management Code	Thomas Alty, Deputy Chief Finance Officer / Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Strategic Risk Management	Strategic risk monitoring report – Quarter 1, 2025/26 (01/04/25 – 30/06/25)	Ros Parker, Chief Operating Officer / Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Committee Work Programme	Discussion of the future reports, agenda items and other work to be undertaken by the Committee.	Sophie Webb, Senior Governance and Democracy Officer
<b>21 November 2025</b>		
Review of Annual Governance Report & 2024/25 Statement of Accounts	Report of the external auditors following their audit of the Council's statutory accounts. It allows the committee to review the issues raised and assess the management response.	External Auditors/ Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer

Review of Annual Pension Fund Governance Report & 2024/25 Statement of Accounts	Report of the external auditors following their audit of the Pension Fund. It allows the committee to review the issues raised and assess the management response.	External Auditors/ Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Auditor's Annual (VFM) Report on East Sussex County Council 2024/25	To provide the Committee with Grant Thornton's Annual (Value for Money) Report for 2024/25	Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer & External Auditors
Treasury Management Annual Report & Mid-Year Report 2025	To consider a report on the review of Treasury Management performance for 2024/25 and for outturn for the first six months of 2025/26, including the economic factors affecting performance, the Prudential Indicators and compliance with the limits set within the Treasury Management Strategy before it is presented to Cabinet.	Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Internal Audit Progress Report	Internal Audit Progress report – Quarter 2, 2025/26 (01/07/25 – 30/09/25)	Nigel Chilcott, Audit Manager/Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor
CIFPA Code of Practice on the Governance of Internal Audit in the UK Public Sector – Self Assessment and Action Plan	To consider a report on the Council's self-assessment and action plan in response to the CIFPA Code of Practice on the Governance of Internal Audit in the UK Public Sector.	Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor / Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Annual Update on Property Investment Strategy and Key Sites 6 monthly Update	Consideration of an annual report on the implementation of the Property Asset Disposal and Investment Strategy.	Ros Parker, Chief Operating Officer
Committee Work Programme	Discussion of the future reports, agenda items and other work to be undertaken by the Committee.	Sophie Webb, Interim Governance and Democracy Officer

13 February 2026		
External Audit Plan 2025/26	This report sets out in detail the work to be carried out by the Council's External Auditors on the Council's accounts for the financial year 2025/26.	Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer & External Auditors
External Audit Plan for East Sussex Pension Fund 2025/26	To consider and comment upon the External Audit Plan for the East Sussex Pension Fund for the financial year 2025/26.	Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer & External Auditors
Internal Audit Strategy and Plan	Consideration of the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2026/27	Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor/ Nigel Chilcott, Audit Manager
Internal Audit Progress Report	Internal Audit Progress report – Quarter 3, 2025/26 (01/10/25 – 31/12/25)	Nigel Chilcott, Audit Manager/Russell Banks, Chief Internal Auditor
Strategic Risk Monitoring	Strategic risk monitoring report – Quarters 2 and 3, 2025/26 (01/07/25 – 31/12/25)	Ros Parker Chief Operating Officer / Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Committee Work Programme	Discussion of the future reports, agenda items and other work to be undertaken by the Committee.	Sophie Webb, Senior Governance and Democracy Officer

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## Scrutiny Review and Reference Group Timelines – Overview

Please note that timelines and dates of meetings may be subject to change due to the evolving nature of scrutiny work.

### Scrutiny Reviews

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December onwards
Healthy ageing (People)			Progress report to committee					Progress report to committee (March TBC)
Transport for all age care (People)	Scoping Board		Further Scoping Board	Main review activity (TBC)			Report to committee (TBC)	Report to Cabinet (Jan) and Council (Feb) TBC
Speed limit policy (Place)					Progress report to committee			Progress report to committee (March)
Pothole management (Place)					Progress report to committee			
Paediatric changes (HOSC)					Progress report to committee			
Audiology Services (HOSC)					NHS response to committee			Progress report to committee (March TBC)

## Reference Groups

	May	June	July	August	September	October	Notes
Devolution and Local Govt Reorganisation (Place & People)	Initial meeting		Meeting		Meeting		Ongoing meetings to link to key milestones in devolution and LGR processes
Asset Management Strategy (Place)			Potential meeting (timing TBC)				
Local Transport Plan (Place)							Group paused – meetings to be arranged on specific elements as required
Health and Social Care Integration Programme (People)		Meeting					Further meeting dates to link to developments in programme
Adult Social Care Reforms (People)							Meetings TBC based on national developments
ASC CQC assessment (People)			Potential meeting (subject to receipt of CQC report)	Potential meeting (subject to receipt of CQC report)			Awaiting CQC report
Children's Services Reforms (People)		Meeting					



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