

Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 16 July 2025

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1
2QH

Supplemental Agenda

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Contact

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Date: 11 July 2025

Item No. 8	Classification: Open	Date: 16 July 2025	Meeting Name: Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Cover report for the Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2025-26	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/a	
From:		Project Manager, scrutiny.	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission note the work programme attached as the Work Programme, plus appendix.
2. That the Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area

- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
 - f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
 - g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
 - h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
 - i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
 - j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
 - k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
 - l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
 - m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months
4. The work programme document lists those items that have been or are to be considered in line with the commission's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5. Set out in the Work Programme and review scope appendixes are the issues and reviews the Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission is due to consider in 2025-26.
- 6. The work programme is a standing item on the Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Julie Timbrell Project Manager
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=518		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
	Work Programme 2025-26 Appendix A Playspaces

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny		
Report Author	Julie Timbrell, Project Manager, Scrutiny.		
Version	Final		
Dated	16 July 2025		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team			16 July 2025

Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission

Emerging Workplan 2025 /26

Reviews

- Review: Playspaces **Appendix A**

Topics

- Customer Experience Plan pre scrutiny

Items

Streets for People – zoning consultation

Fly-tipping officer report to coincide with interview with Deputy Cabinet Member for Cleaner Southwark

Recycling rates and Food recycling – update on pilot , implementation and lessons learnt (link to Deputy Cabinet member/ Cabinet member interview)

Climate Emergency strategy and action plan update (March)

Community Safety Independent review – tbc as may go to OSC

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Standing item – cabinet member interviews, Borough Commander, (tbc):

- Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks and Young People
- Cabinet Member for Clean Air, Streets and Waste
- Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Neighbourhoods (linked to the Community Safety Independent review – tbc as may go to OSC)
- Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs and Business (tbc)
- Cabinet Member for Equalities, Democracy and Finance
- Cabinet Member for Council Homes
- Cabinet Member for New Homes & Sustainable Development
- Deputy Cabinet Member for Cleaner Southwark (with a focus on fly-tying tbc may attend with Cabinet member, tbc)
- Deputy Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
- Deputy Cabinet Member for Landlord Service

- [Borough Commander \(fire\)](#) (tbc may go to OSC)
- Borough Commander (policing) (tbc may be OSC)

Proposals for scrutiny (to be considered)

- CCTV (link in with Community Safety independent review) – tbc may go to OSC
- Phone snatching (link in with Community Safety independent review) – tbc may go to OSC
- [Policing oversight board](#)

Recommendations from previous administrative year 2024/25:

- Energy review update – briefing paper to update on progress
- Flooding and resilience
- Green Finance update – briefing paper to review from cabinet member and officers
- The Thames and opportunities to increase biodiversity and recreation along the foreshore

Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission		
Meeting	Date	Items
1	Wednesday 16 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Experience Plan pre scrutiny • Streets for People – zoning consultation • Playspaces – officer paper (tbc) • Biodiversity review – cabinet response (to note) • Workplan
2	Wed 15 October	<p>Make Space for Girls London Play</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks and Young People</p>
3	Wed 26 November	Playspace evidence (tbc)
4	Tue 3 February	<p>Cabinet Member for Clean Air, Streets and Waste (plus Deputy Cabinet member for a Cleaner Borough welcome to attend too)</p> <p>Recycling and food recycling Fly-tipping</p>
5	Thu 12 March	Climate Emergency strategy and action plan update

Scrutiny Review Scoping Proposal Form

Procedure:

1. The proposer must complete Part 1. Parts 2 and 3 will be developed by the Scrutiny Team working with the proposer and other Scrutiny members – any information which can be added now will help in taking the Review forwards. Forms should be emailed to ScrutinyTeam2@southwark.gov.uk or relevant Scrutiny officer
2. The *blue, italicised text* is for guidance only and can be deleted
3. The CfGS's [Running Effective Reviews – a Practice Guide](#) provides further useful advice

Part 1 (to be completed by proposer of Scrutiny Review)	
Title of Review	<i>Play space – ensuring Southwark has sufficient good quality and accessible play spaces for all children and young people.</i>
Reason for Review	<p><i>Play spaces offer numerous benefits for children's development, including physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth. They provide a safe and stimulating environment for children to learn, explore, and engage with their world.</i></p> <p><i>The impact of the Covid lockdowns brought into sharp relief the importance of good quality outside play space for children and young people, both during the pandemic and in recovery.</i></p> <p><i>Investment in good quality outside play space is impactful in terms of Public Health, education and community safety, and return on investment.</i></p>
Rationale, Importance and Relevance	<p><i>The review is seeking to address:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I. Variable quality – in terms of design, accessibility, age of equipment and maintenance (including variability across playgrounds in parks and on housing estates)</i> <i>II. Inclusive design, particularly for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Girls (from early years to secondary-school age)</i> <i>- Disabled children and young people</i> <i>III. The adequacy of associated facilities, including for the adults who maybe looking after the child (e.g. toilets, drinking water)</i> <i>IV. The link between play space provision and community safety, specifically the role designing out crime plays, if any, in design and maintenance of play and open space provision.</i>

	<i>In addition, the review will examine the impact of Regeneration schemes and relevant policy, including planning, to ensure these are fit for purpose and promote development and maintenance of good quality play spaces.</i>
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Part 2 (to be completed by the Scrutiny team in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and relevant officers)

Internal stakeholders and partners	<p><u><i>Councillor Portia Mwangangye</i></u> <u><i>Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Young People</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Councillor Natasha Ennin</i></u> <u><i>Cabinet Member for Community Safety</i></u></p> <p><i>Chief Officer(Strategic Director): Aled Richards Strategic Director Environment, Sustainability & Leisure</i> <i>Director: Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure</i> <i>Head of Service: Tara Quinn, Head of Parks and Natural Environment</i></p> <p><i>Teams / Service Areas / Departments most likely to be involved or affected: tbc</i></p>
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Part 3 (to be completed by the Scrutiny team in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and relevant officers)

Context	<p><i>The review is a both Service and Issue-led.</i></p> <p><i>The review can draw upon recent Play space audit (tbc)</i></p> <p><i>There is an Open Space Needs Assessment in progress (tbc) that the review can influence</i></p>
Aims and Objectives	<p><i>The aim is to improve the quality of play spaces and ensure adequate provision.</i></p> <p><i>Make recommendations to improve the outcome and delivery of play spaces to ensure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Good quality</i> • <i>Accessibility (for girls and disabled children in particular)</i> • <i>Provision is supported and enhanced through regeneration</i> • <i>Associated facilities are factored into delivery (e.g. toilets, drinking water)</i> • <i>Adequate geographical provision</i> • <i>Safety</i>

<p>Scoping lines and Key Questions</p>	<p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>What is Southwark's play provision like for girls in the borough?</i> ▪ <i>How is sex taken into account when designing park improvements and associated facilities (e.g. toilets, drinking water)? What data is used to inform this?</i> ▪ <i>How is provision for disabled children considered?</i> ▪ <i>How is inclusive play/open space taken into account in the planning process when working with developers on play provision and phasing of works?</i> ▪ <i>What are the incidences of crime/ASB in our play spaces (on estates and off estates)? How are these monitored and managed?</i> ▪ <i>How are we designing out crime in our play spaces?</i> <p>Out of scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Public toilet provision in parks and the borough more generally</i>
<p>Approach used to gain evidence of and insight into the issue</p>	<p>Task & Finish</p> <p><i>The review will be completed over the course of the administrative year 2025/26</i></p> <p>What existing work/knowledge is available to inform this review? <i>For example: related historic reviews or consultations undertaken in Southwark or other LAs / experience of Officers in relevant department e.g. to identify useful local experience / background data and statistics / research or academic studies / government reports / reports from think tanks or specialist organisations / media reporting / also, more specific background such as Scrutiny's previous work on the issue</i></p> <p>The review will consider evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leisure and play officers</i> • <i>Relevant Lead Cabinet Members</i> • <i>Make Space for Girls: https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk/</i> • <i>London Play</i> <p>Who should provide evidence and how? <i>(note: Officers in relevant departments can provide suggestions and draw on their local specialist networks)</i></p>

	<p><i>What new work can inform this review? and how can evidence be integrated / triangulated with other knowledge and evidence to provide deeper insight and greater reliability?</i></p> <p><i>Which of the following methods are most appropriate for the key questions? Why? Consider e.g. timings, resource needed, scope of issue</i></p> <p>Focus groups – can select members for representativeness, experience or expertise for sharing local/professional knowledge, testing findings, or guiding on Comms, delivery</p> <p>Surveys/questionnaires – low-cost method to gain extensive evidence and/or testing initial findings. Scrutiny pages on Council’s Engage platform could be used for a ‘Call for Evidence’, for example.</p> <p>Interviews – intensive method for in-depth understanding of process, history of experience, policy etc</p> <p>Site visit / listening event - ‘Street stall’ / ‘Town Hall’ event – for gaining first-hand knowledge of an issue and the experiences of those it affects whether through a more informal approach in the area concerned (e.g. listening event or ‘street stall’) or a structured Q&A approach (leaning towards a ‘Town Hall’ event)</p> <p>Commissioned research or consultation – for specialist research skills or a particularly sensitive issue where independence might warrant costs involved</p>
Logistics	<p><i>What resources, specialist skills, site visits, particular Officers or Members would help to make the Review a success?</i></p> <p><i>Who should attend (if not the Scrutiny Committee in whole)?</i></p> <p><i>How might Internal Comms help connect the Review to wider Council activities?</i></p>
Outputs and Deliverables	<p><i>What will the Review produce and in what format? How can its impact be maximised? When will you report back to the Committee/Commission?</i></p> <p><i>How many meetings will be used to plan, progress and deliver the review? How can mid-review learning be shared with Committee members to inform (for example) the development of challenge questions? the direction of the ongoing review? Chairs’ summaries during meetings and Officers’ minute-taking?</i></p>
Next steps	

	<p><i>The Scrutiny Team will draft a Terms of Reference based on the responses above and other information and provide this to the originating committee/task group for discussion and agreement at the review's first meeting.</i></p>
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	<p><i>Is anything else needed before that first meeting?</i></p>
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Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025-26

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Julie Timbrell Tel: 020 7525 0514

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
		Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Team SPARES	10
		External	
Electronic Copy Members <u>Councillors:</u> Councillor Esme Hicks (Chair) Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair) Councillor Maggie Browning Councillor Sabina Emmanuel Councillor David Parton Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Hamish McCallum <u>Coopted members:</u> TBC Reserves Members Councillor Reggie Popoola Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Youcef Hassaine Councillor Esme Dobson Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Rachel Bentley Councillor Adam Hood		Total: 10 Dated: May 2025	