

Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 26 November 2025

7.00 pm

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

Membership

Councillor Esme Hicks (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor David Parton
Councillor Leo Pollak

Reserves

Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Youcef Hassaine
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Reginald Popoola

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. For details on building access, translation, provision of signers or any other requirements for this meeting, please contact the person below.

Contact Julie Timbrell on 020 7525 0514 or email: julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Althea Loderick

Chief Executive

Date: 18 November 2025



PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER

Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 26 November 2025
7.00 pm

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

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1. APOLOGIES	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4. MINUTES		
5. COMMUNITY SAFETY REVIEW		1 - 18

The Community Safety Review will be covered alongside:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots
- Play Space Scrutiny Review

A Community Safety Review cover report and presentation is enclosed.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
6.	PLAY SPACE SCRUTINY REVIEW: PLANNING AND REGENERATION	19 - 32
	The officer report enclosed provides an update on the Open Space Needs Assessment and a wider briefing on how regeneration schemes support provision and upgrades of playgrounds, to support the Play Space Scrutiny Review.	
7.	PLAY SPACE SCRUTINY REVIEW: HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & LEISURE	33 - 40
	A briefing report on spending and service provision by Housing and Environment, Sustainability & Leisure Directorates is provided, to note, to enable comparison to inform the Play Space Scrutiny Review.	
8.	WORK PROGRAMME	41 - 52

Date: 18 November 2025

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

Meeting Name:	Environment, Community Safety and Engagement Committee
Date:	26 November 2025
Report title:	Taking forward the independent review of community safety
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
From:	Stephen Douglass, Director Stronger Neighbourhoods

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Environment, Community Safety and Engagement committee:

1. Notes the findings of the Community Safety Review set out in this report.
2. Notes the development of the emerging service model for community safety and phased delivery plan.
3. Notes the progress already made, in implementing the early recommendations of the review: including area action plans and hotspot activity, expanded community warden's powers and operational improvements.
4. Provides any further comments for consideration as the model continues to be developed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. This report provides an update to the committee on the findings of the independent community safety review, the development of the new service model, and the progress made since Cabinet approval of the approach in September 2025.
6. In December 2024 Cabinet requested officers commission an independent review of Southwark's community safety approach. PA Consulting conducted the review between March and May 2025. Cabinet considered the review's findings in September 2025, noted the progress being made on implementing improvements and approved the direction of travel and implementation plan. The full review report is at this link: [Issue - items at meetings - Outcome of the Community Safety Review and Implementation plan - Southwark Council](#)

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Independent review approach and findings

7. The review found strong practice and a clear commitment to community safety, but identified eight core challenges that are limiting impact:
 - Need for greater strategic clarity.
 - Underuse of data and insight in prioritisation and tasking.
 - Low visibility and limited awareness of the role and responsibilities of the community safety team across the council.
 - Siloed working which impact on the community safety team's ability to join up activities across the council.
 - Insufficient focus on prevention and early intervention.
 - Unclear roles and responsibilities among statutory partners.
 - Tensions between borough-wide themes and local neighbourhood needs.
 - Limited learning from other Council's models and the need to share what works here more widely.
8. The review recommended a clear, place-based model with focused hotspot action, integrated enforcement, stronger data and wraparound support

The new service model

9. Cabinet approved development of a new service model that is built around a vision for “A safer Southwark where crime is low, people feel safe, and trust is built through action”. This vision draws on Southwark 2030 and is supported by the insights of the independent review, the priorities identified by communities and the focus for the CSP.
10. The new service build is based on the following elements:
 - Neighbourhood delivery aligned to the refreshed neighbourhood approach.
 - Hotspot intervention for the 4-5 places with the data shows there are particularly challenges, as outlined in the appended action plans.
 - Integrated community safety and enforcement, bringing together wardens, housing, regulatory services police and other services.
 - Intelligence-led prioritisation using borough wide data and real time local insights.
 - Prevention-focused engagement and partnership working.
11. This model draws on learning from Newham, Greenwich, Hackney and the

Aylesbury Pilot.

Progress since cabinet

12. Work has progressed at pace over the summer and early autumn. Key updates include:
 - **Updated area plans and hotspot work:** Have been developed for the initial hotspot areas (Aylesbury, North Walworth, Peckham and Burgess Park), each with a one-page public summary and supporting operating plan. The Q2 updates for the plans are appended. Coordinated hotspot work has included visible enforcement, engagement with residents, safeguarding activity, and partnership interventions aligned to seasonal pressures.
 - **Integrated community safety and enforcement:** Early steps taken include expanded warden powers, nighttime patrols and more coordinated tasking with housing, ASB and police.
 - **Development of ward and hotspot dashboards:** To increase use of local intelligence to drive weekly deployments and operational plans.
13. The following provides more detail on some of the specific activity:
 - The **expansion of the community wardens' presence and powers**, which has increased visible patrols and local engagement. The service has expanded patrol coverage and is now equipped with a broader set of enforcement powers (which came into effect in July 2025) ASB warnings and community protection warnings and community protection notices to tackle issues such as public nuisance and persistent ASB.
 - Commencement of implementation of a **single flexible warden service** with consistent branding, a resource that is data and insight driven so the resource goes where most needed, changes to shifts (working to 10pm through the summer), trialling the new nighttime patrolling service through external provider, and new uniform branding to be launched in line with integrated enforcement.
 - **Southwark's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU)** focuses on serious ASB within the borough's housing stock, working to safeguard residents' safety, health and wellbeing. It plays a key role in the borough's integrated enforcement response, alongside community wardens and housing.
 - The council consulted on persistent anti-social behaviour in public areas including implementing **Public Space Protection Orders and is now considering next steps**. Where used appropriately, proportionately and with local support PSPOs are one of the positive measures at our disposal to help prevent anti-social behaviour. PSPOs are a further tool to

reinforce the shift toward visible, local enforcement that tackles the behaviours causing most concern to residents.

- From August 2025 the borough launched a **new night-time uniform patrolling service (NTUPs)**, this is a dedicated presence in key places and is designed to increase public confidence and with a focus on women's safety and tackling harassment and intimidation. The council has also varied the current contract with ACPOA to increase the capacity to enforce for environmental crimes such as littering, graffiti and fly tipping.
- In July 2025 there was a commitment to **increased numbers of Police** in Peckham and Walworth town centres taking these teams together to 28 officers in total. This investment in visible, community-focused policing supports the borough's wider approach to hotspot targeting and strengthens presence in areas of persistent concern.
- The review acknowledged that the Community Safety Team are strong at engaging with **young people** and work continues to both ensure young people's voices are central to our community safety work. We are also working to build on the strong partnership working with the Youth Justice Service on issues like serious youth violence, exploitation and antisocial behaviour.

Next steps

14. Implementing this approach required coordinated change at all levels, within the community safety team, across the council, and with partners and strong leadership. This work is underway as we refine our tactical and operational coordination across partners.
15. In that spirit the council will be coordinating, with partners, a day of action in each neighbourhood area and/or hotspot over the coming months, to help cement the new service model and ensure visibility of the new approach.

Independent Review of Community Safety

November 2025



The review

Community safety is a top priority for residents and the council wanted to be honest about what is working, what is not and what it can do better. In December 2024 Cabinet asked for an independent review of community safety and antisocial behaviour in Southwark. PA Consulting were appointed after a competitive process, and the review took place between March and May 2025.

To get the full picture, the review team:

- Looked at how services currently operate, in terms of staffing, costs and outcomes.
- Ran workshops with staff and partners to test and design solutions.
- Visited frontline services, including youth justice, to see how things work in practice.
- Interviewed over 40 stakeholders.
- Carried out a survey with over 100 staff which generated over 80 ideas for improvement.
- Worked with council leaders and directors to set out what they need from community safety and what they can offer in return.
- Held insight sessions to bring national expertise and best practice on issues such as the use of data, online safety and violence against women and girls.

Alongside this, officers began testing new ways of working including an integrated enforcement model and piloting joint operations in hotspots.

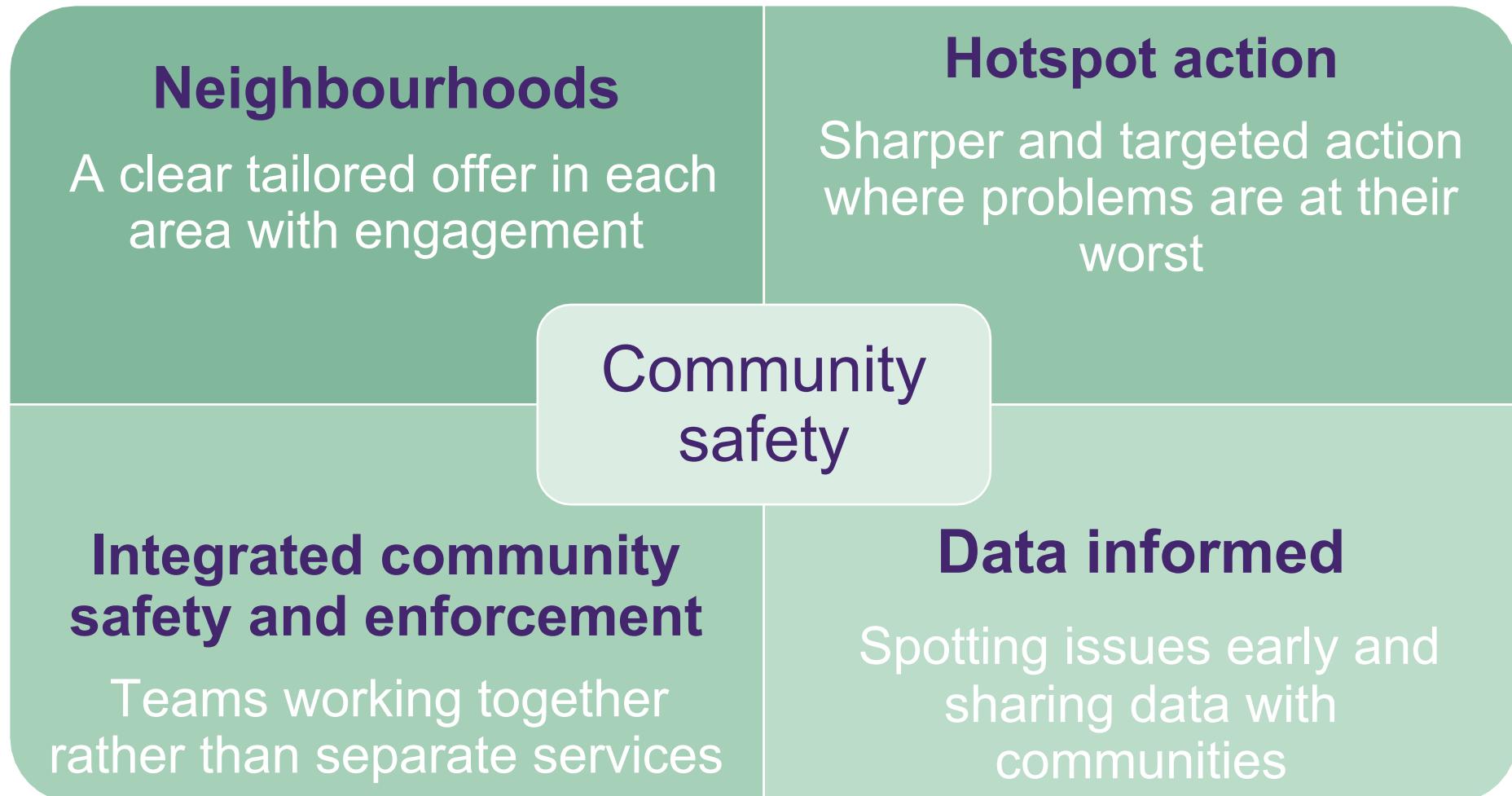
What the review found

The review found that Southwark has dedicated teams and strong practice but there are some things which hold community safety back. It identified 8 core challenges:

- There is a need for greater **strategic clarity**, without this it is hard to focus energy and resources on what matters most .
- **Under used data**, Southwark has a lot of data, but we could be using it better, we don't always use it to spot patterns, target activity or make decisions based on evidence.
- **Low awareness of who does what**, many teams, both inside and outside the council, don't fully understand how they contribute to keeping the borough safe or what the community safety team does. This makes joined-up work harder.
- **Services are not joined up**, different services often work separately which gets in the way of solving problems together.
- **Services are reactive**, meaning they tend to respond after things have gone wrong rather than tackling the causes earlier. before they escalate.
- **Unclear roles and responsibilities** among statutory partners (like police, housing providers and health) with the council often stepping in to fill gaps.
- It is difficult to balance the **different needs of places** and cross cutting issues like youth violence, a more localised, neighbourhood focused model is needed.
- **Not learning enough from others**, despite examples of good practice in Southwark there are great examples of what works elsewhere, these aren't always shared or used to shape what happens next and Southwark's best practice is not shared enough.

New approach

The issues identified by the review informed the design of a new approach that are aligned to Southwark's approach and the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership.



How we will focus our effort

The new model is built around the three Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities:

- Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour hotspots.
- Reducing violence against women, children and young people.
- Building trust and confidence in local policing.

The CSP is the group that brings together the council, police, health and housing, fire and community organisation to agree joint priorities for keeping Southwark safe.

The review made clear that Southwark needs to concentrate effort where it is needed most and that this changes. This means looking at challenges through three lenses:

- **Theme:** the type of harm or use such as antisocial behaviour, youth safety, violence against women and girls.
- **Place:** where problems are concentrated such as estates, streets, town centres or specific parks.
- **Timing:** when problems are most acute such as evenings or other seasonal peaks.

The following table shows how the CSP priorities translate into focus areas, guiding where effort will be directed.

Priorities

Southwark 2030 Goal	S2030 Delivery Plan Action Area	CSP Theme	Focus On	Geographical	Seasonal
A Safer Southwark Crime is low and people feel safe	Make our borough safer by tackling crime & antisocial behaviour hotspots and their causes	Safe & Sociable Estates and Neighbourhoods (ASB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Night-time safety, (women safety)</i> <i>Public Space ASB</i> <i>Drug Related ASB</i> <i>Noise/Neighbourhood Nuisance</i> <i>Environment crime, litter/rubbish</i> 	Aylesbury Estate, Burgess Park, Peckham, (incl. Rye Lane), North Walworth	Q2- ASB, Noise, Unlicensed Music Events, Robbery/Theft Q3 – Autumn Nights, (Halloween/Fireworks ASB)
		Reducing Drug Related Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Drug Related ASB</i> <i>Properties linked to cuckooing, vice & drugs supply</i> 		Q2- Drug related ASB
	Reduce violence against women, children and young people	Reducing & preventing Violence & Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Robbery</i> <i>Theft</i> <i>Knife Crime</i> <i>Serious Youth Violence</i> 	SE1, Peckham, Walworth, Old Kent Road	Q1 – Robbery/Acquisitive Crime Q2 – Knife crime, Robbery, serious youth violence).
		Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Promoting Women's Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Public Space Safety</i> <i>Domestic Abuse</i> <i>Night-time safety</i> <i>Misogyny/Harassment</i> 	Peckham, Canada Water SE1 , Burgess Park , Elephant & Castle	Q2 – Night-time safety Q3 – Domestic Abuse/Women Safety Q4- Public Space Safety
	Improve trust and confidence in local policing	Increasing Trust & Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Visible Policing</i> <i>Engagement</i> <i>Priority</i> <i>Internal Police Culture</i> <i>Standards</i> <i>Residents Priorities</i> 		

What this means in practice

The new model is about visible changes that residents will notice.

- More visible presence through wardens, joint patrols and police working together. In neighbourhoods.
- Clear local action plans which summarise activity in hotspot areas and they are shared publicly. These hotspot areas will have a tailored approach with a sharper, faster responses.
- Better information, newsletters and dashboards showing what is being done.

In short: joined up action, visible locally backed by better data and a focus on prevention.

Integrated Community Safety and Enforcement

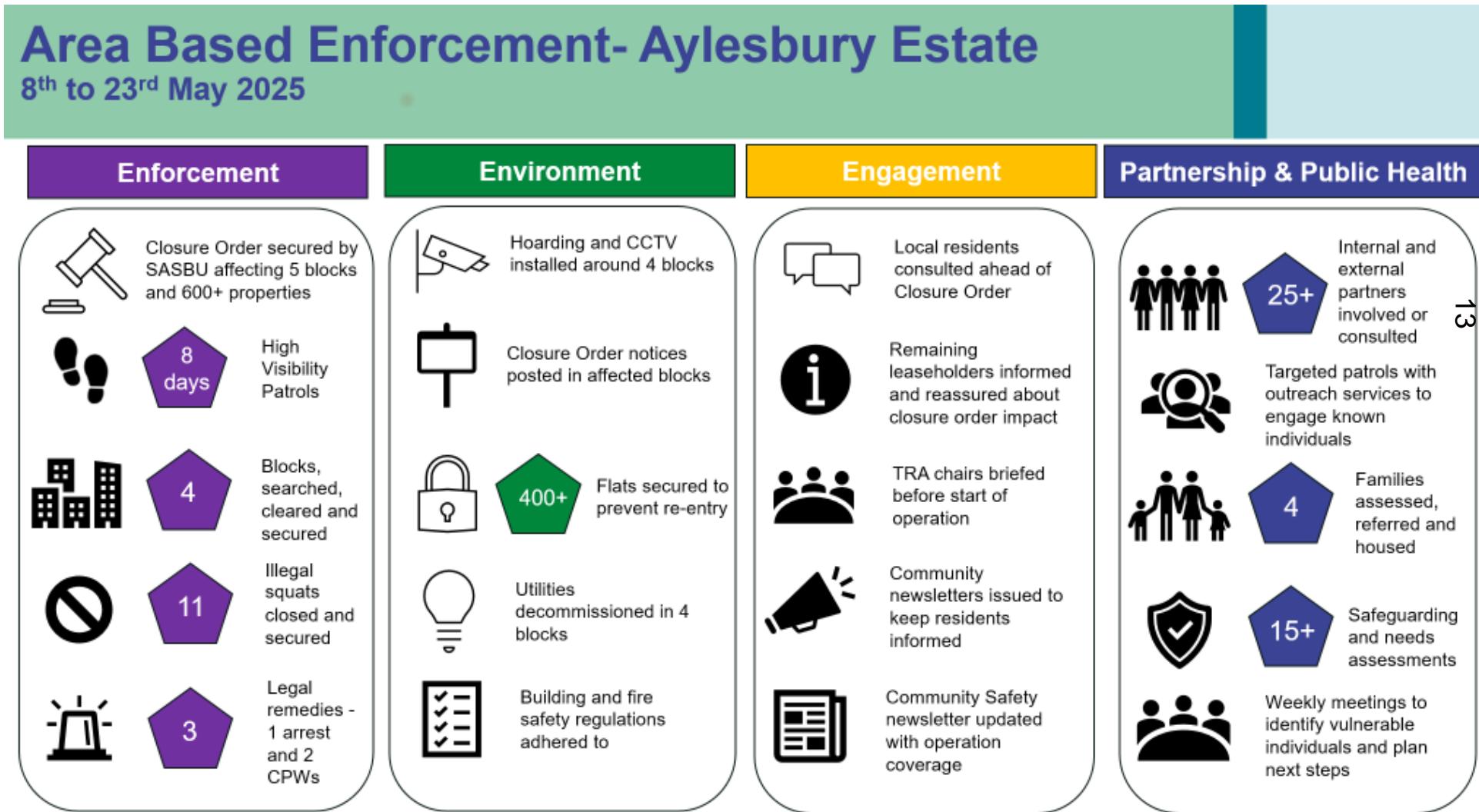
Integrated community safety and enforcement means bringing council and partner teams together, so residents get one joined-up response, instead of being passed between services. It is an essential part of the new approach. This means:

- **One team working together** with a range of powers and the ability to provide support to communities .
- **Sharper response**, targeted action in hotspots when issues peak
- **Neighbourhood focus**, a flexible resource that shifts to where it is needed most and is locally connected and visible
- **Support as well as enforcement**, linking people to housing, health and youth services.



What can be achieved

The Council has tested the approach, and the results demonstrate the impact possible. Together the changes outline mean a safer Southwark where crime is low, people feel safe, and trust is built through visible action.



Focus on crime and asb hotspots

NORTH WALWORTH AREA PLAN

July – September | 2025-26



AREA ON FOCUS

- 📍 Nursery Row Park
- 📍 Elephant & Castle
- 📍 Walworth Road

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE

- 📍 Reduce High-Harm and Volume Crime
- 📍 Address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- 📍 Work with Local Businesses to Improve Safety and Resilience
- 📍 Improve Public Perception of Safety and Trust in Policing
- 📍 Work to reduce Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- 📍 Ensure our public spaces are safe and enjoyable for all

WHAT WE DID

- 📍 **Supported the relaunch of Nursery Row Park** with Community Safety and Neighbourhood Police engaging residents to raise awareness of community safety issues.
- 📍 **Held a follow-up pop-up safety event at Nursery Row Park** with Police, SASBU, and Community Wardens, offering on-site crime prevention advice and anti-theft bike marking.
- 📍 **Walworth Village walkabout** with Cllr Ennin, Community Safety, and Neighbourhood Police to gather resident feedback and address concerns.
- 📍 The Elephant & Castle Town Centre Team worked with the Council to deliver activities under the **Home Office Summer Nights' initiative**, promoting safer communities through evening outreach, local events, and positive engagement to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- 📍 Supported police-led operations including **2 Operation Roscoe action days to tackle ASB**, as well as **Operation Martello**, which uses uniformed and plain-clothes patrols to reduce robbery

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- 📍 **Autumn Nights** – Tackling ASB during Halloween and Bonfire period and in the darker evenings.
- 📍 A **hyperlocal knife crime initiative** in Elephant and Castle, to reduce robbery and knife offences to be launched
- 📍 Supporting **Operation Sceptre** with weapon sweeps and community activity
- 📍 Continuing support for **Operation Martello** by linking patrols with businesses via the Council's Local Economy Team.
- 📍 Coordinating **retail crime days of action** to reduce shoplifting and pickpocketing
- 📍 Women's Safety Event to promote night-time safety



Nursery Row Park

Focus on crime and asb hotspots

BURGESS PARK AREA PLAN

July - September | 2025-26



WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE



A Welcoming Space

To make the park a welcoming and safe space for everybody to enjoy



Support Vulnerable Park Users

Multiagency approach to provide support to homeless people and people with dependency issues



Disrupt Crime

By having a visible uniform presence

WHAT WE KNOW

50
hectares

Largest park in Southwark



Highest levels of recorded crime and anti-social behaviour across all parks in the borough



Green Flag Award

WHAT WE ARE DOING



Maintain **data-driven deployment** of NTUPS and Community Wardens



Continue **engagement with residents and enforcement** of park byelaws



Parks Officer and PLOs supported **3 x Outreach sessions**

30

An Action Day where **30 personal safety alarms** were distributed to women



Work with event organisers to **improve communication of free/discounted ticket opportunities** for residents in 2026



Multi agency approach to addressing crime and ASB in Burgess Park

12

Anti-spiking kits were provided to local licensed venues

WHAT WE DID



Newsletter Distribution amongst residents and park users



Free tickets and discounts for local residents and library card holders for events



CCTV Audit Burgess Park currently has approximately 17 cameras with **night vision capability**.



Night-Time Uniformed Patrol Service (NTUPS) active since August addressing ASB and safety concerns



324 Patrols conducted



Enforcement actions taken for unlicensed events organisers (warnings, FPNs, referrals, Community Protection Warning



Focus on crime and asb hotspots

AYLESBURY ESTATE AREA PLAN July – September | 2025-26



AREA ON FOCUS



Wendover 1 - 471, Ravenstone, Padbury, Winslow, Taplow and Missenden Blocks

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE



Continued Enforcement of Closure Order

Active monitoring & enforcement to keep closure order blocks secure and free from unauthorised access.



Tackling voids & squatting

Recover and restore vacant homes and buildings affected by squatting

WHAT WE HAVE DONE



24/7 security patrols



Closure Order Extended by 3 months

61

Void properties and 2 community buildings recovered



Engagement and Support

Engagement with non-legitimate occupants to provide appropriate outreach support to resolve occupation



Resident Engagement

Communication with residents to build awareness of estate developments, promote reporting channels, and share community safety updates

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING



Second Closure Order application to maintain site control



Autumn Nights – Tackling ASB during Halloween and Bonfire period



5 CCTV camera installation completed



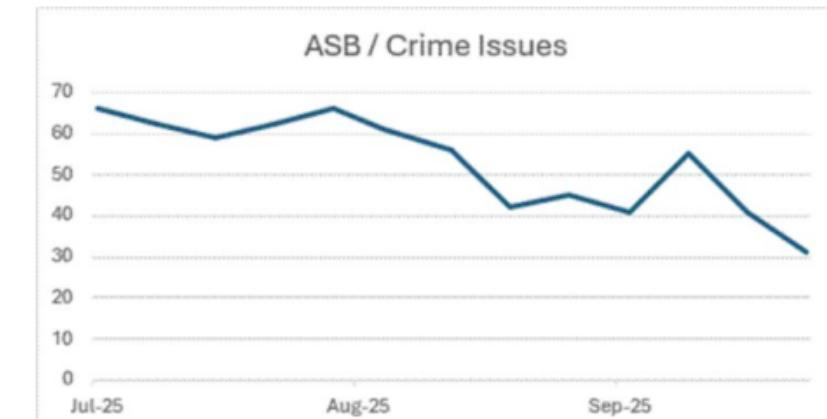
Wendover 1-240 hoarding installation



ASB and crime factsheet circulated



Commonplace relaunch



ASB and Crime Incidents Reported by Guardsman Security – Daily Reports by Area on Focus

Focus on crime and asb hotspots

PECKHAM AREA PLAN

July - September | 2025-26



AREA IN FOCUS



Peckham Town Centre



Surrounding Housing Estates



Rye Lane



Peckham Square



Surrey Canal Path



Sumner Road Park

WHAT WE HAVE DONE



Proactive action taken to tackle ASB in our parks

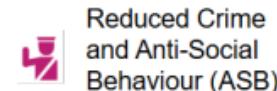


Community Safety flyers delivered to Tappersfield Estate & Wivenhoe Close



Operation Roscoe resulting in 8 ASB enforcement actions and 1 arrest and 14 people signposted to support services

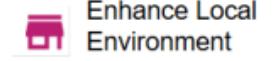
WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE



Reduced Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)



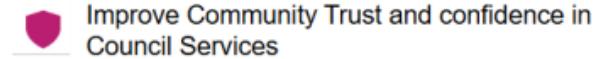
Partnership Prevention



Enhance Local Environment



Support Local Businesses



Improve Community Trust and confidence in Council Services

WHAT WE ARE DOING



Exploring 2 new locations for CCTV camera



Ongoing partnership work – Peckham Town Centre, Nunhead & Queens Road



Upgrading Town centre CCTV cameras for wider coverage and improved nighttime vision



Autumn Nights – Tackling ASB during Halloween and Bonfire period



Tackling Graffiti in Peckham

Taking it forward

VISIBLE

Action Now

- An action days or hotspot interventions in each neighbourhood
- Joint enforcement activities
- Visible partnership presence

Quick wins that residents and Members can see

OPERATIONAL

Action days deliver immediate wins while testing and cementing deeper integration

Integration Work

- MOUs with partners
- Prevention pathways
- Governance review for
- Cross-council coordination
- tasking – silver and bronze
- Partner expectations
- level
- Capacity building
- Data & intelligence systems
- Thematic integration

Takes time to mature but creates sustainability

Meeting Name:	Environment, Community Safety & Engagement Scrutiny Commission
Date:	13 November 2025
Report title:	Update from Planning and Regeneration on the Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA) and the role of regeneration schemes in supporting the provision and upgrade of playgrounds.
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/a
From:	Charlotte Brooks-Lawrie, Head of Planning Policy Neil Kirby, Assistant Director of Regeneration

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the update on the Open Space Needs Assessment is noted.
2. That the panel note the information presented on the role of regeneration schemes in the provision and upgrade of playgrounds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. As part of the Environment, Community Safety & Engagement Scrutiny Commission review of playspaces, a briefing has been requested on the following topics:
 - Progress with the Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA).
 - How regeneration schemes support the provision and improvement of playgrounds.

Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA)

4. The Open Space Needs Assessment is a statutory plan-making requirement arising from policy G4 of the London Plan (2021). The study will form part of the evidence base for the updated Southwark Plan, the review of which will commence in 2026. The previous open space assessment was carried out in 2013, in support of the current Southwark Plan (2022).
5. The Southwark Plan is a statutory document which sets out the development framework and spatial plan for the borough. This includes

for the allocation of land for housing, employment, infrastructure, biodiversity and open space. Current policies protect and designate open spaces, including Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), Borough Open Land (BOL) and Other Open Space (OOS). The borough's open space and green and blue infrastructure will continue form an integral part of the Southwark Plan's development framework.

6. The London Plan states that an OSNA should be in-line with the objectives set out in a Green Infrastructure strategy, required by policy G1 of the London Plan. The OSNA should also draw on existing strategies such as play and recreation, trees and playing pitches. The intention is that these strategies inform one other to deliver the multiple benefits of green infrastructure across the borough.
7. OSNAs must review and assess the needs, quality, and accessibility of the borough's open space, including open space that is not publicly accessible.
8. The OSNA brief is being developed in partnership with the Parks and Natural Environment team. The commissioning of the Green Infrastructure strategy will be included as a complementary part of the brief. This will ensure that green infrastructure is considered in an integrated way, as part of wider open space network. It will provide a framework for planning, delivering and managing green spaces and natural features. This includes the integration of green infrastructure into development, promoting connectivity and supporting climate resilience.
9. The Parks and Natural Environment team will also be commissioning an updated Playing Pitch strategy in due course.
10. The OSNA/ GI strategy will support updated Southwark Plan policies on open space, open water space, green infrastructure and biodiversity. This will help ensure that these spaces contribute to health, climate resilience, biodiversity, sustainable transport, and the delivery of high-quality green spaces aligned with Council's priorities.
11. The specific objectives of the OSNA/ GI strategy include:
 - Identification of the current and future needs for open space across Southwark, assessing deficits and surpluses in quantity, quality, and accessibility.
 - Informing planning policy by evaluating existing assets, guiding future provision and supporting open space designations and updated policies on open space provision, biodiversity and climate resilience.
 - Guiding land use decisions on opportunities to bring forward open space and greening, particularly in areas of deficiency.
12. Key outputs will include:
 - A comprehensive assessment of open space boundaries and designations across the borough, evaluating quantity, distribution, quality, accessibility, typology, condition, connectivity, and proximity to residential areas against defined criteria in the London Plan. GIS mapping will be used to visually

show these aspects.

- Identification of gaps in provision and consideration of current deficiencies and future demand, based on population trends and planned growth.
- A Green Infrastructure strategy, to include mapping and recommendations which draw on the findings of the OSNA, 2025 SINC review and emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

13. Completion of the OSNA/ GI strategy is expected by Spring 2026. The study will help meet the principles and objectives of Southwark 2030 by enhancing health and wellbeing, encouraging active travel and access to nature and protecting biodiversity.

Role of regeneration schemes in supporting the provision and upgrade of playgrounds

- 14. Southwark council has a strong track record of providing publicly accessible play spaces through private development, including new spaces on council land and privately owned premises. These schemes are primarily delivered via Section 106 obligations.
- 15. Under Policy S4 of the London Plan, residential developments are required to provide a minimum of 10 square metres of play space per child, based on the estimated child yield of the development. This requirement is calculated using the GLA Population Yield Calculator, which considers factors such as unit size, tenure mix, and location to estimate the number of children likely to live in a development.
- 16. The Southwark Plan policy P15 “Residential Design” supports this by requiring child play space on site, calculated using the GLA calculator. Developments must include communal gardens and green communal amenity space for all residents. Apartment schemes must provide dedicated play areas for children up to age 16. These spaces offer multiple benefits such as recreation, food growing, biodiversity, and sustainable drainage, and be in addition to external communal areas.
- 17. If the on-site provision of private or communal amenity space or play space is not feasible, the policy requires that the shortfall is offset by increasing communal space and providing a financial contribution to enhance nearby public open or play spaces.
- 18. The principles of Secured By Design and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are taken into account when designing play areas and wider developments. As part of the development of the design and the during the consideration of the planning application, specialist Designing Out Crime (DOCOs) in the Metropolitan Police are consulted. Within the context of parks and play spaces, the officers would assess landscaping, access points, lighting and overlooking, with the goal of creating safer, more sustainable communities.
- 19. While on-site provision of play space is the preferred approach, particularly for larger developments and masterplans, there is flexibility in how this requirement can be met. Where site constraints make it unfeasible to

deliver high-quality, appropriately located play space on site, off-site contributions may be considered acceptable, provided they clearly demonstrate how the identified need will be met elsewhere.

20. The Section 106 and CIL SPD (2025) supports this by setting the requirement for a payment in lieu (PIL) of £325 per square metre for play area needs which cannot be met onsite. This provides opportunities for S106 funding to be used to improve play areas close to a development site.
21. Officer involvement includes the negotiation and advice on forthcoming schemes, discharge of conditions and obligations and monitoring of existing agreements.
22. Privately owned but publicly accessible play spaces also positively contribute towards play provision within the Borough. This includes meeting the London Plan's recommended spatial access requirements, particularly for the 5-11 year age group. It also alleviates the maintenance costs associated with providing play provision within existing public parks. This includes:
 - St Francis Park, Champion Hill
 - St Johns Churchyard Playground, London Bridge & West Bermondsey
 - Carlton Grove, Nunhead & Queen's Road
 - Elephant Park, North Walworth
23. The Planning Policy team monitor play space provision from approved applications. This is reported annually in the Authority Monitoring Reports (AMRs). Table 1 shows the approved play space reported in AMRs for the financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25. A total of 22,633 sqm of play space has been delivered in this time period.

Table 1: Authority Monitoring Report data for the approval (net sqm) of play space: 2022/23 to 2024/25

AMR	Approved planning application	Planning application reference	Net onsite play space provision (sqm)
FY22/23	40-46 Solomons Passage	20/AP/3285	123
	Florian, Racine and Garage Site Sceaux Gardens	21/AP/1866	839
	21-23 Parkhouse Street	19/AP/0469	100
	25-33 Parkhouse Street	20/AP/0858	486
	Maydew House Abbeyfield Estate Abbeyfield Road	21/AP/2530	1,431
	Zone L, Canada Water Masterplan Surrey Quays	21/AP/3775	1,680

	Road		
	153-159 Abbeyfield Road	21/AP/3577	182
	Mapother House Maudsley Hospital De Crespiigny Park	20/AP/2768	1,258
	The Ledbury Estate Commercial Way and Old Kent Road	22/AP/0554	3,372
	12-38 Hatcham Road	21/AP/1121	230
	1 Ann Moss Way	22/AP/1084	81
	Credon House Verney Road	21/AP/3247	117
	Butterfly Walk Shopping Centre	19/AP/7057	492
	Total FY 22/23		10,391
FY23/24	Aylesbury Estate Land Bounded by Albany Road Portland Street Westmoreland Road and Bradenham Close	22/AP/1063	4,165
	Mason And Townsend House Strathnairn Street	22/AP/3683	350
	301-303 Ilderton Road	20/AP/3560	244
	Canada Water Masterplan	22/AP/2439	1,939
	Canada Water Masterplan	23/AP/0233	981
	Total FY 23/24		7,679
FY24/25	79-161 Ilderton Road	23/AP/0387	613
	Rear Of 254-272 Camberwell Road	20/AP/3482	206
	Ilderton Wharf 1-7 Rollins Street	21/AP/4757	757
	Land At 18 Blackfriars Road and 1-7 Stamford Street Together with Land At 18 Blackfriars Road Bounded by Stamford Street Paris Garden and Christ Church	23/AP/1854	1,210
	The Liberty of Southwark (formerly Landmark Court) - land bounded by Southwark Street Redcross Way and Cross Bones Graveyard	23/AP/2810	151
	5-7 Cottage Green And 69	21/AP/1254	182

	Southampton Way		
	78-94 Ormside Street	23/AP/2226	90
	Devonshire Place 747-759	23/AP/1862	1,160
	Friars Close Bear Lane	22/AP/4376	194
	Total FY24/25		4,563

24. Additionally, housing and regeneration schemes with planning approval are delivering on-site play space and contributing to off-site play space upgrades (see Table 2).

Table 2: On-site and off-site play space provision from approved planning applications

Approved planning application	Planning application reference	Onsite play space provision (sqm)	Offsite play space provision (sqm)
Rotherhithe Gas Holder Site, Rotherhithe	24/AP/0753	1,080	138
Tower Bridge Business Complex, North Bermondsey (Outline application)	23/AP/2124	4,700	626
Ruby Triangle, Old Kent Road (Outline application)	18/AP/0897	4,832	0
Devonshire Place, Old Kent Road	23/AP/1862	1,391	399
Malt Street, Old Kent Road (Outline application)	17/AP/2773	1,250	4,150
Canada Water Masterplan, Rotherhithe	18/AP/1604	6,740	0

25. Community Infrastructure Levy can also be used to support the refurbishment of play areas. Since 2022, 21 play space and upgrades have been completed in both parks and housing areas (Table A, Appendix 1).

26. As part of the recent allocation process for Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy, councillors have prioritised investment in existing play areas in several wards. In addition to providing funding of £1.043m for named playgrounds such as Alfred Salter and Millpond, £250,000 of funding has been identified to fund repairs to housing estate playgrounds in Borough and Bankside, London Bridge and West Bermondsey, North Walworth and Rye Lane.

- 27. A further investment through Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) is in playgrounds as part of wider park improvements such as Little Dorrit Park.
- 28. Numerous future projects will enhance and expand play space across the Borough (Table B, Appendix 1).
- 29. A current case study for how regeneration can support play areas and open space is Bramcote Park. This is a neighbourhood park in Bermondsey, separated into north and south by Verney Way. The southern side has been a park with trees and landscape since Victorian times. The northern side of the park was created in the 1980's along with the surrounding housing.
- 30. There has been extensive work with the local community as part of the Old Kent Road regeneration masterplan to co-design the park renovations. The latest proposal is to renovate the northern park and create a user-friendly hard surface area with less metal fencing. The landscape and new and existing trees will be enhanced to create a more open and accessible space. Formal and informal play equipment will be provided for a wide range of ages, creating a neighbourhood space for the community.
- 31. The refurbishment of the northern park is to take place early 2026, with the southern park programmed for late 2026.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

- 32. The adoption of the Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA) is expected to have a positive impact on the community by ensuring that open spaces are planned and managed to meet local needs.
- 33. By identifying gaps and opportunities, the OSNA will help create accessible, safe, and inclusive spaces that encourage social interaction, physical activity, and mental wellbeing. Well-designed open spaces foster a sense of belonging, provide areas for play and recreation, and support community events, strengthening social cohesion. Additionally, by improving green infrastructure and biodiversity, the OSNA contributes to healthier living environments and enhances resilience against urban pressures, benefiting both current and future residents.
- 34. The Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA) directly aligns with the Southwark 2030 Strategy commitment to clean, green environments by identifying gaps in provision, prioritising areas of need, and guiding improvements that enhance health, wellbeing, and biodiversity. Through providing a robust evidence base, the OSNA ensures that planning and investment decisions deliver accessible, high-quality, and inclusive open spaces for all residents.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

35. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees.
36. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.
37. The council's [Approach to Equality](#) commits the council to ensure that equality is an integral part of our day-to-day business. The [Equality Framework for Local Government](#) exist to help organisations, review and improve their performance for people with characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010.
38. Impacts on residents were assessed as being positive and of benefit to all borough residents. Positive impacts arising from the OSNA will help reduce health inequalities, foster social cohesion, and create a better environment for recreation and community interaction, contributing to a more equitable and resilient borough.

Health impact statement

39. The guidance provided by the Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA) is expected to have a neutral to positive impact on the health and wellbeing of Southwark's residents. By assessing the quantity, quality, and accessibility of open spaces, the OSNA helps ensure that communities have access to safe, inclusive, and high-quality green spaces. These spaces support physical activity, relaxation, and social interaction, which are essential for improving mental and physical health.
40. In addition, the OSNA promotes biodiversity and green infrastructure, creating environments that are resilient and sustainable. In doing so, it supports the Southwark 2030 Strategy's ambition to create a clean, green, and healthy borough, ensuring that residents can live well in safe and inclusive environments.

Climate change implications

41. Following council assembly on 14 July 2021, the council has committed to considering the climate change implications of any decisions.
42. The OSNA supports climate resilience by guiding the provision of green spaces that help mitigate urban heat, improve air quality, and manage flood risk through sustainable drainage. It promotes tree planting and habitat creation, contributing to carbon sequestration and biodiversity. By encouraging active travel and reducing reliance on cars, the OSNA also helps lower emissions, while providing safe, cooler spaces for communities during extreme weather events.
43. There are no direct climate change impacts arising from undertaking the Open Space Needs Assessment. This is a desk and fieldwork-based study which will

be undertaken by external consultants.

Resource implications

44. The Open Space Needs Assessment is in the process of being commissioned and budget has been allocated. There are no additional resource issues or requirements for carrying out the OSNA. A financial concurrent has not been sought.

Consultation

45. No consultation has taken place as part of this report.

Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance

46. No comment required.

Strategic Director, Finance

47. No comment required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<u>Southwark Plan 2022</u>	Southwark Council, Tooley Street. Planning and Growth	Planning.policy@southwark.gov.uk
<u>S106 and CIL SPD (2025)</u>	Southwark Council, Tooley Street. Planning and Growth	planning.policy@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Play Space projects delivered and proposed.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Steve Platts
Report Author	Charlotte Brooks-Lawrie Neil Kirby
Version	Final

Dated	13 November 2025	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		

Appendix 1

Table A: Completed play space projects within parks and housing sites post-2022

Project	Application ref.	Approval date	Project description
Play spaces within parks			
Pelier Park toddler play area	21/AP/3224	11.02.2022	Full refurbishment
Peckham Rye Under 5s Playground	16/AP/4014	26.01.2017	New and refurbished equipment
Victory Park	22/AP/2455	21.03.2023	Full refurbishment
Fredericks Playground	23/AP/3127	31.01.2024	Full refurbishment
Play spaces within Housing			
Aylesbury First Development Site - A	14/AP/3843	05.08.2015	New play space
Tissington Estate	19/AP/6375	28.04.2020	New play space
Bells Garden Estate	21/AP/1077	29.01.2022	New play space
Moody Road	16/AP/4702	21.05.2018	Full refurbishment
Adrian & Dennis (39-44 Rutley Close)	17/AP/4014	20.02.2018	Full refurbishment
345 Southwark Park Road	20/AP/1390	16.02.2021	New play space
Daniels Road	16/AP/4003	27.04.2017	New play space
Leather Market - Joseph Lancaster	17/AP/4661	10.01.2019	Full refurbishment
Playground resurfacing for community park (Grosv. Terr)	-	-	Part refurbishment
Long Meadow Playground Extension	-	-	Part refurbishment
Newington Estate TRA Play space	-	-	Part refurbishment
Salisbury Row Park Playground	-	-	Part refurbishment
Dawes House Play Area	-	-	Part refurbishment
Benhill Road Nature Garden	-	-	Part refurbishment
Jowett Street Play area	-	-	Part refurbishment

Table B: Proposed projects to improve and/or provide play space in parks and housing areas

Project	Project description
Play spaces within parks	
Peckham Rye Adventure Playground	Replacement of old play equipment with new, safer structures.
Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground	Planned improvement of deteriorated play equipment, pending safety reports and funding.
Bethwin Adventure Playground	Transformation into a modern adventurous play area for children aged 8+.
Nursery Row Park	Upgrading two play areas to be more dynamic and engaging.
Little Dorrit Park play area	Replacement of aging play equipment and enhancements to safety and accessibility.
GHM Play area	Replacement of worn play equipment and removal of redundant structures to improve accessibility.
Newington Gardens play area	Replacement or refurbishment of deteriorated play equipment.
Surrey Square Park play area	Full redesign and replacement of the existing play area.
Faraday Gardens Park play area	Full redesign and replacement of the existing play area.
Bird In Bush Park play area	Full redesign and replacement of the existing play area.
Burgess Park play area 2 (Under 5's)	Addition of inclusive play equipment to the existing area.
Honor Oak Recreation Ground play area	Addition of inclusive play equipment to the existing area.
Salisbury Row Park play area	Addition of inclusive play equipment to the existing area.
Dulwich Park	Refresh of existing play equipment and surfacing.
Goose Green	Replacement of failed play equipment.
Lucas Gardens Play Space	Improvements to toddler play facilities.
Play spaces within housing	
Bramcote Park	Refurbishment of the park and play space.
Guys Street Park	Refurbishment of the park and play space.
Rye Hill Estate	Redevelopment of play area with eco-friendly equipment for children aged

	1–11.
Bells Garden	Reinstatement of demolished playground with eco-friendly equipment and landscaping.
Fendall Street	Installation of a new playground, MUGA, and landscaped areas.
Maltby Street	Creation of a new playground designed for children under 8.
Alexis Street	Comprehensive play and park improvements including adventure play, gym, nature and social spaces.
Refreshed playground at Champion Park Estate	Refresh of old playground with replacement or maintenance of equipment.
Play, gym and communal area Lordship Lane Estate	Construction of new play area.
The Kirby Estate Play Park	New play space.
Redevelopment of children's play area (Pencraig Way)	New play space.
Gloucester Grove Estate	Upgrades to play space.
Ledbury Estate Playground	Installing new play space equipment.
Setchell Estate Playground	Upgrades to play space.
Arnold Estate Play	Upgrades to play space.
Leroy Street Playground	Upgrades to play space.
Champion Park Estate Playground Phase 2	Upgrades to play space.
Millpond Estate Playground	Reinstatement of a small play space.
New Disability roundabout Dulwich Park	Replacement of broken play equipment.
Great Estates Aylesbury Missenden Playground Area	Refurbishment of play space.
Heber School Early Years Playground	Replacement of play space equipment.
Repair and replacement of the children's equipment (Comus House)	Refurbishment of play space.

Briefing: Play space review

Environment, Community Safety & Engagement Scrutiny Commission – 26th November 2025

Prepared jointly by Directorates of Housing and of Environment, Sustainability & Leisure.

Overview

This briefing paper provides detail of spending and service provision for play spaces across sites managed by Housing and by Environment, Sustainability & Leisure. Where possible, information will be presented in table format to enable comparison.

This paper covers:

- comparison of operations & costs, including labour
- indicative costs for common play equipment repairs
- use of contractors
- comparison of standards
- ongoing initiatives around service improvement and cross-functional working

Comparison of operation & costs

Department	Environment, Sustainability & Leisure	Housing
Number of play sites	61	204
Number of pieces of equipment	Approximately 1,000 (estimation)	Approximately 1,350 (estimation)
Budget & breakdown	<p>£465,000 per year, all inclusive.</p> <p>Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal staffing costs: £384,388 Materials & external commissions: £60,476 <p>Note: budget includes additional CS Central Recharge of £20,136 for Service Level Agreement (SLA) management</p>	<p>£289,200 per year, all inclusive</p> <p>Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal staffing costs: £189,200 (£946,000 x 0.2, as 20% of the roles are dedicated to play). Materials & external commissions: £100,000
Team size & composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Works Team Operatives x 4 FTE Small Works Team Service Manager x 1 FTE Admin Support x 0.25 FTE Delivery Manager x 0.25 FTE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communal Repairs Technical Officers Technical Officers x 13 x 0.2 FTE Contract Managers x 3 x 0.2 FTE
Monthly inspections	<p>Carried out by Small Works Team Operatives (4 FTE)</p> <p>KPI: 100% sites inspected each month. KPI is monitored and consistently met.</p>	<p>Carried out by Communal Repairs Technical Officers (13 x 0.2 FTE, where 20% of their roles is dedicated to play inspections & repairs)</p>
Annual inspections	<p>Delivered by Play Inspection Company, direct award via Asset Management Services.</p> <p>Cost in 2024/25: £4,300 total</p> <p>Breakdown: Approximately £70/ site</p>	<p>Delivered by Play Safe, contracted via building contractor Bridgewater.</p> <p>Cost in 2024/25: £22,000</p> <p>Breakdown: £110/ site plus Bridgewater's service charge</p>

	<p>Output: Findings spreadsheet & site reports only. Does not include job costing.</p>	<p>Output: Findings spreadsheet plus costed repair works. Cost of works identified in 2024/25: £1.3m</p>														
Repairs	<p>Carried out on an on-going basis by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Works Team (approx. 80% repairs) • External contractors commissioned by Small Works Team (approx. 20% repairs). <p>See Use of contractors section below for detail.</p>	<p>Currently paused due to budget constraints: play areas being shut vs repaired.</p> <p>When repairs are carried out, these are by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External contractor (90% repairs) • Communal Repairs & Technical Officers (5%) • Small Works Team, when requested & capacity allows (5%) <p>See Use of contractors section below for detail.</p>														
Capital investment	<p>Significant - Mixture of mainly council capital but also CiL and S106:</p> <table> <tr> <td>• Capital</td> <td>£5.05m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• CiL</td> <td>£950k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• S106</td> <td>£1.1m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£7.1m*</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>*Rounded figures for playground projects currently in delivery no recent or historic completions included</i></p>	• Capital	£5.05m	• CiL	£950k	• S106	£1.1m	Total	£7.1m*	<p>Minimal – Mixture of CiL and S106</p> <table> <tr> <td>• CiL</td> <td>£397k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <u>S106</u></td> <td><u>£600k</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£997,000</td> </tr> </table>	• CiL	£397k	• <u>S106</u>	<u>£600k</u>	Total	£997,000
• Capital	£5.05m															
• CiL	£950k															
• S106	£1.1m															
Total	£7.1m*															
• CiL	£397k															
• <u>S106</u>	<u>£600k</u>															
Total	£997,000															
Asset & job management system	Confirm	Northgate														

Indicative costs for common play equipment replacement & maintenance

Example project	Description	Estimated cost
Dulwich Park (Health & Safety)	Refurbishment of equipment at end of life and resurfacing	£150,000
Goose Green (Health & Safety)	Replacement of large multi-play unit	£120,000
Honor Oak (Inclusive Play)	Addition of inclusive play equipment to existing play area	£210,944
Lucas Garden Play Space Regeneration	Improvements to toddler play area	£46,000

Basic maintenance type	Cost materials	Cost labour	Total
Replace standard swing	£84.00	£35.85 x 1.5 hours =£53.77	£137.77
Repair/resurface 10m3 wet pour	£1,400	35.85 x 48 hours = £1720.80	£3,120.80
Replace wooden crossbar (junior play)	£900	35.85 x 9 hours = £322.65	£1,222.65
Tighten/replace multiple bolts (senior play)	£20.00	35.85 x 2 hours = £71.70	£91.70

The above is based on a blended hourly rate for labour of £35.85 per Parks/ Small Works Team SLA. The prices and times are a rough indication, this can vary between manufacturers/ sites/ specific pieces of equipment.

Use of contractors for play repairs & maintenance

Department	Environment, Sustainability & Leisure	Housing
Contractors in use	Various depending on works required, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution for skatepark repairs 	Bridgewater

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutcliffe Play/ Eurotramp for larger trampoline repair • Kompan/ Wicksteed for roundabout repairs • DCM for playground surface repairs • PDC Ltd/ J Kash Ltd for general works 	
Reason	<p>The Small Works Team (SWT) have had responsibility for carrying out Parks play area inspections & repairs since 2008, under SLA.</p> <p>SWT occasionally make use of external contractors when additional resource/ specialist skills/ specialist equipment is needed.</p> <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfacing; • Installation of parks hard landscape infrastructure; • Specialised play item repairs, e.g. roundabouts; • Metalwork. <p>Contractors are typically commissioned via direct award due to small scale.</p>	<p>The Communal Repairs team have had responsibility for carrying out Housing play area inspections & repairs since 2018.</p> <p>The Communal Repairs team are currently over-capacity managing housing and estate area repairs. As a result, contractors must be used for play repairs.</p> <p>Housing area works can only be carried out by contractors that have gone through a dedicated procurement process, due in part to a requirement to charge back to leaseholders via the service charge.</p> <p>There is currently no play-specialised contractor procured for Housing to use. Approximately 3 years ago, there was an attempt to procure a play contractor for Housing, but detailed information about the play stock was required at late notice and it was not possible to supply it in time. The procurement did not go ahead.</p> <p>As a result, when play repairs are required, these are commissioned and carried out by Bridgewater, the building contractor. Bridgewater has RPII accreditation and is qualified, but they are not specialised in play; often the repairs required are small-scale and they do not accept the job.</p> <p>Of the £1.3m in works determined by the latest annual inspection, all the high and medium-high risks have been addressed, but Bridgewater is no longer accepting</p>

		jobs to carry out the medium-low and low risks.
History of collaborative working	<p>Historically, SWT have supported Housing informally with a small number of repairs when needed and when capacity allowed. There are a number of other areas currently being explored for collaboration and mutual support.</p> <p>See Ongoing initiatives around service improvement & cross-functional working section below for detail.</p>	

Comparison of standards

Department	Environment, Sustainability & Leisure	Housing
Standards & Compliance	<p>British Standard EN 1176.</p> <p>All contractors & Small Works Team members involved in play area inspections & repairs are trained and assessed to the standard of "Operational Inspector", as recognised by RPII or RoSPA.</p>	<p>British Standard EN 1176.</p> <p>All contractors & Communal Repairs Technical Officers involved in play area inspections & repairs are trained and assessed to the standard of "Operational Inspector", as recognised by RPII or RoSPA.</p>
Internal Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of in-scope sites inspected every month • 100% of Urgent (P1) & High Priority (P2) jobs are completed on time • 95% of all committed jobs completed on time (P3, P4, P5) • All jobs are responded to (committed with timeline/ rejected) within 2 working days 	<p>No KPI's are in place currently.</p> <p>New initiative launched in November 2025 for CRTOs to log inspections & outcomes on an online form to enable tracking and oversight.</p> <p>See Ongoing initiatives around service improvement section below for detail.</p>
KPI monitoring & management	Reviewed and managed at monthly playgrounds management	No KPI's are in place currently.

	<p>meetings chaired by Parks, Trees & Ecology Manager.</p> <p>KPIs are also shared at the quarterly cross departments working group and quarterly with the Director of Leisure as part of the Parks Play governance framework</p>	
--	---	--

Ongoing initiatives around service improvement and cross-functional working

Department	Environment, Sustainability & Leisure	Housing
Playground audit	<p>All play areas have been mapped and uploaded to Southwark Maps. A light-touch audit framework was developed and audit of all Parks playground sites carried out in early 2024.</p> <p>The audit established the basis for the current investment programme, and identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds which had not received investment in some time; • Playgrounds which are not considered accessible; • Playgrounds located in priority areas, such as areas of deprivation. 	<p>All play areas have been mapped and uploaded to Southwark Maps.</p> <p>The light-touch audit framework and approach developed by ESL was shared with and reviewed by Housing. This may be adapted for Housing's needs in the future.</p>
Improving data & insight on the condition of play assets	<p>There is a project underway to create an inventory of all Parks individual playground assets. This will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categorise and assign a unique ID to each asset; 	<p>A new initiative has recently improved the way CRTOs log the monthly inspections and condition surveys for Housing play assets.</p> <p>CRTOs will now log the outcomes of inspections on an online form, to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture data around installation date, life expectancy, manufacturer, other; • Enable monthly condition surveys (inspections) to be logged for each asset as opposed to for the whole site. <p>The objective is to provide insight into the condition of Park play assets and inform a proactive lifecycle management plan.</p>	<p>enable tracking & oversight. This will allow KPIs to be developed and tracked.</p> <p>Housing are informed of Park's play asset inventory project and are treating it as a proof-of-concept. Requirements and methods for developing the inventory have been shared, and can be adopted and adapted by Housing if proven to be successful.</p>
Opportunity to join up annual inspections	<p>The council undertakes annual independent inspections of all its playgrounds. This is in addition to the monthly inspections carried out by council officers and is in line with industry recommendations and guidelines for the management of play spaces (British Standard EN 1176). See Comparison of standards & Comparison of operations & costs sections above for detail.</p> <p>Currently parks and housing do this separately via different external organisations and the teams are looking into the feasibility of jointly commissioning this service.</p>	
Cross-functional working	<p>There are currently 11 different teams across the council involved in the delivery of play, including Parks, Housing, Planning, Sustainable Growth, Southwark Construction, and others.</p> <p>Representatives from all 11 teams have been meeting on a quarterly basis as part of a 'Play Working Group' aimed at sharing best practice, aligning standards in design, management and maintenance and improving the play offer across the borough.</p> <p>Recent discussion topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring potential efficiencies/ economies of scale in the joint procurement of annual playground inspections across ESL & Housing; • Working with Planning to have a joined-up view of play investment priorities across all sites and funding sources; • Sharing insight and best practice from partners in other councils. 	

Item No. 8	Classification: Open	Date: 26 November 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	26 November 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	18 November 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

4

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 • Biodiversity review – cabinet response (to note) • Workplan
2	Wed 15 October	<p>Play Spaces review evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Space for Girls • London Play <p>Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks and Young People</p> <p>Streets for People – zoning consultation</p>
3	Wed 26 November	<p>Community Safety Review with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots • Play Space scrutiny review

		<p>Playspace review: Planning and Regeneration update on Open Space Needs Assessment and a wider briefing on how regeneration schemes support provision and upgrades of playgrounds</p> <p>Playspace review: comparison of the delivery of play spaces by Housing and Environment, Sustainability & Leisure Directorates . briefing on spending and service provision to enable comparison of directorates (to note)</p>
4	Tuesday 3 February 2026	<p>Community Safety topics: Theft against the person: eg Phone-snatching/ thieving bikes plus CCTV</p> <p>Police Oversight Board – trust and confidence plans / link with London Board / changes to policing</p> <p>Play Space Scrutiny Review headline report</p>
5	Monday 23 February 2026	<p>Interview with the Police Borough Commander (tbc)</p> <p>Climate Emergency strategy and action plan update</p> <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</p> <p>Fly-tipping</p> <p>Play Space Scrutiny Review final report</p>

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	Play space – ensuring Southwark has sufficient good quality and accessible play spaces for all children and young people.
Reason for Review	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Investment in good quality outside play space is impactful in terms of Public Health, education and community safety, and return on investment.</p>
Rationale, Importance and Relevance	<p>The review is seeking to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Variable quality – in terms of design, accessibility, age of equipment and maintenance (including variability across playgrounds in parks and on housing estates) II. Inclusive design, particularly for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Girls (from early years to secondary-school age) - Disabled children and young people III. The adequacy of associated facilities, including for the adults who may be looking after the child (e.g. toilets, drinking water) 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.

	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.
--	---

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>Councillor Portia Mwangangye</u> <u>Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Young People</u></p> <p><u>Councillor Natasha Ennin</u> <u>Cabinet Member for Community Safety</u></p> <p>Chief Officer (Strategic Director): Aled Richards Strategic Director Environment, Sustainability & Leisure Director: Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure Head of Service: Tara Quinn, Head of Parks and Natural Environment</p>
------------------------------------	---

Part 3 (to be completed by the Scrutiny team in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and relevant officers)

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

Scoping lines and Key Questions	<p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is Southwark's play provision like for girls in the borough? ▪ 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? ▪ How is provision for disabled children considered? ▪ How is inclusive play/open space taken into account in the planning process when working with developers on play provision and phasing of works? ▪ What are the incidences of crime/ASB in our play spaces (on estates and off estates)? How are these monitored and managed? ▪ How are we designing out crime in our play spaces? <p>Out of scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public toilet provision in parks and the borough more generally
Approach used to gain evidence of and insight into the issue	<p>Task & Finish</p> <p>The review will be completed over the course of the administrative year 2025/26</p> <p>The review will consider evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure and play officers • Relevant Lead Cabinet Members • Make Space for Girls: https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk/ • London Play https://londonplay.org.uk/ • Play England https://www.playengland.org.uk/
Logistics	
Outputs and Deliverables	Report by end of the administrative year: Spring 2026
Next steps	

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