Open Agenda

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 5 October 2026
6.30 pm
Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Richard Macmillan (Chair)
Councillor Victoria Mills (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Ryan Cox
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Callum Fowler
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Rachael Penny
Councillor Dean Peters
Councillor Bill Williams
Martin Brecknell (Co-opted member)
Mannah Kargbo (Co-opted member)
Alie Kallon (Co-opted member)
Claire Williams (Co-opted member)

Reserves

Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Hellen Benavides
Councillor Esmé Dobson
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Andy Higson
Councillor Felix Hamer
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Jen Thornton
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Janice White

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Contact

email: amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark Council

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting
Althea Loderick
Chief Executive
Date: 25 September 2026



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 5 October 2026
6.30 pm
Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.

PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

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 1 - 15

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2026 and 22 June 2026.

5. LOWER ROAD PROJECT

To receive a report from officers providing an overview of the Lower Road Project and how the plans for Lower Road have been developed, including decisions around consultation and considerations around safety. *(To follow)*

Item No.	Title	Page No.

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27 16 - 34

To agree the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Commission Work Programmes for 2026/27.

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

Date: 25 September 2026

Agenda Item 4

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 28 May 2026 at 9.10pm (at the rise of Council Assembly) at Southwark Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

Councillor Richard Macmillan (Chair)
Councillor Victoria Mills (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Ryan Cox
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Callum Fowler
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Dean Peters
Councillor Janice White (Reserve)
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Bill Williams

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rachael Penny.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items of business.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2026-27

The committee considered the proposed scrutiny arrangements for 2026-27. The committee was recommended to note the size and composition of the overview and scrutiny committee, establish scrutiny commissions for the 2026-27 year, and appoint chairs and vice-chairs to the commissions.

The committee was advised that nominations to the position of chair must be drawn from the overview and scrutiny committee membership.

The committee was also recommended to designate the health and crime and disorder scrutiny functions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the size and composition of the overview and scrutiny committee as agreed by council assembly – detailed below be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership

	Labour (5)	**Greens (4)**	**Liberal Democrats (2)**
1.	Cllr Victoria Mills (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Dean Peters	Cllr Richard MacMillan (Chair)
2.	Cllr Evelyn Akoto	Cllr Ryan Cox	Cllr Graham Neale
3.	Cllr Stephanie Cryan	Cllr Rachael Penny	
4.	Cllr Sarah King	Cllr Callum Fowler	
5.	Cllr Bill Williams		
Reserves			
	Labour (5)	**Greens (4)**	**Liberal Democrats (2)**
1.	Cllr Jen Thornton	Cllr Andy Higson	Cllr Jane Salmon
2.	Cllr Jasmine Ali	Cllr Catherine Dawkins	Cllr Adam Hood
3.	Cllr John Batteson	Cllr Felix Hamer	
4.	Cllr Richard Leeming	Cllr Janice White	
5.	Cllr Esme Dobson		
Voting co-optee places (4) (Able to vote on Education Function related issues only)			
1.	Church of England Diocese representative		Tbc
2.	Roman Catholic Diocese representative		Tbc
3.	Elected Parent governor representative x2		Tbc

Remit: As set out in paragraph 6.1 of the overview and scrutiny procedure rules, with specific scrutiny responsibility in respect of:

- Council's policy and budget framework
- Regeneration

- Human Resources and the council's role as an employer and corporate practice generally
- Customer access issues, including digital strategy, information technology and communications
- The council's equalities and diversity programmes

2. That scrutiny commissions be established as set out below for the 2026-27 municipal year with the chairs and vice-chairs as indicated (pages 3 to 7). The health and community safety scrutiny commission to be given responsibility for Health, and Crime and Disorder matters.

(Remits: Each commission will have within their remit, oversight responsibility for the areas reflected in their titles. Detail of the specific areas of responsibility to be drawn from the executive member portfolios following the meeting.

As and when required, the overview and scrutiny committee may call upon a commission to undertake a piece of work that does not necessarily sit with another commission's identified remit of responsibility.)

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

	Labour (4)	**Green (2)**	**Liberal Democrats (1)**
1.	Cllr Jasmine Ali	Cllr Rachael Penny (Chair)	Cllr Hellen Benavides (Vice-Chair)
2.	Cllr John Batteson	Cllr Callum Fowler	
3.	Cllr Tori Griffiths		
4.	Cllr Felicia Johnston		
Reserves			
	Labour (4)	**Green (2)**	**Liberal Democrats (1)**
1.	Cllr Richard Leeming	Cllr Janice White	Cllr Patrickson Obanya
2.	Cllr Sunny Lambe	Cllr Ryan Cox	
3.	Cllr Selena Gray		
4.	Cllr Jen Thornton		
Voting Co-optee places			
1.	Church of England Diocese representative	Tbc	
2.	Roman Catholic Diocese representative	Tbc	
3.	Elected Parent Governor representatives x 2	Tbc	
Non-Voting Co-optee places			

	To be considered at the discretion of the commission	

Environment Scrutiny Commission

	Labour (3)	**Green (3)**	**Liberal Democrats (1)**
1.	Cllr Richard Leeming	Cllr Ryan Cox (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Graham Neale (Chair)
2.	Cllr Jen Thornton	Cllr Colin Boyle	
3.	Cllr Margy Newens	Cllr Richard Taylor	
Reserves			
	Labour (3)	**Green (3)**	**Liberal Democrats (1)**
1.	Cllr Ruth Bannister	Cllr Andy Higson	Cllr Adam Hood
2.	Cllr Sasjkia Otto	Cllr Callum Fowler	
3.	Cllr John Batteson	Cllr Rachael Penny	
Non-voting co-opted places			
	To be considered at the discretion of the commission		

Health and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission

	Labour (3)	**Green (2)**	**Liberal Democrats (2)**
1.	Cllr Sam Dalton	Cllr Dean Peters (Chair)	Cllr David Noakes (Vice-Chair)
2.	Cllr Esme Dobson	Cllr Pascale Mitchell	Cllr Lina Maria Usma
3.	Cllr James Moyse		
Reserves			
	Labour (3)	**Green (2)**	**Liberal Democrats (2)**
1.	Cllr Felicia Johnston	Cllr Colin Boyle	Cllr Hellen Benavides
2.	Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle	Cllr George Grime	Cllr Richard MacMillan
3.	Cllr Tori Griffiths		
Non Voting Co-opted places			
	To be considered at the discretion of the commission		

Housing Scrutiny Commission

	Labour (3)	**Green (3)**	**Liberal Democrats (1)**
1.	Cllr Leigh Richman	Cllr Catherine Dawkins (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Graham Neale (Chair)
2.	Cllr Andy Bates	Cllr Felix Hamer	
3.	Cllr Natasha Ennin	Cllr Janice White	
Reserves			
	Labour (3)	**Green (3)**	**Liberal Democrats (1)**
1.	Cllr Mohamed Deen	Cllr Rachael Penny	Cllr Lina Maria Usma
2.	Cllr Sam Dalton	Cllr Pascale Mitchell	
3.	Cllr Felica Johnston	Cllr Andy Higson	
Non-voting co-opted places (3)			
1.	Tenants Forum		Tbc
2.	Homeowners Forum		Tbc
3.	Southwark Tenant Management Organisations Committee		Tbc
	Additional non-voting co-opted places to be considered at the discretion of the commission		

Nominations to Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees

South East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (2 places)

Green – Cllr Rebecca Corn
Liberal Democrats – Cllr David Noakes

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 22 June 2026 at 6.30 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Macmillan (Chair)
Councillor Victoria Mills (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Ryan Cox
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Callum Fowler
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Rachael Penny
Councillor Dean Peters
Councillor Bill Williams

OFFICER SUPPORT: Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Clare Williams, co-opted member representative of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, and Martin Brecknell, Church of England, Diocese of Southwark representative.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The Chair informed the committee that supplemental agenda no.1 had been circulated, containing a correction to the committee membership document.

The Chair also informed the committee that there was one late item of business in relation to scrutiny arrangements for 2026-27, renaming of a scrutiny commission, which had been circulated in supplemental agenda no.2.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

A member raised a question on whether the minutes should explicitly record the understanding at the OSC meeting on 28 May 2026 that scrutiny commission chairs were expected to be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Officers advised that the matter would be checked and that the minutes would be amended as appropriate and come back to the next meeting for approval. The Chair noted that this did not affect the vote on a later item.

5. COMMITTEE / COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The committee noted the committee and commission memberships as of 16 June 2026, following membership changes that had taken place subsequent to the 28 May 2026 overview and scrutiny committee meeting.

6. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INSPECTION REPORTS - SOUTH LONDON AND MAUDSLEY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The committee received a presentation from representatives of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust providing an update on activity following the outcome of its CQC inspection.

The committee then heard from Professor Derek Tracy, Chief Medical Officer, who explained that he would provide a strategic overview on organisational issues. The committee also heard from the Service Director for Southwark Services for adults aged 18 to 65.

The committee then heard from the CQC representatives on issues in areas including:

- patient safety, forensic services, community services for adults of working age.
- acute adult working age services.
- documentation, seclusion rooms, enhanced care and observations, care planning, emergency alarm systems
- privacy and dignity, risk assessments, mandatory training restraint

documentation, medication documentation

- physical health checks, waiting times, Mental Health Act assessment delays
- supervision and patient rights, the place of safety environment

The committee then heard that the trust had worked with the CQC to develop an improvement action plan, covering areas including:

- place of safety and home treatment services, construction of a garden for the place of safety
- mandatory training compliance, personal alarms for community staff, crisis services, including development of a mental health urgent treatment centre
- risk assessments and care plans, use of Dialogue and Dialogue Plus, zoning protocols for community patients, monitoring patients in the community, inpatient observation systems
- physical health monitoring, links with partner acute trusts

The committee then asked questions on the following themes:

- the three most significant findings from the inspection, timetable for implementing outcomes from the inspection.
- well-led concerns and management response, CEO and senior leadership portfolios, staff morale and staff feedback
- professional challenge and clinical leadership, day-to-day changes to leadership arrangements
- CAG standards and clinical academic groups, governance and board changes, non-executive director roles
- digital and clinical oversight, assurance to Southwark residents risk assessment and care planning
- identifying and monitoring high-risk individuals, working across organisational boundaries, links with the council and MARAC arrangements
- documentation and audit confidentiality and patient records, good practice identified by the CQC, risks to patients where services require improvement

The committee heard from the trust representatives that the three major concerns were waiting times in community services, Mental Health Act assessment delays for people who were unwell in the community, and the condition and capacity of

the place of safety.

The committee heard that some actions had been taken immediately, including work on waiting lists, changes to the place of safety and changes to the way care was approached. The committee also heard that other actions would require longer timeframes, including work with partner organisations such as the police.

Professor Derek informed the committee that the well-led issues reflected a cultural challenge. He explained that the trust was seeking to strengthen the role of clinicians, including nurses, doctors and psychologists, in leadership positions. He also explained that the trust was rebalancing operational and clinical leadership responsibilities through the executive triumvirate of the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nurse and Chief Operating Officer.

The committee heard that the trust was seeking to give clinical academic groups more influence over standards of care. As an example, the committee heard about work to identify frequently readmitted patients and consider the use of long-acting injectable medication, and work in Southwark on clozapine prescribing by ethnicity.

The committee then asked questions on governance and board oversight.

The committee heard that there had not been direct changes to posts as a result of the CQC report, but that there had been a turnover, including a new chief executive due to start in July and a new chair who had started around six or seven months previously. The committee also learnt that two new non-executive director positions had been created, one with a digital focus and one with a clinical focus.

The committee was informed that there had been increased visibility of senior executives and non-executive directors in services.

The committee asked whether the trust could give assurance to Southwark residents that robust governance was in place.

Professor Derek stated that he could give that assurance and referred to changes over the previous six months and movement in the National Oversight Framework.

The committee then asked questions on risk assessment, care planning and cross-organisational working.

The committee learned that the trust had introduced a new zoning framework for community patients and daily meetings, Monday to Friday, to discuss patients who were becoming unwell, their risks and the support needed. The committee heard that the trust was prioritising those at greatest risk when working with the police and was providing more robust support for patients waiting in the community, including through home treatment teams and multi-agency arrangements.

The committee heard that since the CQC inspection there had been monthly executive oversight of patients waiting, reasons for waiting, the length of wait and

support in place and also heard that the trust was undertaking community transformation, with fewer teams, fewer handovers, alignment with integrated neighbourhood teams and closer working with primary care, voluntary sector organisations and community groups.

The committee then asked questions on working with the council and MARAC.

The committee was informed that South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust had faced challenges in multi-agency working but had changed its arrangements so that every MARAC meeting would have a representative from the trust. The committee heard that issues would be escalated to the Service Director and Deputy Director, with an agreement with the local authority director to address attendance and other issues.

The committee then asked questions on documentation.

The committee learnt that documentation was important to support risk assessment, planning and communication with partner agencies. The committee heard that CQC had found examples of documentation not being sufficiently detailed. The committee also heard that the trust had introduced training, clearer points of reference in its systems and regular audits of records.
The committee heard that the trust was changing its electronic patient record system and that the new system was expected to make recording and finding information more efficient.

The committee asked about confidentiality and patient records.

The committee heard that records were held in a closed system and that any information leaving the system would go through information governance processes. The committee also heard that the trust wanted to ensure patients had access to their records as much as possible where required.

The committee asked about good practice identified by the CQC and risk to patients.

The committee heard that the CQC report identified good practice, including compassionate care from staff. Professor Derek Tracy told the committee that staff had been found to be caring, kind and thoughtful to patients. He also explained that the trust wanted to make better use of its relationship with the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience to set clinically relevant standards of care.

The committee then discussed possible recommendations.

The Chair asked whether the trust would be willing to share a quarterly progress report with the Health Scrutiny Commission on progress against the CQC action plan. The trust agreed.

The Chair also asked whether the trust would be willing to consider a working group between Southwark Council and the trust, including the patient voice. The trust agreed.

Members suggested that Health Scrutiny Commission should receive written updates and that, where concerns were raised, the trust should be willing to attend a future meeting or answer focused questions.

A member suggested that there should be a recommendation on giving confidence directly to patients, residents and families, noting that some of the language discussed was technical.

The committee thanked the trust representatives for attending.

7. SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2026-27 - APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR, HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The committee considered the report on scrutiny arrangements for 2026-27 and the reconsideration of the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission following changes to the Housing Scrutiny Commission membership.

Members discussed:

- the interpretation of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 2.2, whether scrutiny commission chairs should sit on Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- the purpose of linking scrutiny commissions to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, whether legal advice had been taken and shared
- the role of the monitoring officer, proportionality, whether the matter should be deferred
- whether written advice and background materials should be circulated.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Victoria Mills and seconded by Councillor Stephanie Cryan.

“We note that the report of the head of Scrutiny and the subsequent correspondence between members and officers regarding the interpretation of overview and scrutiny procedure rule 2.2. Noting that officers have confirmed the current drafting of the Constitution requires clarification and that proposed amendments will be brought forward to Constitutional Steering Panel in due course. Noting that appointments made on the 28th of May 2026 were conducted on the basis of the interpretation then applied by officers and members, namely that Scrutiny Commission chairs should be drawn from the membership of Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

Furthermore, members have raised concerns regarding the constitutional basis for departing from the interpretation applied on the 28th of May, the intended purpose and constitutional history of procedure rule 2.2, the absence of any published constitutional analysis supporting the revised interpretation, the absence of the material underpinning the review referred to in paragraph 6 of the report, considers that it would be inappropriate to alter the basis on which Scrutiny Commission appointments were made on the 28th of May before the Constitutional Steering Panel has considered the constitutional position.

Any necessary constitutional amendments have been considered by Council Assembly and members have been provided with information and documentation requested in relation to the review, which led to the revised interpretation. Requests that officers circulate to all members of the committee, any written, legal, constitutional or governance advice obtained in relation to the review.

Any officer briefing notes, reports, memoranda, or background papers prepared as part of that review. Any Constitutional analysis relied upon in the relied interpretation, revised interpretation. The reports, minutes, and subsequent, sorry, supporting documentation associated with the introduction of Procedure Rule 2.2 and any other material relied upon by officers, including that the Scrutiny Commission chairs need not be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

That pending consideration of the matter by the Constitutional Theory Panel and any consequential constitutional amendments, the committee will continue to apply the interpretation made, which the appointment of the 28th of May was made, namely that Scrutiny Commission chairs should be drawn from the membership of Overview and Scrutiny Commission, and accordingly declines to approve the recommendations contained within the report and request that a further report be submitted following completion of the actions set out above.”

The motion was put to the vote and declared lost. In accordance with committee procedure rule 1.9 (4), Councillors Victoria Mills, Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Councillor Sarah King, Councillor Bill Williams and Councillor Evelyn Akoto requested that their vote in favour of the motion be recorded in the minutes.

The committee then moved to nominations for Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission.

The committee already had a nomination for Councillor Hellen Benavides prior to the meeting.

Councillor Stephanie Cryan was nominated by Councillor Victoria Mills and seconded by Councillor Bill Williams.

The committee then voted on the nominations for Chair.

It was agreed by way of majority votes that Councillor Benavides be appointed Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission.

The committee then moved to nominations for Vice-Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission. The committee already had a nomination for Councillor Pascale Mitchell prior to the meeting.

Councillor Stephanie Cryan was nominated by Councillor Victoria Mills and seconded by Councillor Sarah King.

The committee then voted on the nominations for Vice-Chair.

It was agreed by way of majority votes that Councillor Pascale Mitchell be appointed Vice-Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Hellen Benavides and Pascale Mitchell be appointed chair and vice-chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission respectively.

The committee considered the late item **7A, Scrutiny Arrangements for 2026-27 - renaming of the Health and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission**.

Councillor Dean Peters introduced the item and explained that the commission also included adult social care. He proposed that the commission should be renamed Health, Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission to reflect the importance of adult social care.

The committee agreed to rename the Health and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission as the Health, Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission.

The Chair invited members to raise whether any other commission names required amendment. No other amendments were proposed.

RESOLVED:

That the Health and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission be renamed to the Health, Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission.

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMMES 2026-27

The committee considered potential scrutiny topics for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and scrutiny commission work programmes for the 2026-27 municipal year.

The Chair explained that the formal work programme would be agreed at the October meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair said that the discussion was intended as a gathering and pooling of ideas to develop over the summer, including meetings with scrutiny chairs.

Members raised concerns about delaying the agreement of a work programme until October and suggested that the committee should agree at least a draft plan, noting that the work programme could be flexible.

The committee then discussed possible work programme topics, including:

- the council plan and pre-scrutiny of the council plan
- community councils
- fair funding review
- medium term financial strategy
- projected budget gaps
- temporary accommodation
- adult social care
- Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- housing revenue account and recovery plan
- refurbishment versus demolition in housing
- estate regeneration, including Aylesbury and Marie Curie
- major estate regeneration schemes, including Ledbury and Tustin
- resident voice and engagement with tenants and residents' associations
- CIL redistribution
- SEND safety valve agreement
- government proposals for SEND
- children's early intervention
- transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services
- drug use and vulnerable populations
- integrated neighbourhood working
- secondary school place planning and impact of primary school closures
- use of the closed primary school estates
- Cleaner Southwark pilots
- waste contract pre-scrutiny
- repairs improvement plan
- voids turnaround
- procurement and contract management
- high street regeneration, including Renew the Blue in Bermondsey

The Chair said that the suggested topics would be taken away and that further discussions would take place with groups and scrutiny commission chairs over the summer.

Officers explained that there would be a shortlisting and prioritisation process,

including consideration of whether topics were strategic, timely and areas where scrutiny could add value. Officers also explained that they would consult senior officers and executive members to understand whether and when particular topics should be reviewed.

The committee then considered the proposed Overview and Scrutiny Committee and commission remits.

Members discussed whether the remits aligned with executive member responsibilities, the location of community safety within the committee structure, and how the statutory crime and disorder function should be managed.

Officers explained that the remits were based on executive portfolios and were intended as a guide to help identify which matters should sit with which commission. Officers also advised that Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a specific responsibility for crime and disorder and could either consider matters itself or delegate them to a commission.

Members discussed whether community safety should sit with the Health and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission and whether equalities considerations should be reflected.

The committee agreed the remits as set out.

A member raised the scrutiny protocol and the importance of meetings between scrutiny chairs, commission members and executive members to support pre-scrutiny and effective work planning.

Officers explained that meetings between scrutiny chairs and executive members had been piloted in the previous municipal year, with the intention of helping scrutiny chairs understand executive priorities and later providing feedback on scrutiny work. Officers stated that the intention was for meetings to take place before the end of July and that the Scrutiny Team would seek to arrange them with executive members and scrutiny chairs.

The committee agreed a recommendation welcoming those meetings and encouraging executive members to participate in line with the scrutiny protocol.

Meeting ended at 8.50 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Agenda Item 6

Meeting Name:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	5 October 2026
Report title:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Commission Work Programmes 2026/27
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/a
From:	Head of Scrutiny

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Notes the process followed to invite, assess and shortlist potential scrutiny topics, as set out in paragraphs 13 to 17 of the report.

2. Notes that the council's Borough Action Plan is in development and agrees that the work programmes should be reviewed as further details of the Plan become available.

3. Agrees the proposed allocation of shortlisted topics and the resulting 2026/27 work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and its scrutiny commissions from the shortlisted topics contained in Appendix 2.

4. Agrees whether to identify provisional topics for consideration during the 2027/28 municipal year, in recognition of the later start to the 2026/27 programme (see paragraph 23).

5. Notes that the work programmes will remain standing items on the agendas of the committee and commissions and may be amended in response to emerging priorities, available capacity or urgent matters.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. This report asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree the work programmes for the committee and its four scrutiny commissions. It also explains the process used to invite, assess and shortlist potential topics.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Overview and Scrutiny function – role and remits

7. The council's overview and scrutiny function has a broad remit. It can:

- review council policies, services, performance and executive decisions;
- contribute to the development of the budget and policy framework
- examine any matter affecting the borough or its residents
- scrutinise relevant public bodies and engage external organisations
- undertake health scrutiny and participate in joint scrutiny arrangements
- call in eligible executive decisions before implementation
- gather evidence from councillors, officers, residents, partners and other witnesses
- report and make recommendations to Executive or Council Assembly.

8. The full scope of the overview and scrutiny function is set out in the council constitution – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

9. Specific to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the responsibility to scrutinise matters in respect of:

- the council's policy and budget framework
- regeneration
- human resources and the council's role as an employer and corporate practice generally
- customer access issues, including digital strategy, information technology and communications
- the council's equalities and diversity programmes.

10. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee established four themed commissions for the 2026/27 municipal year to support the work of the scrutiny function:

- Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
- Environment Scrutiny Commission
- Health, Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission
- Housing Scrutiny Commission

11. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is tasked with agreeing the annual work programme for OSC and the commissions to co-ordinate and manage the work of the scrutiny function. Agreement of the 2026/27 work programmes was deferred in June 2026 while the new administration's strategic priorities were being developed, and newly elected councillors became familiar with their roles.

12. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also agreed the remits of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the commissions to co-ordinate the work. The remits are based on the Executive Member Portfolio responsibilities and are

set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Work programme development process

13. Potential scrutiny topics were obtained through:

- suggestions made by members of OSC and the scrutiny commissions (June / July)
- an invitation to all councillors (September 2026)
- an invitation to members of the public through the council's communications team via social media and newsletter (late August/early September 2026)
- consultation with relevant senior officers
- consultation with executive members where this was considered helpful.

14. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs are due to meet on 30 September 2026 to consider the long list of suggestions and recommend a shortlist (Appendix 2, to follow) for consideration by OSC which will be circulated after that meeting. The suggestions are to be reviewed to identify duplication and themes and determine the committee or commission whose remit most closely matches each suggestion. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs will also consider whether a topic will be 'light touch' (potential one-off item), or 'in-depth review' (involving evidence gathering and consideration over several meetings).

15. The shortlisting process does not determine whether a suggested issue is important in absolute terms. It considers whether scrutiny can add value and whether the issue is suitable and deliverable within the available meetings and officer capacity.

16. In shortlisting topics, the scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs will be recommended to consider the following:

- Does the issue affect a significant number of people living, working or studying in Southwark?
- Is the issue strategic and of sufficient size/importance to warrant a scrutiny review?
- Are resources available to scrutinise the issue?
- Is the Council due to review policy area?
- Is the community / are partners concerned about the issue?
- Is the issue being review elsewhere or does it repeat recent scrutiny work?

17. Officers will review topics that have not been shortlisted and seek to address issues raised outside of the scrutiny process where possible/appropriate.

18. In agreeing the work programmes the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to focus on key issues where scrutiny can make a significant impact for local people and issues aligned with the council's strategic priorities, having regard to input from executive members and senior officers on council priorities, timing and feasibility.

19. The proposed programmes will balance matters raised by councillors and the public, the council's developing priorities, emerging issues and the capacity available to undertake effective scrutiny.

20. In addition to planned scrutiny reviews, OSC and the commissions will need to retain sufficient capacity to respond to urgent or emerging issues, call-ins, pre-decision scrutiny, performance and policy monitoring, follow-up of previous scrutiny recommendations. The work programme should therefore prioritise those matters where scrutiny is most likely to add value, while preserving the flexibility needed to discharge these wider responsibilities.

21. The work programmes are a standing item on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and commission agendas and enable the committee/commissions to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

Borough Action Plan development

22. A key role of overview and scrutiny is to contribute to the development of the council's policy and budget framework, of which the Borough Action Plan forms part. As the Plan is in development, its final priorities are not yet available to inform the work programmes fully. OSC and the commissions may contribute to the Plan's development where appropriate and should review their work programmes as further details become available and following approval of the final Plan.

23. In view of the later start to the 2026/27 work programme, OSC may also wish to identify a provisional pipeline of potential topics for consideration in 2027/28. This would support the forward planning without committing the committee or commissions to a fixed programme for the next municipal year. Any provisional topics would be reviewed at the beginning of 2027/28 in light of council priorities, emerging issues and available scrutiny capacity.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Constitution • Section 3.3 – Executive Portfolios • Section 9 - Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules	Southwark Council Website	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221
Link: Council Constitution		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Commission Remits 2026/27
Appendix 2	Scrutiny Topic Suggestions Shortlist (to follow)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Vishal Seegoolam, Assistant Director – Local Democracy and Elections
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny
Version	Final
Dated	24 September 2026
Key Decision?	No

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	**Comments Sought**	**Comments Included**
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director, Resources	No	No
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team		24 September 2026

Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Commission Remits 2026/27 (based on executive member portfolio responsibilities)

This document details the remits of the overview and scrutiny committee/commissions based on the executive member portfolio responsibilities set out in the council constitution. The document is for reference purposes only and serves to highlight the executive member portfolio responsibilities covered by the overview and scrutiny committee and the scrutiny commissions. The complete terms of reference detailing the role and responsibilities of the overview and scrutiny committee and its commissions, is contained in section 9 of the council constitution (see paragraphs 5 and 6 in particular).

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee – remit

Leader of the Council

Portfolio

- setting the political and strategic direction for the council
- the Borough Action Plan
- communications, campaigns and public affairs
- emergency planning and business continuity
- strategic partnerships and approach to the government, the Mayor of London, City Hall, Transport for London
- performance management of the Executive and Deputy Executive members

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Strategic Planning and Wellbeing

Portfolio

- **community councils** – working with residents to develop a new structure to give genuine power back to local areas, reviewing the neighbourhood approach, Neighbourhood Funds and Cleaner, Greener, Safer Funds. Working with the Deputy Executive Member for delivery of Community Councils & Executive Member for Engagement
- **planning and building control** – planning applications, enforcement and policy; Section 106 agreements and payments; and building control and dangerous structures
- Setting the rates for the **Community Infrastructure Levy** and creating a mechanism to fairly allocate LCIL through community councils and in the wards in which it was generated
- **public works in the north of the borough** – implementation of the borough-wide approach to public works as it applies to the north of the borough, working closely with the Executive Member for Public Works & New Homes
- **Southwark LGBTQ+ Strategy** and LGBTQ+ rights in the borough – working closely with the Executive Member for Equalities

Executive Member for Public Works and New Homes

Portfolio

- **public works** – a borough-wide approach to public works (formally known as Regeneration) so that all corners of the borough benefit from a clear strategy for fair and equitable growth, new homes and estates and the infrastructure required to support them
- **major infrastructure projects**, including the Bakerloo Line Extension, the new Elephant & Castle Northern Line station, and wider improvements to train and tube stations;
- **renewal of the Aylesbury, Tustin, Ledbury and Abbeyfield estates** – working with residents to deliver new and improved homes and estates (working with the Cabinet Member for Council Homes)

Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Equalities and Democracy

Portfolio

- **equalities** – as they relate to women's rights and working with the Forum for Equalities and Human Rights
- **funding for projects and events** – Common Purpose Grants; Equalities Grants, and Black History Month Grants
- **registrar's and coroners' services**
- **electoral services** – electoral registration and postal vote uptake
- **constitutional** services and civic matters
- **promoting equality and diversity** – including the equalities framework and audit, diverse councils commitments and civic leadership programme

Executive Member for Education and Care

Portfolio

- **refugees and asylum seekers** – including our work to ensure Southwark is a Borough of Sanctuary and support for people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Executive Member for Finance and General Purposes

Portfolio

- **finance and governance** – the council's budget and financial management; income collection & pension fund; the council's capital programme including SCIL
- **financial support**; Council Tax Reduction Scheme; access to benefits, advice services and Community Support Alliance
- **legal services**, procurement and contract management
- **workforce** – the council's workforce, human resources, and internal relationship with staff trade unions
- **facilities management** – of the buildings within the council's operational/civic estate
- **property** – including decisions relating to the council's acquisitions and disposal of properties
- **commercial property** – management, leasing and rent setting of the council's retail and commercial units, office accommodation and related property
- campaigning for **genuinely fair funding** for Southwark Council from the government
- **participatory budgeting** – bringing the community into the decisions about how the council's money will be spent

Executive Member for Parks and Recreation

Portfolio

- **culture** – working closely with the Deputy Executive member for Culture
- **moorings and marinas**

- **cemeteries and crematorium services**

Executive Member for Council Coordination and Climate

Portfolio

- **cross-council improvement and delivery** - overseeing development of the Borough Action Plan, supporting delivery of council priorities across portfolios and ensuring climate and sustainability are embedded across council services and decision-making

Executive Member for Community Safety and Engagement

Portfolio

- **one-stop shops** – Rolling out a programme of locations where residents can speak to a member of council staff if they have a question or need support
- **digital** – digital inclusion and infrastructure (including broadband); and the council's corporate IT and website
- **customer services** – call centre, complaints and members' enquires
- **voluntary, community and faith sector** – including volunteering, community involvement and consultations; working close with the Deputy Executive member

Deputy Executive Member for Community Council Delivery

Portfolio

- ensuring the development and rollout of the Community Councils programme, working with residents to develop a new structure to give genuine power back to local areas, reviewing the neighbourhood approach, Neighbourhood Funds and Cleaner, Greener, Safer Funds.

Deputy Executive Member for Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

Portfolio

- responsible for the voluntary, community and faith sector – including community hubs, volunteering, community involvement and consultations

Deputy Executive Member for Culture

Portfolio

- responsible for events, festivals, theatres, galleries, museums and performing arts; promoting Southwark as a centre for filmmaking, and relevant funds including Culture Together Grants and the Cultural Celebrations Fund

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission – remit

Executive Member for Education and Care

Portfolio

- **early years and childcare** – including children and family centres, early years education, childminders and nurseries
- **schools** – including school standards, places and admissions; special education needs; free healthy school and nursery meals and fruit; healthy schools and Southwark's Let's Go Zero schools network
- **special educational needs & disabilities (SEND)** – including service provision and reform
- **further, higher and adult education** – including English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), adult literacy and numeracy; and scholarships
- **children's social care** – including children in care and care leavers, fostering and adoption, support for children with disabilities and their families; and child safeguarding
- **children's mental health** – including mental wellbeing support in schools; the council's Nest open access mental health service for children and families; and improving access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health services
- **family support** – including parenting programs, the council's sure-start for teenagers service and support for families who are providing unpaid care for a child with a disability or health condition, including respite care

Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Equalities and Democracy

Portfolio

- **increasing employment** – support to find a job or start a new carer; careers advice and work experience; paid internships; supporting young people into employment, education and training
- **vocational skills** – including apprenticeships, vocational training and skills centres
- **businesses support** – for local businesses, cooperatives, social enterprises and entrepreneurs; increasing procurement from local businesses; and relationships with local business groups and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)
- **high streets** – including town centre action plans, Thriving Highstreets Fund, markets
- **living wage** – promoting the London Living Wage employers
- **workers' rights** – promoting good employment practices and equality and diversity at work and trade union membership
- **Youth Parliament -** increasing the voice and influence of young people through the Southwark Youth Parliament and will act as a champion for young people in our borough

Executive Member for Community Safety and Engagement

Portfolio

- Management of youth services, and the Positive Futures Fund

Environment Scrutiny Commission – remit

Leader of the Council

Portfolio

- **walking and cycling** – making Southwark a great place to walk, wheel or cycle; including cycle lessons, infrastructure, hire and storage
- **streets and parking** – delivering Southwark's Streets for People plan; creating safer, greener and healthier streets; road safety; parking (on the council's highways and estates); street lighting (including on council estates and in parks); and highways maintenance
- **road transport** – including improving local bus services and public transport, including the Bakerloop bus, promoting sustainable freight; reducing traffic and electric vehicle charging; and managing the council's fleet
- **accessible travel** – including blue badges and the Freedom Pass

Executive Member for Council Coordination and Climate

Portfolio

- **air quality** – improving air quality, reducing harmful emissions and air quality monitoring
- street lighting (including on council estates and in parks)
- **flood risk and surface water**
- **greening our local economy** – engaging local people, businesses and organisations in action to reduce carbon emissions; delivering more green jobs, promoting climate justice; and reducing the council's own emissions
- **adaptation to climate change** – ensuring plans and action are in place to make Southwark resilient to changes in the climate including heatwaves and extreme weather events
- **biodiversity and trees** – tree planting and maintenance, increasing biodiversity and nature
- **waste and recycling** – waste and bin collection and the council work to reducing waste and increasing recycling
- **cleaning, pest control and grounds maintenance** – street and estate cleaning; fly-tipping and graffiti removal; pest control; and maintenance of verges and green spaces on the council's highways and estates

Executive Member for Parks and Recreation

Portfolio

- **libraries** – our libraries, heritage and archives
- **parks and play** – parks, green spaces, adventure play and playgrounds, including on our estates
- **gardening** – community gardening, food-growing and allotments, including on our estates
- **leisure** - management of our leisure centres and our athletics, football, tennis & cycling facilities
- supporting and promoting **grassroots sports**, including the council's relationship with local sports clubs

Health, Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission – remit

Deputy Executive Member for Adult Services

Portfolio

- **adult social care** – including adult safeguarding; home care; nursing and care homes; occupational therapy, aids and adaptations; and commissioning extra care, sheltered and supported housing
- **adult mental health**
- **older people** – including ensuring Southwark is an age friendly borough
- **adults with disabilities** – including social care support; increasing the voice and influence of people with disabilities and their families in local decision making
- **carers** – support for people who are providing unpaid care for adult family members or friends with a disability or health condition, including respite care

Executive Member for Education and Care

Portfolio

- **adult services** – working closely with the Deputy Executive Member who holds this portfolio in its entirety.

Executive Member for Community Safety and Engagement

Portfolio

- **reducing crime and antisocial behaviour** – including community wardens, anti-social behaviour team, noise service, CCTV, public spaces protection orders, preventing hate crime, tackling modern day slavery
- **violence reduction** – working to end misogyny and violence against women and girls, youth violence and the criminal exploitation of young people
- **domestic abuse** – support for people who have experienced domestic abuse, Women's Safety Centre and safe spaces
- **improving policing** – promoting equitable policing and strengthening community relations with the police
- **licensing** – premises serving alcohol or late-night refreshments and gambling
- **environmental health** – including trading standards, food safety and environmental protection
- **landlord licensing** – increasing protections for private renters licencing and advice services for private sector renters
- **youth offending services**
- **enforcement** – taking assertive action to tackle fly tipping, graffiti and litter across our borough

Executive Member for Parks and Recreation

Portfolio

- **food** – making Southwark a right to food borough with access to affordable healthy food for all, including the Food & Fun Fund

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Strategic Planning and Wellbeing

Portfolio

- **public health** – including reducing health inequalities; Community Health Ambassadors; vaccinations, immunisation and screening; health visiting, school nursing and childhood obesity; sexual health, contraception and HIV; and smoking, drug and alcohol services
- **health and wellbeing partnerships** – overseeing key stakeholder relationships such as Health & Wellbeing Board and the South East London Integrated Care Partnership, Partnership Southwark and SC1
- **improving health services** – working with the NHS, general practice (GPs), local hospitals, community health services and pharmacists

Housing Scrutiny Commission – remit

Executive Member for Council Homes

Portfolio

- **becoming a better landlord** – to provide better homes, better estates and a stronger voice for tenants and leaseholders
- **management of the council's homes** – including council homes, sheltered and extra care homes, council owned temporary accommodation, high needs hostels and homes and sites for Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities
- **housing allocations** – lettings policy and allocation policy. Allocation of council, social rent and key worker homes to Southwark residents, supporting them to find a home the right size for their needs
- **housing maintenance** – including repairs and major works, heat networks, communal repairs, gas and electrical safety and refurbishment of empty council homes
- **homelessness** – including support for people who are at risk of being or who become homeless; working to end rough sleeping; securing good quality temporary accommodation
- **empty council homes** – ensuring quick turnaround of voids and bringing more council homes into use
- **fire safety** – ensuring council homes meet fire safety standards and leading our work on fire safety, cladding and remediation for private sector and housing association residential buildings
- **tenants and residents' halls** – including their maintenance, ongoing improvement and ensuring they are the best possible facilities for residents of our estates and broader community
- **garages** - on estates and owned by the council
- **tenant and Leaseholder involvement** – working close with the Deputy Executive Member for Tenant and Leaseholder Services, including services and advice for council tenants, leaseholders and freeholders and support for tenants and residents associations and tenant management organisations, including Getting Involved Grants

Executive Member for Public Works and New Homes

Portfolio

- **new council homes** – the council's work to build thousands of new council homes; including new council homes for older people; net-zero homes
- **new affordable homes** – including housing association social rent homes; keyworker homes; community land trusts and housing cooperatives; homes for refugees; and temporary accommodation
- **empty homes and short-term lets** – tackling empty homes across the private rented sector

Deputy Executive Member for Tenant and Leaseholder Services

Portfolio

- focusing on improving Southwark Housing's performance in those day-to-day areas that matter most to tenants and leaseholders including the responsive repairs service, maintenance and care of estates and communal areas of blocks of flats, speedy letting of empty properties, and developing an effective planned maintenance service.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MUNICIPAL YEAR 26/27

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