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Co-operative Council

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Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 8 July 2026

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Democratic Services: Paige Starkey 01952 380110

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Committee Members: Councillors M Boylan (Chair), H Morgan (Vice-Chair), E M Callear, S Handley, T L B Janke, G C W Latham-Reynolds, L Lewis and P Thomas

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	To review and reconfirm the Terms of Reference for the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2026/27 municipal year.	
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	To approve the draft work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year.	
6.0	Landfill Management in Telford and Wrekin	To Follow
	To receive an update on the management of landfill operations across the borough.	

7.0 Chair's Update

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ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 29 April 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Present: Councillors M Boylan (Chair), H Morgan (Vice-Chair), S Handley, T L B Janke, L Lewis, H Rhodes, T J Nelson and P Thomas.

Also Present: Councillor C Healy (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability)

In Attendance: E Harvey (Lead Lawyer: Property & Commercial), P Starkey (Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)), R Cook (Executive Director: Place), K Dewey (Ecology and Green Infrastructure Officer) and A Preece (Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist)

ENVSC18 Declarations of Interest

None.

ENVSC19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ENVSC20 Biodiversity Duty Report on 2025

The Ecology & Green Infrastructure Officer presented the Biodiversity Duty Monitoring Report setting out the Council's approach to meeting its statutory duties under the Environment Act 2021.

Members were advised that the report summarised actions taken between January 2023 and December 2025 and outlined plans for the next five years. The process required public authorities not only to conserve but also enhance biodiversity, supported by monitoring and reporting.

Officers explained that actions had been delivered across a range of service areas, including green space management, development planning and community engagement. Members heard that the report had been published by the statutory deadline of 26 March 2026.

A number of case studies were highlighted, including meadow creation at Boulton Grange and habitat enhancement at Bean Hill, which demonstrated both biodiversity benefits and potential cost savings through changes to land management practices.

Members were advised that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements formed a key part of the duty. Whilst funding had been provided to support BNG delivery, the resource implications of monitoring and compliance remained uncertain and would continue to be reviewed as the programme matured.

In response to questions raised on the financial and resource implications of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), the Ecology & Green Infrastructure Officer explained that developer contributions included provision for long-term monitoring, although the overall scale of workload was still emerging and would continue to be monitored as schemes progressed.

Members sought further clarity on the delivery of habitat enhancements across the borough. Officers confirmed that improvements were taking place across a wide range of sites, including parks, nature reserves and amenity spaces, and were not limited solely to Green Flag locations.

Following a discussion on balancing biodiversity improvements with recreational use of green spaces, the Ecology & Green Infrastructure Officer highlighted the importance of adopting site-specific approaches. Members heard that careful consideration was given to how spaces were used, including dog walking, with an emphasis on community engagement and managing competing priorities.

Responding to questions raised on opportunities for increasing biodiversity planting, the Ecology & Green Infrastructure Officer noted that there was scope to expand wildflower planting, reduce mowing regimes and encourage greater community participation, whilst also recognising the need to manage public expectations regarding the visual appearance of such areas.

Responding to queries regarding innovative approaches to habitat creation, the Ecology & Green Infrastructure Officer highlighted the use of techniques such as green hay seeding, which could reduce costs while delivering effective ecological outcomes.

Following a number of questions raised on community involvement, Officers emphasised the importance of education, volunteer engagement and partnership working, including collaboration with Friends groups and local community organisations to support biodiversity initiatives.

The Committee noted that future monitoring would include the development of clearer performance measures and improved data systems, alongside consideration of whether more regular reporting would be beneficial.

The Committee welcomed the report and noted the progress made in delivering the Council's Biodiversity Duty.

ENVSC21 Update on Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

The Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist presented an update on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) following its adoption.

Members were informed that the LNRS formed part of a national initiative, with 48 strategies being developed across England to support nature recovery and biodiversity enhancement.

The Strategy had been developed in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including Natural England, landowners and environmental organisations. Extensive consultation had been undertaken, with strong levels of engagement across the borough.

It was reported that both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council had formally adopted the Strategy, which had subsequently been published in April 2026.

Members were advised that the LNRS consisted of a statement of biodiversity priorities alongside an interactive mapping tool identifying areas of opportunity for habitat improvement.

The focus would now shift towards delivery, with the Strategy acting as a framework to guide activity rather than impose requirements on landowners. In response to questions raised on resourcing and delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), the Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist advised that delivery would not be the responsibility of the Council alone but would rely on partnership working with landowners, stakeholders and external organisations. It was noted that, whilst there was no direct funding attached to the LNRS, national and local funding streams were increasingly being aligned to its priorities, and opportunities to secure external funding were being actively explored.

Members sought clarity on the management of designated sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist explained that management plans were being developed and reviewed to ensure that sites were maintained or brought into favourable condition. Members heard that this work involved detailed monitoring, including factors such as water quality and habitat condition, alongside collaboration with Natural England and other partners.

The Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist outlined the challenges of managing competing priorities. Members noted that activities such as fishing, public access and land use needed to be carefully balanced with ecological outcomes, with particular reference made to issues such as water quality, vegetation management and species impact.

Responding to questions raised regarding the impact of climate change on trees and habitats, the Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist advised that the Council was taking a resilient approach to planting and habitat management. This included increasing species diversity, considering climate resilience in tree selection and responding to emerging pests and diseases, such as ash dieback, while also ensuring that Officers were supported with appropriate expertise and resources.

In response to questions raised on engagement with local communities and Town and Parish Councils, the Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist outlined the continued development of guidance and support to enable local

delivery. Members were informed that the Strategy promoted a “hyper-local” approach, encouraging community-led projects and providing practical tools to support local action.

Following a discussion on ensuring effective implementation of the LNRS, Officers highlighted the importance of maintaining stakeholder engagement and building momentum following adoption. It was noted that early delivery projects, improved communication and the development of local networks would be key to demonstrating outcomes and embedding the Strategy within wider decision-making processes.

The Committee welcomed the adoption of the Strategy and noted the progress made to date, recognising the importance of maintaining momentum as the focus shifted towards delivery.

ENVSC22 Work Programme Review

The Lead Lawyer: Property & Commercial presented the updated work programme.

Members were advised that, as this was the final meeting of the municipal year, any remaining items would be carried forward into the 2026/27 work programme.

The Committee was informed that future items would include a review of street waste and progress made following the introduction of dual recycling bins, alongside standing items such as an update on Climate Change and Adaptation which return on an annual basis.

Members were invited to submit any further suggestions for future topics prior to the work programme being presented to Scrutiny Management Board in June.

ENVSC23 Chair's Update

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their contributions over the municipal year and acknowledged the breadth of work undertaken by the Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.36 pm

Chairman:

Date: Wednesday 8 July 2026



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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 8 July 2026

Terms of Reference 2026/27

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member for Finance and Resident Services
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Ashley Hickman – Democracy Officer
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 382589 Email: ashley.hickman1@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Environment Scrutiny Committee – 8 July 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:

- 1.1 Agree and reconfirm the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To set out the Terms of Reference for the Environment Scrutiny Committee outlined at Appendix A of the report.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Constitution requires that Full Council should agree at its Annual Meeting the Terms of Reference for each of its Committees to enable the Council to efficiently conduct its business.

3.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21 May 2026, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 For the Environment Scrutiny Committee to review its Terms of Reference as set out in appendix A.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options arising from this report.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are no key risks arising from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no Financial Implications arising from this report.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Terms of Reference provides a clear governance framework, defining the scope, functions, and decision-making parameters of the Environment Scrutiny Committee. This ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment with the Authority's statutory duties and constitutional arrangements.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no ward implications arising from this report.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no Health, Social and Economic Implications arising from this report.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no Climate Change, Biodiversity or Environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

1 [Council Constitution](#)

15.0 Appendices

A Environment Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference 2026/27

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal Services	11/06/2026	11/06/2026	ON
Finance	28/05/2026	12/06/2026	ER

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership

1. The Committee will be made up of elected members from the Scrutiny Assembly, appointed at Annual Council in line with the political balance of the Council, and co-opted scrutiny members.
2. The number of co-opted members must not exceed 50% of the number of elected members.
3. In addition to standing co-optees, the Committee may appoint additional co-optees for one-off reviews to supplement the skills, knowledge and experience of members of the Committee on that particular issue (subject to the rule on total number of co-optees above).
4. A Vice-Chair may be appointed by majority decision of the Committee.
5. The quorum for a meeting is 3 elected members.

Functions

6. The Committee will be the main mechanism by which Scrutiny members will scrutinise and monitor issues relating to the following key areas:
 - Environment and ecology
 - The natural and built environment
 - Sustainable planning
 - Building conservation and heritage
 - Ultra-Low Emissions Strategy
 - Plastic Free Telford & Wrekin
 - Waste management, including waste recovery and recycling
 - Environmental maintenance
 - All aspects of infrastructure (transport, communication, drainage and sewage, water, lighting, bridges and structures)
 - Public Transport (bus and rail)
 - Rights of Way
 - Highways network including highways improvements, cycleways and car parking
 - Local Nature Reserves, parks and green spaces, including the Green guarantee
 - Local Plan (Jointly with Business & Finance Scrutiny Committee)
7. The Committee will consider matters referred by the Scrutiny Management Board, and will exercise discretion as to whether a suggestion falls within the remit of the Committee to scrutinise.
8. The Environment Scrutiny Committee will be the designated body for scrutiny of Flood and Water Management as set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

(associated regulations in the Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee (England) Regulations 2011 expired on 6 April 2018). The work programme will make provision for scrutiny of this item.

9. The Committee will set its own work programme in accordance with the areas set out above and may look at any issue deemed by the Committee to fall within its remit.

Meeting Administration and Proceedings

10. The Committee procedure rules as set out in the Council's Constitution apply to this Committee.
11. The meetings will follow the principles of scrutiny ie no party whip will be applied and a constructive, evidence based approach will be used.
12. If the Chair or Vice-Chair (if appointed) are unable to attend a meeting the Members present will elect a Chair for the meeting.
13. All Scrutiny Committee meetings will be held in public, unless exempt information is being considered or discussed. Scrutiny Committees may appoint sub-groups to carry out investigative work as part of a review and these sub-groups may hold informal meetings but will report back their findings to the Scrutiny Committee.
14. The meetings will be administered by Scrutiny Services and Democratic Services. Frequency of meetings will be agreed by the Committee as necessary to carry out the work programme.
15. Relevant Cabinet Members, Executive Directors, Directors and Service Delivery Managers will attend the Committee at the request of the Chair. Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend.

Sensitive and Confidential Information

16. From time to time members may become privy to information of a confidential nature. If this happens, members must maintain this confidence. Members are unable to request personal/confidential information from Officers about an individual or family.

Reporting Arrangements

17. The Chair will provide regular updates to meetings of the Scrutiny Management Board to inform the other Scrutiny Chairs of performance and budget issues relating to the remit of their Committees.
18. The Chair of the Committee, or his/her representative, will provide and present reports and recommendations of the Committee to the Council's Cabinet, Fully Council or other relevant organisations when necessary.



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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 8 July 2026

Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member: Finance and Resident Services
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Paige Starkey – Lead Democracy Officer
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 380110 Email: Paige.Starkey@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Environment Scrutiny Committee – 8 July 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

1.1 It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Review and agree the work programme as outlined at Appendix A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To set the work programme for the Environment Scrutiny Committee as outlined at Appendix A.

3.0 Background

3.1 Scrutiny now operates a two-year work programme to allow for Committees to undertake in-depth work over a longer period of time.

Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

3.2 Work programmes for Scrutiny committees are reviewed annually, with a period of consultation taking place in the months running up to a new municipal year. The public, key stakeholders, and Council officers are asked to put forward scrutiny suggestions for inclusion on the coming year's work programme.

3.3 Following the consultation period, a draft work programme is taken to Scrutiny Management Board for comment before being sent onto individual committees for final approval.

3.4 The Constitution states that Scrutiny committees are to set and undertake their own programme of work, meeting as required to deliver the work programme.

3.5 Work programmes can be amended throughout the year if the Committee or Scrutiny Assembly deem it necessary.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 For the Environment Scrutiny Committee to review and approve the draft work programme as outlined at Appendix A.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options arising from this report.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are no key risks arising from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee will set its own work programme for the municipal year, will consider matters referred to it by the Scrutiny Management Board, and may make recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council following scrutiny.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no ward implications arising from this report.

Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no health, social and economic implications arising from this report.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no climate change, biodiversity and environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

1 Council Constitution

15.0 Appendices

A Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2026/27

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal Services	12/06/2026	12/06/2026	ON
Finance	12/06/2026	12/06/2026	AM

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Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
8 July 2026 – Committee Meeting					
Terms of Reference	For the Committee to agree the Terms of Reference for 2026/27.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Constitutional Function.
	Outcomes:				
Work Programme	For the Committee to agree the proposed work programme for 2025/26.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Draft work programme delegated to each scrutiny committee by SMB on 3 June 2026.
	Outcomes:				
Landfill Management in Telford and Wrekin	For the Committee to receive an update in relation to the ongoing management of landfill operations across the borough.	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes:				

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Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
21 October 2026 – Committee Meeting					
<p>Active Travel & Electric Vehicle Strategies</p>	<p>For the Committee to receive an update on the Council’s progress in delivering Active Travel and Electric Vehicle (EV) initiatives, building on the previous work of the Committee which highlighted accessibility issues, financial implications and the need for improved engagement on EV charging locations.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services</p>	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p>	<p>Committee Agenda Item</p>	<p>New suggestion received for the work programme.</p>
<p>Page 18</p>	<p>Outcomes:</p>				
	<p>World Heritage Site Management Plan</p>	<p>For the Committee to review the draft World Heritage Site Management Plan, considering the proposed objectives for managing the site and to provide recommendations to inform the finalisation of the Plan in line with</p>	<p>Prosperity & Investment</p>	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing</p>	<p>Committee Agenda Item</p>



	requirements set by UNESCO.		efficient, effective, and quality services.		
	Outcomes:				
Local Buildings of Interest	For the Committee to review of the Updated Register of Buildings of Local Interest, including the application of revised selection criteria and the outcomes following the most recent review.	Prosperity & Investment	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes:				



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
3 March 2027 – Committee Meeting					
Climate Change and Adaptation	<p>For the Committee to receive an update on the Council’s plan for Climate Change Adaptation including how climate risks are identified, planned for and managed to protect communities, infrastructure, and the local environment.</p>	<p>Housing, Commercial & Customer Services</p>	<p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.</p>	<p>Committee Agenda Item</p>	<p>Standing Item.</p>
	Outcomes:				
Shropshire Good Food Annual Update	<p>For the Committee to receive an annual update on the Shropshire Good Food Project.</p>	<p>Housing, Commercial & Customer Services</p>	<p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.</p>	<p>Committee Agenda Item</p>	<p>Standing Item.</p>
	Outcomes:				



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
To be scheduled					
<p>Building Safety and Dangerous Structures</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 21</p>	<p>For the Committee to examine the Council’s responsibilities in relation to dangerous structures and building safety with a particular focus on the environmental impacts of poorly maintained and degrading buildings, including how risks are identified and managed, the use of enforcement powers, response arrangements and how the Council ensures public safety and compliance within the built environment.</p>	<p>Prosperity & Investment</p>	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p>	<p>Committee Agenda Item</p>	<p>New suggestion received for the work programme.</p>
<p>Outcomes:</p>					



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
To be scheduled					
Playing Pitch and Outdoor Recreation Strategy Page 23	For the Committee to receive the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy, outlining the current provision and condition of play areas and pitches, their locations and accessibility for outdoor sports provision, how it prioritises investment and the robustness of the proposed delivery framework in securing and delivering required facilities.	Prosperity & Investment	All neighbourhoods are a great place to live. Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency. A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
Outcomes:					



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