

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Monday, 13th July, 2026 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chair)
Cllr Kevin Betsworth (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Steve Harden (Vice-Chair)

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr G.B Lyon
Cllr Sally McGuinness
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr Mike Roberts

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Uttar Gurung, Cllr Nicky Slater and Cllr Sarah Spall

7. APPOINTMENTS 2026-27

The Committee **NOTED** the following appointments:

- (1) Cllr S.J. Masterson as a Standing Deputy of the Committee in place of Cllr M.J. Tennant for the remainder of the 2026/27 Municipal Year,
- (2) Cllrs P.J. Cullum and Steve Masterson as Members of the Council Tax Support Group, and
- (3) Cllrs Steve Harden, Steve Masterson and Nicky Slater as Members of the Housing Oversight Group.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee were provided with an amended version of the minutes, which included the names of the Officers and Portfolio Holder who were present at the meeting of the Committee on 11th June, 2026.

The amended minutes, as circulated at the meeting, were agreed as a correct record.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee welcomed Emma Lamb, Community and Partnerships Service Manager, Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer and Cllr Sophie Porter, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities and Active Lives who were in attendance to provide an update on the progress of the Climate Change Action Plan.

The Committee received a presentation which covered:

- Council's Carbon Footprint – The Committee were informed how the footprint was calculated, through direct emissions (heating and operational fleet), indirect emissions (purchased electricity) and indirect emissions ((supply chain) staff business travel, paper, waste, water and purchased goods).
- Climate Change Impact Assessments – It was noted that these assessments had been developed to help the Council understand, assess and respond to climate impacts and to ensure that environmental considerations were integrated into decision making. The Assessments would be a mandatory element of Cabinet Reporting from August 2026 and aimed to understand and remove negative impacts, reduce the Carbon Footprint and capture positive outcomes. The Assessments would be carried out in a two-part process, a screening tool and a full assessment if required. A training session would be arranged for Members to ensure greater understanding of the Assessments.
- Climate Action Scorecards – It was advised that Climate Emergency UK were an organisation that assessed all UK councils on the actions taken towards net zero. Volunteers marked councils against national data sets, freedom on information data and volunteer research. It was advised that the Council's score had increased by 10% since 2023 and would not be reassessed until after Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- Community Engagement – The Committee were apprised of the activities involving the local community. These included:
 - The Rushmoor Climate Community – A forum of residents established to engage with the Council on climate, environment and sustainability issues. The aims of the Group were to engage, consult, network and share, create and raise awareness of issues being faced by the Council and the wider community.
 - Rushmoor Eco Festival – An event which last took place in September 2025 at the West End Centre which aimed to promote sustainable living, raise awareness of environmental issues, promote local green spaces and promote local, sustainable and upcycled products. Eighteen stallholders had been present at the event and a programme of events ran throughout the day.
- Young People Engagement – It was noted that this Group, of representatives from each of the Borough's secondary schools and colleges, met monthly, during term times. The aims of the Group were to engage young people in local initiatives, feedback to the Council on climate action, to act as climate ambassadors in their education establishments and develop knowledge and skills. The Group had undertaken a number of activities, including, Climate Myth Busters, Rushmoor COP and a climate debate with students from Wavell School held at the Council Offices.

- Active Travel – It was noted that the Council had received an Active Travel Grant from Hampshire County Council (HCC) which had enabled balance glide and ride sessions and equipment for Reception and Year 1 students at five schools, and the establishment of an after-school cycling club.

The Committee were advised that the Annual Climate Change Action Plan Report was currently being drafted and would be presented to the Cabinet at its meeting in September, 2026.

During discussions on the presentation, Members raised a number of queries, these included:

- How the Council's Climate Change Impact Assessments compared to Hart District and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's? – it was advised that the assessments were reasonably similar but had slightly different policies and assessment criteria. Both Councils were already actively using these assessments as part of their Cabinet reporting.
- A suggestion was made to consider a 20mph speed limit across the Borough to help with pollution and road safety concerns – it was noted that the Council were working with schools on road safety issues and to promote Active Travel. Cllr Porter advised that 20mph speed limits had been on the HCC agenda recently and the matter would be looked at separately.
- In response to a query regarding the methodology used for the Climate Change Scorecards, it was reported that Officers were reasonably content with the methods used, but each Council did things differently making it difficult to compare. The results were published by Climate Emergency UK and could be found at www.climateemergency.uk. It was reported that the average score across all councils was 38% (Rushmoor scored 31%), and the scoring helped identify best practice and took no resource from the Council. At this time, the Council's score had not prevented anything that had been proposed in the Action Plan.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	When
Provide an outline of the assessment criteria for the Climate Change Scorecards	Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer	August 2026
Provide information on the governance and finances of Climate Emergency UK who undertake the assessments	Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer	August 2026

- In response to a query regarding the Climate Impact Assessments, it was noted that the purpose of the assessments was to establish the different levels of impact and no overall recommendation was currently provided.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	When
Share the screening tools used in the Climate Impact Assessment.	Emma Lamb, Community and Partnerships Service Manager	September 2026
Share examples of best practice showing where high, medium and low impacts had been identified	Emma Lamb, Community and Partnerships Service Manager	December 2026
Arrange a training session on the Climate Impact Assessments for all Members	Emma Lamb, Community and Partnerships Service Manager	September 2026

- Progress with the Action Plan – it was advised that the Council only had one Climate Change Officer therefore not all actions had been delivered as set out in the Plan. Some of the actions involved commitment from other services and some work had started to be embedded in business as usual for services where appropriate.
- Community Engagement – in response to a query regarding the effectiveness of engagement and how it was measured, it was reported that there was no formal feedback at present, but this could be sought going forward.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	When
Consider how feedback could be sought from residents/the community and how this could be used to measure impacts	Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer	Ongoing

- Young People Engagement – in response to a query regarding the number of schools currently engaged, it was reported that all of the schools/colleges had been invited to attend, and representatives from four schools and a college meet monthly.
- Environmental and Climate focused groups – in response to a query regarding ensuring the longevity of these groups following LGR, it was noted that the Community and Partnerships Team worked with all groups to look at how they could be sustained now and in the future following LGR.

Some Members proposed that a fund be established, for residents to contribute into, for environmental projects for those groups not willing to apply to the Farnborough Airport Community and Environmental Fund. In response, Officers advised that consideration would need to be given to the governance of such a fund, which may be quite complex.

- **Benefits** – the Committee discussed the benefit, impacts and successes of the actions outline in the Plan. It was felt that all actions had a benefit and there was an individual responsibility on everyone to help reduce the impacts of Climate Change. When asked how the Plan would be achieved, it was noted that LGR had an impact on some actions and others were quite ambitious. Timescales for each action would be reviewed as part of the annual reporting to the Cabinet in September. It was also advised that Members would be updated on progress through the Chief Executives News and/or Member Briefings.

Other issues discussed included, solar panelling, mini forests, re-wilding, grass cutting schedules, screening of the National Emergency Briefing film, an update on the Notice of Motion on the Rights of Rivers and Cove Brook Greenway clearance.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	When
Provide an update on the SERCO Contract renewal.	Ruth Whaymand, Service Manager Environmental Contracts	August 2026
Add SERCO Update to the Committee's Work Plan for 2026/27 for consideration.	David Phillips, OSC Lead Officer	July 2026

The Committee discussed the proposal to create a fund for residents to contribute to community projects and **RECOMMENDED** that the Cabinet consider options for residents to contribute voluntary funds for local community projects, which could contribute to both the Climate Change Action Plan and local initiatives.

The Chair thanked Officers and Cllr Porter for their contribution to the meeting.

10. **WORK PLAN**

The current Work Plan was noted, and it was advised that the proposed items for the September meeting would be the Police and Community Safety annual update.

It was also suggested that SERCO should attend a future meeting to provide an update. This would be investigated by officers and a date scheduled when appropriate, following discussion with the Agenda Preparation Group.

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm.

CLLR HALLEH KOOHESTANI (CHAIR)

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 17th September, 2026 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chair)
Cllr Kevin Betsworth (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Steve Harden (Vice-Chair)

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Uttar Gurung
Cllr G.B Lyon
Cllr Sally McGuinness
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr Nicky Slater

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mike Roberts and Cllr Becky Williams.

Cllr Lisa Greenway attended the meeting as a Standing Deputy.

11. APPOINTMENTS 2026-27

The Committee **NOTED** changes to the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the remainder of the 2026/27 Municipal Year, as set out below:

- Cllr Becky Williams to be appointed to the Committee in place of Cllr Sarah Spall
- Cllr Sarah Spall to be appointed as Standing Deputy for the Committee in place of the Labour vacancy

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 13th July, 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

13. POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee welcomed Chief Inspector Alex Reading, Hampshire Police and the Council's Community Safety Manager, David Lipscombe who were in attendance to report on current priorities, performance information, key achievements over the previous twelve months, within the policing and community safety sector. Also in attendance was the Portfolio Holder for Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Christine Guinness.

The Committee were advised that Hampshire Police had continued to strengthen local policing arrangements through increased officer numbers, with additional officers being transferred into neighbourhood policing teams as they gained experience. Members noted that neighbourhood policing remained focused on anti-social behaviour, drug-related harm, anti-social driving, hate crime, community cohesion and youth-related disorder. Particular attention had been given to anti-social behaviour in Aldershot town centre, youth disorder linked to football activities and anti-social behaviour at Farnborough Skate Park. Members were informed that partnership working was continuing with local schools, community organisations, parents and Aldershot Football Club to address the behaviour of a small number of young people involved in incidents.

During discussion, Members explored opportunities to provide early intervention and support for young people. The Committee heard that organisations such as Yellow Brick Road and social prescribing schemes were being utilised to help divert young people away from criminal activity and provide mentoring and support. Members welcomed the preventative approach and discussed the importance of positive role models and community-based interventions.

The Committee discussed anti-social behaviour and drug-related activity within residential neighbourhoods and public spaces. Members raised questions regarding reports of drug-related activity in local communities and sought reassurance that sufficient resources were available to address emerging issues. In response, it was explained that enforcement activity was intelligence-led and that police resources were directed towards those individuals and networks assessed as presenting the greatest risk.

Members discussed local policing priorities and the mechanisms through which residents could influence those priorities. It was explained that priorities were informed through reported incidents, intelligence, community engagement, surveys and partnership information. Members expressed a desire for greater opportunities for Councillors to feed local concerns directly into policing discussions and highlighted the importance of ensuring that issues not routinely reported through traditional channels were still identified and addressed.

The Committee considered speeding concerns raised frequently by residents across the Borough. Members discussed the use of Speed Indicator Devices, Speedwatch initiatives and police enforcement activity and questioned whether additional deployment of speed monitoring equipment could assist in addressing residents' concerns. The Committee were advised that speeding remained a common issue raised through community engagement and that both educational and enforcement approaches were used to address the problem. Members noted that Speedwatch schemes relied on volunteers and that police officers were also able to undertake targeted speed enforcement activity where concerns had been identified.

The Committee reviewed crime statistics covering the previous twelve months. Members noted an overall reduction in recorded crime compared with the previous year and were advised that crime trends continued to be monitored closely to identify emerging hotspots and patterns. Members requested that consideration be given to

providing longer-term trend data in future presentations to assist with scrutiny and comparison of performance over time.

The Committee discussed hate crime and community cohesion. Members noted that race-related hate crime remained the most frequently reported category and sought reassurance regarding arrangements for monitoring community tensions and responding to reports of hate crime. Particular discussion took place in relation to incidents affecting the Nepalese community and the work being undertaken to encourage reporting and engagement with the police. Members also raised questions regarding faith-related incidents and broader national trends. The Committee were advised that community impact assessments were undertaken where appropriate and that partnership arrangements existed to monitor tensions and coordinate responses where concerns arose.

Members considered the use of stop and search powers and discussed public confidence in the fair and proportionate use of those powers. The Committee was advised that stop and search activity was subject to extensive scrutiny and review, including oversight by independent groups and body worn video monitoring. Members acknowledged the importance of proportionality whilst recognising stop and search as a valuable policing tool in tackling crime and reducing risk within communities. Discussion also took place regarding the safeguards surrounding more intrusive search powers and the arrangements in place to ensure appropriate oversight and accountability.

The Committee discussed communication between Hampshire Police, Councillors and residents, particularly following significant incidents. Members expressed a desire for improved communication arrangements to assist Councillors in providing reassurance to residents when major incidents occurred in their wards. It was acknowledged that operational and legal constraints sometimes limited the information that could be shared but Members emphasised the importance of timely communication wherever possible. Members also suggested that stronger links between local Councillors and neighbourhood policing teams would be beneficial.

The Committee welcomed David Lipscombe, Community Safety Manager, who was in attendance to provide an update on the work of the Community Safety Team. Mr Lipscombe outlined the Team's responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act, which included responding to crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB), coordinating multi-agency casework, managing the Council's CCTV service and supporting safeguarding arrangements across the Council. He explained that the Team continued to utilise a range of early intervention measures, including warning letters, home visits, education and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, alongside formal enforcement tools where required.

The Committee was informed of the diverse responsibilities carried out by the Community Safety Team. These included acting as the Council's safeguarding lead, participation in the Hampshire PREVENT Partnership and Channel Panel, involvement in the Serious Violence Duty through partnership arrangements across Hampshire, and coordination of domestic abuse work, including the North East Hampshire Domestic Abuse Forum and Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews. Members were advised that 94 safeguarding referrals had been completed during

2026 to date and that referrals for Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews were increasing, placing additional pressure on local authority resources.

Members were informed of the volume of work undertaken by the Team during the year. The Team had triaged approximately 900 police reports, responded to 323 direct enquiries, coordinated multi-agency referrals and managed a significant number of CCTV incidents. The CCTV service had recorded 2,319 incidents, resulting in 78 arrests. Members noted that demand on the service continued to increase, with direct enquiries having doubled compared with the same period in the previous year.

The Committee received details of a number of projects and initiatives delivered during the year. These included the Think Safe project for Year 6 pupils, which had engaged 932 pupils from 15 schools, the replacement of CCTV cameras in Aldershot Multi-Storey Car Park, the completion of additional CCTV coverage in Farnborough town centre and successful funding bids for mobile CCTV equipment. Members also noted the continued use of the DISC retailer system, detached youth outreach sessions, community safety awareness campaigns and educational work relating to cycling, e-scooters and anti-social behaviour.

The Committee considered a number of case studies which demonstrated the complexity of the Team's work. These included the management of a long-running neighbour dispute, intervention work with young people involved in fire-setting incidents and partnership work with schools, Hampshire Police and Network Rail to address reports of young people accessing railway infrastructure. Members recognised the value of early intervention and detached youth outreach work in preventing escalation and reducing risk. Members welcomed the success of the outreach programme and recognised the benefits it had delivered in engaging with young people, preventing escalation of issues and supporting community safety objectives. The Committee noted that current grant funding was due to expire at the end of September 2026 and supported continued efforts to identify future funding opportunities.

During discussion, Members sought clarification regarding Anti-Social Behaviour Case Reviews. It was explained that the reviews provided an independent assessment where residents believed reports of anti-social behaviour had not been appropriately addressed and enabled partner agencies to identify any further actions that could be taken. Members were encouraged to contact the Community Safety Team where such concerns were raised by residents.

Members discussed current staffing arrangements and sought clarification about recruitment challenges and vacancy levels. Members also discussed the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), road safety concerns and the relationship between community safety priorities and speeding complaints raised by residents.

The Committee discussed previous proposals for mobile CCTV deployment in Fernhill and sought clarification regarding the rationale for not progressing earlier funding proposals. Members were advised that the Council had instead pursued a Rushmoor-wide approach to mobile CCTV deployment, enabling resources to be moved to hotspot locations as required. The Committee noted that a newly acquired

mobile CCTV camera was due to be deployed shortly and could be considered for future use in identified areas.

Members raised concerns regarding graffiti, particularly where tagging contributed to perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. It was acknowledged graffiti could impact on residents' feelings of safety and advised that offensive graffiti was removed as a priority, whilst options to address wider tagging issues would continue to be explored. Discussion also took place regarding properties with large numbers of vehicles causing concerns for neighbouring residents, and officers agreed to review a specific case raised during the meeting.

The Committee noted the Community Safety Survey results, which showed an improvement in residents' feelings of safety compared with previous years. Members were advised that survey findings were shared with partners and informed local priorities. The Committee also discussed the use of Artificial Intelligence in analysing community safety data and were advised that the Council was continuing to explore appropriate uses of AI. Hampshire Police were already using AI in limited and carefully controlled circumstances to assist with the analysis of large datasets.

Members welcomed the positive work being undertaken by the Community Safety Team and recognised the breadth of responsibilities managed by the service. The Committee noted the increasing demand arising from community safety, mental health and social care related issues, youth anti-social behaviour and Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, and acknowledged the Team's ongoing efforts to respond effectively to these challenges. Members thanked David Lipscombe and his team for their continued work in supporting community safety across Rushmoor.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Alex Reading, David Lipscombe and Councillor Guinness for their presentation and contributions to the meeting.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	When
Provide crime statistics for West Farnborough/West Heath.	Chief Inspector Alex Reading - Hampshire Police	ASAP
Share contact details for local policing teams and local officers with Members.	Chief Inspector Alex Reading - Hampshire Police	ASAP
Review the anti-social behaviour case raised by Cllr Adeola and liaise with the relevant housing association.	David Lipscome – Community Safety Manager	November 2026
Circulate the forthcoming Community Safety Strategic Assessment to Members.	David Lipscome – Community Safety Manager	December 2026
Provide information on the Council's use of Artificial Intelligence in relation to community safety data and analysis.	David Lipscome – Community Safety Manager	December 2026

14. WORK PLAN

The Committee noted the current Work Plan.

Members were advised of the special meeting scheduled for 21 September 2026 to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the SERCO Contract Extension and noted the forthcoming items on Skills, Economy and Regeneration and the Young People Plan. Members were invited to submit suggestions for future scrutiny topics for consideration by the Agenda Preparation Group. During discussion, it was suggested that a future item should consider care plan processes and partnership working with Hampshire County Council.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	When
The Agenda Preparation Group to consider adding the following agenda item to a future meeting – ‘HCC to review their processes to ensure faster receipt of Care Plans for Housing cases’.	Agenda Preparation Group	28 September 2026 Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.