

Lead AD	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods, Kerry Clifford
Deputy	AD Building Safety & Housing Property Services, Denise Lewis
Chair	Cllr Ellie Plater
Vice-Chair	Cllr Julie Ashley-Wren

Community Select Committee Scrutiny Work Programme 2025-26

(Including main review items, one-off meetings, statutory and standing items, review revisits and policy development items)

The work programme is the main guide to the Committee's work throughout the year. However individual items can be raised at Committee meetings and consider as one-off items on a case-by-case basis at future meetings.

Scrutiny Review items 2025/26: (Main review, one-off updates, briefings etc.)	Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Lead Officer(s) & Portfolio Holder	Provisional meeting date(s) identified	Other details: i.e. (i) Number of meetings item can be covered in? (ii) Whether scoping required? (iii) Expectation/ style of meeting & (iv) other details	Comment by lead Assistant Director/Deputy	Chair/Vice-Chair Preference & Priority
<u>Progress of the new Housing Allocations policy</u>	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods, Kerry Clifford, Head of	Meeting in the Autumn (Sep/Oct 2025) ahead of report to Cabinet	(i) This should be covered in a single meeting	A one-off update to CSC Members providing balance between affordability criteria and	

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	Community Advice, Sarah Pateman, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing, Cllr Jackie Hollywell.	in December 2025. Tuesday 21 October 2025	(ii) No scope required.	the Council's statutory responsibilities as a Social Housing Provider.	
<u>Tenant enforcement/ tenancy Audits</u>	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods, Kerry Clifford, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing, Cllr Jackie Hollywell & Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Tenancy Involvement, Cllr Nigel Williams	Tuesday 16 September 2025	(i) This should be covered in a single meeting (ii) No scope required.	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods has suggested that there is a need for a Tenancy Audit Policy – to provide a procedure for staff and a policy for tenants so all parties know what is expected)	Vice-Chair, Tenancy Audits can throw up potential safeguarding issues.
<u>One-off update item on Housing Damp & Mould</u>	AD Building Safety and Property Services, Denise Lewis, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for	Tuesday 16 September 2025 – Officer Briefing ahead of legislation	(i) This should be covered in a single meeting (ii) No scope required.	Members to receive an update on Damp & Mould – AD Housing & Neighbourhoods suggested a briefing	If possible, Members have indicated they would like to receive information on:

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	Housing, Cllr Jackie Hollywell.	changes in Oct 2025.		could be provided to Members in August/Sep ahead of Awabb's Law coming into effect Oct 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a flow chart as a reference point to see what stage case are in the process. • Info on repeat cases and the tracking of live cases. • Info on factors that affect damp and mould in properties such as cost of living; keeping heating on low and constant; better ventilation; overcrowding.
<u>Equalities & Diversity</u> (Initially a one-off meeting, but could lead to a main review)	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods, Kerry Clifford, SLT Lead for E&D, Corp Policy and Business Support Manager, Daryl	Draft report 11 November 2025 - Final Report - tbc	(i) Final meetings of the review – It is likely that the review would be brought to 2 Committee meetings, (i) a	A Member briefing and written briefing note is being prepared to be shared with CSC Members on Community Cohesion.	Ongoing – bring the final report to CSC in 2025-26 Municipal Year The Chair asked if the review could receive an update on the Council

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	Jedowski, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities including Equalities, Cllr Coleen De Freitas.		draft report and receive an update on the Council's cultural strategy; and (ii) Final report.	Officers can bring an update on the existing cultural strategy to a future meeting. Which could include an invitation to the new Cabinet Portfolio holder, Cllr Simon Speller. Beyond this a more detailed piece on the Council's Cultural Strategy (2018-2028) could be included in a future CSC work programme/Municipal Year as the Strategy is in need of a refresh.	Cultural Strategy and following this Members could make recommendations on the strategy with a renewed emphasis on diversity and inclusivity. Take on the offer from the partially sighted community to walk around the town – this is in hand with the Cabinet Portfolio for Equalities. Members are looking forward to receiving an all-Member seminar on Community Cohesion – including details of the emerging Resettlement Action Plan.

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<u>Older People</u>	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods, Kerry Clifford, Health & Sport Strategy Manager, Ryan Ansell, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Neighbourhoods and Older People, Cllr Myla Arceno	To be advised.	This could be the focus of one meeting of the Committee.	Officers can provide a session focusing on Older People – including the Council’s policies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Community & Age Friendly Conference • Dementia Friendly Community • Digital exclusion • How older people access our services • Housing for Older People (this could be a separate larger piece of work to a future work programme/Municipal Year) 	The Chair has previously outlined the challenges faced by older people in relation to digital exclusion.

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<u>Community Centre's</u>	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods, Kerry Clifford, Strategic Director and Statutory Section 151 Officer, Clare Fletcher Cabinet Member with responsibility for Co-operative Council, Cllr Nigel Williams.	To be advised – possibly a briefing note that could be considered at a meeting of the Committee.	Possibly one meeting with potential to lead to further meetings.	The Assistant Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods has agreed to liaise with the Council's Section 151 Officer regarding the status of the current policy and would provide feedback to Members.	Members requested an update on the future of Community Centres, specifically regarding the Play Centre and Pavilion at St Nicholas Park.
<u>Statutory Item – Crime & Disorder Committee</u>	AD Stevenage Direct Services, Lead Officer Sarah Pateman, Portfolio Holder for Stronger Communities – Cllr Tom Plater	Meeting to be scheduled for <u>March 2026</u> .	(ii) Yes, covered in one meeting (ii) No scope required (iii) Interviews with Chair of RAG, Herts Constabulary, Portfolio Holder with responsibility	The annual meeting this year could provide an opportunity to highlight the work of joint working with the Police and the strategies and work of the SoSafe Partnership.	The Chair has asked if there could be a profile on the Council's work regarding Anti-Social Behaviour.

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			for Community Safety looking at past performance of the Community Safety Action Plan and future priorities		
<u>Standing Item - Public Health</u>	AD Housing & Neighbourhoods, Kerry Clifford, and Health & Sports Strategy Manager, Ryan Ansell, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing, Cllr Simon Speller	<u>Jan/Feb 2026.</u>	(i) Yes, covered in one meeting (ii) No scope required (iii) Interviews with the HCC Director of Public Health, SBC Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Public Health and the SD for Community. (iv) Other Members to be invited – SBC Rep	Members indicated that they previously valued the sessions with the HCC Director of Public Health and would like to reinstate these meetings with focus on general health and wellbeing and specifically on Health Inequalities for Stevenage. The HCC Director of Public Health (or a	Public Health remains a priority. The Chair has suggested inviting a representative from the Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny to speak to the Committee about health and wellbeing statistics specific to Stevenage. In addition, officers have previously confirmed they would invite a member of the Hertfordshire County

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			on HCC Health Scrutiny Cttee.	Member of the HCC Public Health Team) be invited to update Members on the NHS Integrated Care Boards (which have replacing Clinical Commissioning Groups) and on matters relating to Public Health and Stevenage (if possible including the “tartan rug” the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment)	Council Public Health team to attend a future meeting to further explore this topic. The importance of promoting health and wellbeing awareness across Stevenage has been emphasised, and the Chair has highlighted that increasing awareness could support residents in making more informed decisions about their health.
<u>2026-27 Work Programme</u>		Feb/March 2026. To be arranged.	One off meeting		Scheduled for Feb/March 2026

