Audit and Scrutiny Committee
16 July 2026

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME – JULY 2026

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Report Author:	Will Mace, Corporate Governance & Strategy Manager
Wards affected:	(All Wards)
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

This report presents the Committee with its rolling annual Work Programme.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

(1) Note and agree the ongoing Work Programme as presented in Section 2.

1 Reason for Recommendation

1.1 Paragraph 4.6 of the Constitution states that the Committee "can scrutinise decisions made by the Full Council or policy committees"[1]. Paragraphs 1.3(i) and 1.3(iii) of Annex 4.6 of the Council Operating Framework also states that the Committee "will be responsible for arranging the overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the council" as well as "approving an annual overview and scrutiny Work Programme".[2] Therefore the Committee is able to maintain oversight of its Work Programme and make additions or adjustments it wishes.

2 Background

2.1 The committee Work Programme is presented below. The programme includes reports that relate to the committee's areas of responsibility, as stipulated in its terms of reference.[3]

[1] See *Constitution of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council*, p.3. Online available: https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=205&info=1&MD=Constitution [Last accessed 27/05/2026].

[2] See *Council Operating Framework, Annex 4.6: Overview, Audit and Scrutiny*, p.1. Online available: https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/council/about-council/governance/council-operating-framework [Last accessed 27/05/2026].

[3] See *Constitution of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: Appendix 3 – Terms of Reference for Full Council and Committees*. Online available: Epsom and Ewell Democracy [last accessed 27/05/2026].

2.2 Work Programme

Meeting		Agenda
Present	16 July 2026 (this meeting)	• Internal Audit Annual Conclusion and 2025-26 Plan • Annual Governance Statement 2025-2026 • Performance and Risk Report: 2025-2026 End of Year Report • Use of Urgent Decisions Annual Report o To include only scrutiny of the urgent decision process followed for UD158 (as per meeting February 2026) • External Audit Transparency Report • Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) Updates – July 2026 • Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Letter 2025-2026 • ~~Placeholder: Priority Projects Update~~* • Work Programme
Future	29 September 2026	• Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (2026-2027) • Capital Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (2026-2027) • ~~Internal Audit: Progress Report~~* • Performance and Risk Report - September 2026 • External Audit Findings Report and Auditors' Annual Report. • Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) Updates – September 2026 • Work Programme
Future	12 November 2026	• Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2 (2026-2027) • Capital Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2 (2026-2027) • Internal Audit: Progress Report • ~~Code of Corporate Governance Annual Review~~* • Final Counter-Fraud and Whistleblowing Annual Report (inc. gifts and hospitality)

		• Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) Updates – November 2026 • Work Programme
Future	4 February 2027	• Final Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3 (2026-2027) • Final Capital Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3 (2026-2027) • Final Community Safety Partnership Annual Report • Final Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report • ~~Performance and Risk Report – February 2027~~* • Placeholder: External Audit Update • Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) Updates – February 2027 • Work Programme
Future	18 March 2027	• Internal Audit: Annual Plan 2027-2028 and Internal Audit Charter* • Final Internal Audit: Progress Report • Final Annual Governance Statement (March 2027) and Code of Corporate Governance Report • Final Internal Audit: External Quality Assessment – Results • Final FSAG Annual Treasury Management Report • Final Performance and Risk Report – March 2027 • Final Committee Annual Report 2026-2027 (to be presented to Full Council) • Final Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) (RIPA) Annual Report • Final Annual Complaints Report • Final Annual Procurement Waiver Report 2026 • Final Placeholder: External Audit Update • Final Placeholder: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) Updates – March 2027 • Final Placeholder: Priority Projects Update • Final Work Programme

2.3 Work Programme Requests: one request is being processed at the time of writing.

2.4 Any additional Work Programme items, i.e. items that are not the Committee's business as usual work, are subject to the council being able to resource the request, in particular due to Local Government Organisation resource commitments.

2.5 Updates to the Work Programme *

2.6 July 2026

2.6.1 The placeholder for the External Audit update has been removed as the report was provided at the March 2026 meeting.

2.6.2 Priority Projects Update: This report is not required as updates to current priorities are being reported to individual committees as required.

2.7 September 2026

2.7.1 Internal Audit Progress Report: SIAP advised that a report is not required as they are not expecting many updates since the July meeting, and there will be an update in November.

2.8 November 2026

2.8.1 Proposed that the Code of Corporate Governance Annual Review is removed, as its review can be included in the final Annual Governance Statement report in March.

2.9 February 2027

2.9.1 Performance and Risk Report: Propose this is removed as the final report will be brought to the March meeting, which will include the latest available updates.

2.10 March 2027

2.10.1 Internal Audit: Annual Plan 2027-2028 and Internal Audit Charter: This report may not be required due to Local Government Reorganisation.

2.11 Implications of LGR

2.11.1 As a result of LGR there are extra meetings which are needing to be accommodated by Epsom and Ewell on behalf of the Shadow Authority in addition to which there is increased pressure on officers to deliver on the work required to ensure the new authority can come into existence on vesting day. If there are reports that the committee does not wish to receive e.g. the RIPA report (we do not carry out RIPA surveillance), or complaints report in March, when there will be little chance to enact on any recommendations from the report, then that would help to ease the burden on officers.

3 Call-in Requests

3.1 No Call-in requests have been received since the last Committee meeting.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

4.1 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

4.2 Crime & Disorder

4.2.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 No direct implications arising from this report.

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 The committee does rely on some of the council's partners, and other committees, such as internal and external audit, and the Community Safety Partnership to fulfil the Work Programme.

4.5 Other

4.5.1 No other direct implications arising from this report.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments**: None arising from the contents of this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

6.2 **Legal Officer's comments**: None arising from the contents of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities**: The following Key Priorities are engaged: N/A

7.2 **Service Plans**: The report is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations**: No direct implications arising from this report.

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications**: No direct implications arising from this report.

7.5 **Partnerships**: No direct implications arising from this report.

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Work Programme, *Audit and Scrutiny Committee*, 19th March 2026. Online available: https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=1800 [last accessed 27/05/2026].

Other papers:

- None.