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**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

Samantha Lawton

Governance and Commissioning

PO Box 1720

Huddersfield

HD1 9EL

Tel: 01484 221000

Please ask for: Jodie Harris

Email: jodie.harris@kirklees.gov.uk

Tuesday 30 September 2025

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

The **Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **2.00 pm** on **Wednesday 8 October 2025**.

This meeting will be live webcast. To access the webcast please go to the Council's website at the time of the meeting and follow the instructions on the page.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Lawton".

Samantha Lawton
Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Panel members are:-

Member

Councillor Andrew Cooper (Chair)

Councillor Musarrat Khan

Councillor David Longstaff

Councillor Matthew McLoughlin

Councillor Will Simpson

Councillor John Taylor

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Panel

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 6

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 13th August 2025

3: Declaration of Interests

7 - 8

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Panel.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Panel will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the

Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

6: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the period for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

7: Snow Warden Winter 2025/26 Update

9 - 20

The Panel will consider a presentation giving an update on the Snow Wardens Scheme.

Contact:
Nick Jenkin, Buisness Development Manager

8: Work Programme 2025/26

21 - 24

The Panel will consider its Work Programme for 2025/26

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 13th August 2025

Present:

Councillor Andrew Cooper (Chair)
Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Musarrat Khan

In attendance:

Councillor Tyler Hawkins , Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Highways and Waste
Will Acornley, Head of Operational Services
Nick Jenkin , Buisness Development Manager
Tristain Fethney, Commercial and Technical
Development Manager

Councillor Matthew McLoughlin

Apologies:

Membership of the Panel

Apologies were received from Councillor Matthew McLoughlin

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Panel considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 16th April 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved.

3 Interests

Councillor John Taylor declared an interest relating to item 8 as the Alternative Director for SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Kirklees LTD.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in the public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

7 Appointment to the Kirklees Vision 0 Board

It was agreed that the item be deferred due to ongoing updates to the Terms of Reference of the Board.

8 Simpler Recycling

The Panel received a presentation and report on the introduction of Simpler Recycling and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation (introduced nationally in late 2024). The update was presented by Will Acornley, Head of Operational Services who informed the Panel that:

- Simpler Recycling aimed to standardise recycling and waste collection across England, requiring the separation of waste streams and the introduction of new bins for fibres and food waste.
- EPR legislation required producers to cover the costs of packaging waste, with Kirklees expected to receive £6.6 million in the first year of payments.
- A Deposit Return Scheme was proposed for drinks containers, allowing residents to reclaim deposits on returned items.
- Kirklees Council planned to implement Simpler Recycling by 2028 to align with the expiry of its current 30-year PFI waste contract.
- The Council's Waste Strategy (2021–2030) had been informed by significant public engagement and included actions such as reuse shops, recycling champions, and contamination reduction initiatives.
- The waste disposal contract, operated by SUEZ, was in its final years, with facility ownership reverting to the Council in 2028. Preparatory actions included variations to the contract, asset registers, and procurement strategy development.
- The Council was reviewing options for implementing Simpler Recycling, including the impact on back-to-back properties, HMOs, and flats.
- Funding challenges were noted, with uncertainty around future EPR payments and disposal costs under new contracts.
- Risks included operational disruption, funding uncertainty, and the need for effective community engagement
- Legal and operational considerations for the procurement of new waste treatment and reprocessing contracts under the Competitive Flexible Procedure (CFP) must also be considered and a new timeline was being worked up to align with this.
- The Huddersfield District Energy Network was also key consideration of the procurement process.
- A communications plan was being developed to support public understanding and participation.
- Engagement with residents and stakeholders would continue, with lessons drawn from other local authorities.

Councillor Tyler Hawkins, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste noted that the proposed changes represented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform waste management operations within Kirklees. He highlighted that, due to concurrent national legislative reforms, all local authorities were undergoing similar transitions. This alignment created valuable opportunities for collaboration and shared learning—both among councils and with residents. Councillor Hawkins emphasised the importance of investing in the necessary infrastructure to support these changes and underscored the need to engage and involve the public throughout the process.

The Panel noted the presentation and, in the discussion, to follow raised questions regarding financial implications, service continuity, and the long-term sustainability of Simpler Recycling:

- In response to the Panel's question regarding legal compliance, it was acknowledged that there had been delays in receiving definitive clarification on compliance requirements. The significant scope and scale of the proposed changes were also recognised as contributing factors. The Council confirmed its commitment to working in partnership with DEFRA to formalise an implementation plan for Simpler Recycling. It was further noted that, provided progress towards implementation is demonstrated, no enforcement action will be taken despite the revised rollout date of 2028.
- In response to the Panel's question regarding resident education, a two-year engagement and mobilisation strategy was planned to support behaviour change and minimise disruption, drawing on lessons from other authorities.
- In response to the Panel's question about engaging hard-to-reach communities, it was confirmed that targeted engagement had already improved contamination rates and that separating waste streams would further support this. The Panel noted the response and further recommended that engagement with the third sector and adult social care were established to reach vulnerable groups and support inclusive engagement.
- In response to concerns raised by the Panel around service continuity, it was confirmed that the Council's residual and brown bin services would remain unchanged, with food waste collection kept separate due to cost and frequency requirements.
- In response to questions from the Panel regarding the transition of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) officers advised that this was a key dialogue point being addressed through procurement planning, including temporary diversion options.
- In response to the Panel's question about accessibility for residents with dementia, officers agreed that inclusive design and clear bin labelling would be considered during the planning phase. The panel welcomed this and highlighted the benefits of putting information on the inside of bin lids.
- In response to a question from the Panel about school recycling alignment, officers confirmed that engagement with schools was ongoing and that full compliance support would be in place by 2028.
- In response to the Panel's question about managing serial contamination, officers confirmed that engagement was the primary approach, with bin removal used only as a last resort following repeated non-compliance.
- The financial burden of the legislation was discussed, and officers stated that while EPR funding was expected to broadly cover current recycling services, food waste remained a challenge with limited capital and no confirmed revenue support. DEFRA had not yet provided full clarity on future funding.
- The Panel asked whether behaviour changes could reduce future funding and in response, officers acknowledged this risk but noted that the initial £6.6 million EPR payment was a positive step. Long-term impacts were uncertain and would depend on national shifts in packaging and recycling practices.
- In response to the Panel's question about future reductions in packaging by producers, officers acknowledged the risk of reduced EPR payments but noted

that emissions trading schemes (ETS) could help strengthen the business case for the Huddersfield District Energy Network (HDEN).

- In response to the Panel's question about interim service improvements, officers confirmed that the current contract extension with SUEZ focused on maintaining infrastructure and mitigating landfill tax increases. Some interim improvements were being explored to deliver visible benefits ahead of 2028.
- In response to the Panel's question about the long-term future of the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility, officers advised that future options, including carbon capture and regional facilities, would be considered as part of contract planning.
- In response to the Panel's question about recycling complex materials such as tetra packs, officers advised that if a local re-processor was available this would be preferred. Procurement scoring would factor in environmental impact and proximity.
- In response to the Panel's question about food waste viability, officers explained that food waste had been separated from the main recycling rollout due to cost and operational complexity. Anaerobic digestion was being explored as a disposal option, with interest from local providers. Disposal would likely be procured separately to maximise market access and flexibility.
- In response to the Panel's question about influencing government policy, officers advised that reversing the food waste requirement would require a change in legislation. A financial settlement had yet been received from government and currently the council was required to have this in place by 2028. While the legislation was now law, advocacy through MPs and the Local Government Association remained a viable route to raise concerns.
- In response to the Panel's question about the communications strategy, officers confirmed that a two-year campaign was being developed in collaboration with the Council's communications team. Initial engagement with other local authorities had begun, with further benchmarking planned. Early engagement would focus on hard-to-reach communities, and those most affected by infrastructure changes, followed by broader public messaging. Councillor suggestions, such as bin lid labelling for residents with dementia, would be incorporated. The campaign would be supported by a combination of government funding and internal resources.
- In response to the Panel's question about influencing government policy, officers stated that, political advocacy through MPs and the Local Government Association remained a viable route to raise concerns about practical implementation challenges.

The Panel noted the report *Simpler Recycling* and it was recommended that

1. Engagement with the third sector and adult social care be held to reach vulnerable groups and support inclusive engagement.
2. Inclusive design features, such as labelling on the inside of bin lids, be considered to support residents with dementia.
3. Engagement with schools be maintained to ensure alignment between household and school recycling practices.

10. Work Programme 2025/26

The Panel reviewed its Work Programme for 2025/26 and it was noted that the Panel was interested in visiting third sector organisations as part of its work programme.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the Work Programme 2025/26.

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

Name of Councillor

Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed:

Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and

(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



**S!NOiW
WARDEN**

Winter 25/26 Update

Introduction

- The scheme began in winter 2021 as a two-year pilot project.
- The initiative encourages volunteers to clear pavements in their communities, helping pedestrians stay connected to main routes and assisting local facilities such as religious centres, doctor surgeries, and nurseries in keeping safe access during winter conditions.
- Volunteers are provided with a snow shovel, hand scoop, grit, and a high-visibility jacket/vest to carry out gritting in their local area.



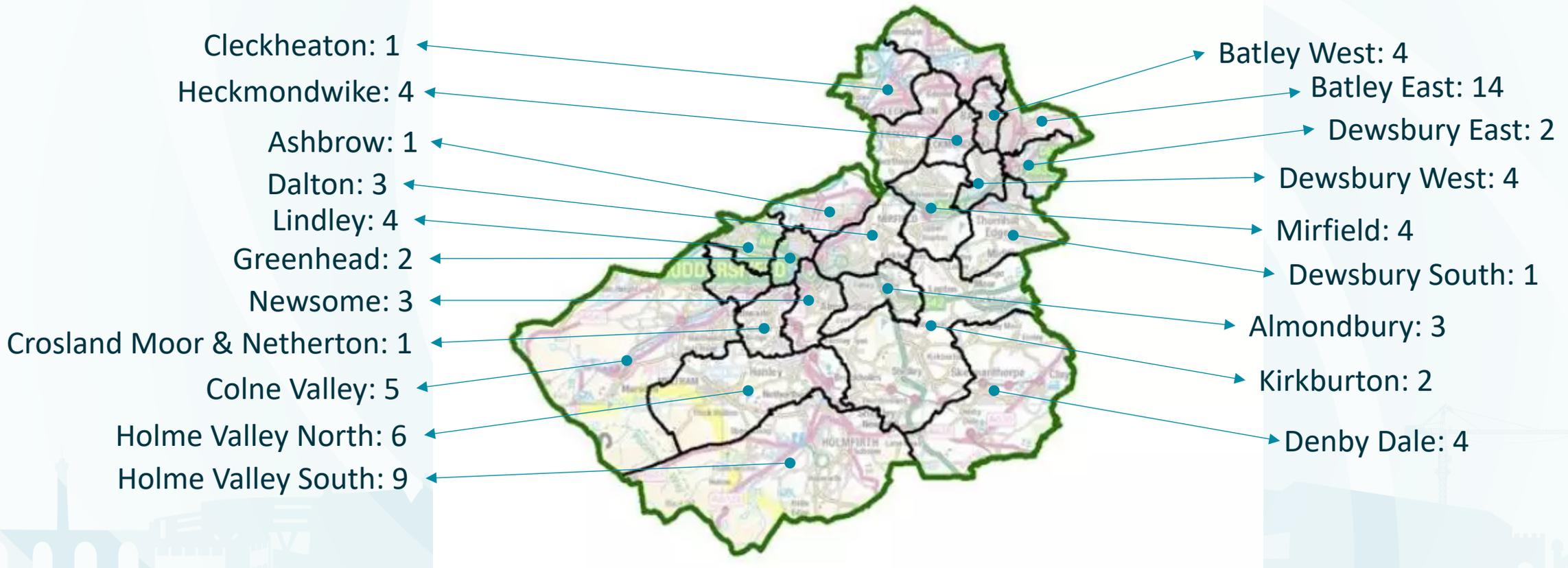
SNOW
WARDEN

Scheme growth



- The scheme grew sharply in 24/25 due to multiple weather events within the season, alongside the introduction of community groups.
- There are 37 snow wardens already on a wait list to join the scheme in 25/26.

Current Individual Snow Warden Volunteers



Issues encountered during the 24/25 season

- Reduced management resource – the service is managed by the waste and parks support teams. Both teams also received spikes in complaints and service requests alongside the weather events, impacting turn around for new sign ups and replenishment.
- Post the severe weather event in January highways teams concentrated on refilling the grit bin network, which meant a delay to replenishing snow warden grit following the event.
- A delivery only method meant some snow wardens did not receive full kits for weeks following their sign up, due to resourcing deliveries.

Volunteer feedback – Equipment & grit

- 64% of participants said they were happy with the equipment provided.
- Four residents encountered problems with their shovels, while three preferred a grit sprinkler instead of a hand shovel.
- 85% of volunteers indicated willingness to collect grit or supplies from local pick-up locations at the start of the season or for mid-season restocking.
- 89% of volunteers felt confident about when to apply grit.
- 71% of volunteers mentioned they did not have sufficient grit, whereas the remaining 29% were happy with the quantity.
- 32% of volunteers experienced difficulties storing the grit they received.

Volunteer feedback – general feedback

Volunteers provided additional feedback on the service, highlighting several key points:

- In areas or streets with multiple snow warden volunteers, having centralised storage and coordination would be helpful, potentially managed via social media platforms.
- For streets that already have snow wardens, additional residents should be encouraged to join and assist through targeted comms.
- The re-supply of grit after the January weather event was considered too slow.
- Although communication with the team was generally seen as positive, it experienced delays during the January snowfall.

Current guidance

- Guidance is reviewed and updated annually. Within the 2025/26 guidance further information will be added about the appropriate amount of grit that is required.
- 10kg of grit should be able to cover around 250m of footpath (500sqm in total).
- Current guidance advises snow wardens:
 - How to clear effectively
 - Advising how to judge when to take action
 - Details of the equipment and the appropriate footwear required
 - How to protect themselves
 - How to report a problem

Changes for the new season

- Due to a few issues with the shovels, additional stock will be ordered this year to ensure replacements can be provided promptly without waiting for future deliveries.
- Residents will have the option to receive an extra bag of grit when they sign up or during replenishments.
- In response to feedback, we are adopting a hybrid model combining collection and delivery. Specific delivery slots have been allocated for new volunteers, with separate slots designated for restocking. Both highway depots will serve as collection points on a slot basis, offering one weekday and one weekend day each. Additional collection points within the district are currently being identified.
- Collection points will operate at intervals yet to be confirmed throughout the season, alongside increased capacity for grit restocking deliveries.

25/26 Season

- Sign up window to open on October 15 through snow.wardens@kirklees.gov.uk
- To allow for a more managed approach to the scheme new volunteer numbers will be capped at 100 new snow warden volunteers initially. Once this cap is hit the service will review resource supporting the scheme and may open it again.
- Schools and nurseries will now be able to sign up to receive kits to support access to the school gates.
- The scheme will have 30 delivery slots for new kits on a first come first serve basis, and collection slots to operate up to 80 new kit collections within the district, alongside grit collection for existing wardens. Collection points will reopen following severe weather events if required.

Questions?

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ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY PANEL

Work programme 2025/2026

Members: Cllr Andrew Cooper (Chair), Cllr David Longstaff, Cllr Musarrat Khan, Cllr Will Simpson, Cllr John Taylor, Cllr Matthew McLoughlin, Kevin Evans (Co-Optee), VACANT (Co-Optee)

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES / ACTIONS
Simpler Recycling and Split Collections	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 13th August 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Simpler Recycling and Split Collections following changes to Kirklees Council’s collections as per government policy</p>	
	September Meeting Cancelled	

Snow Wardens Scheme Update	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 8th October 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the Snow Wardens Scheme</p>	
Fly tipping and Litter Pact	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 26th November 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Fly tipping and Litter Pact</p>	
Waste Strategy Update	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 26th November 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider the 2021-2030 Waste Strategy annual Update</p>	
TBC	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 7th January 2026</u></p>	

TBC	<u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 7th January 2026</u>	
Annual Update on Flood Risk	<u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 11th February 2026</u> The Panel will consider the Annual Update on Flood Risk	
TBC	<u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 15th April 2026</u>	
TBC	<u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 15th April 2026</u>	
<u>Informal Briefings</u>		
TBC	Air Quality Update	

Golden Threads:

The Panel will consider and would like to receive information around the following themes throughout its programme of work

- Climate Impact
- Risks and Opportunities
- Partnership work, links to other opportunities and engagement
- Communications; i.e.- how is the council using communications to deliver messaging, raise awareness of issues and provide information

Items /themes not yet scheduled:

- Pollution Update
- Lane Rental Update
- Moving traffic offences (tbc) try to line up with lane rental
- Parks and Green spaces Update
- Huddersfield District Heat Network (progress update on the full business case and additional delegations)