

Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (PSEG)

Induction

Democratic Services
16 July 2026

Agenda

1 Introductions

2 What the Committee Covers

3 Key People

4 Context and Insight

5 Committee Practicalities

6 How Scrutiny works

7 Work Programme

8 Discussion/Questions

Welcome! The purpose of today is to



Understand the remit
of PSEG



Get to know each
other



Develop scrutiny skills



Talk about work
planning approaches
and principles

Committee Terms of Reference

The economy of
Essex

Economic
development
and
regeneration

Employment
related Skills
and
apprenticeships

Strategic
Highways and
transportation

Heritage,
Culture and the
Arts

Tourism

Country Parks
and other green
assets

Library services

Broadband and
public
communications
infrastructure

Committee Terms of Reference contd

Planning

Environmental
services

Community Safety and
Crime and Disorder
(not Domestic Violence
or Youth Offending
Team)

Emergency
Planning

Waste and
recycling

Energy and
emissions
reduction

Trading
standards

Housing

Gypsies and
travellers

Remit of the Committee – Cabinet Portfolios



Cllr Peter Harris
Economic growth, inward
investment, business strategy



Cllr Russell Quirk
Property, rural affairs,
housing, country parks



Cllr Jeff Bray
Housing, Development &
Heritage



Cllr Chris Hossack
Community Safety and Crime
and Disorder (not Domestic
Violence or Youth Offending
Team)



Cllr Mark Webster
Highways & Infrastructure



Cllr Christopher Benn
Waste & Environment



Cllr Sam Journet
Skills & employability
(economic linkages)

People to know



Cllr Geoff Bagnall
Chairman, PSEG

Vice Chair
(To be appointed)

Joanna Boaler
Assistant Director: Democracy
and Transparency

Emma Tombs
Democratic Services Manager

Keri Lawrence
Senior Democratic Services
Officer

Lisa Siggins
Democratic Services Officer

Committee Practicalities

Meetings – Monthly in CR1

Pre-Meetings – Online, at least 2 days before the meeting

Vice-Chairmen – will be nominated / agreed at the first formal meeting in September

Agenda publication – 5 clear days prior

Apologies and substitutions

What does a typical meeting agenda look like?

Scrutiny skills include...

Questioning
- asking the
right
questions
without
appearing
aggressive

Listening -
actively
listen to the
information
being put
forward

Chairing
skills – for
both formal
committees
and Task
and Finish
Groups

Analytical
skills -
interpreting
and
balancing
information
to reach
conclusions

Team
working –
effectively
working with
Members
from other
political
groups to
achieve a
common
goal

Project
Planning –
selecting
topics
according to
priorities,
resources
and
timescales

Questions



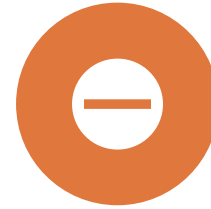
SINGLE OR
MULTIPLE
QUESTIONS?



CLARITY AND
AMBIGUITY



QUESTION OR
STATEMENT?



LENGTH



TONE



OPEN VS
CLOSED?

Listening

Actively listen to the information
being put forward



Follow evidence and be adaptable



Try not to predetermine



Be mindful of tone and body
language

Recommendations

Key Considerations

- Is it evidence based?
- Is it within the Council's powers?
- Is it realistic and deliverable?
- Does it add value?
- Is it clearly directed to the right audience?
- Is there committee consensus?

What is a good recommendation?

- Clear and specific
- Action-focused
- Evidence-based
- Realistic and achievable
- Time-bound

Powers and follow up

- Not legally binding but highly influential
- Made in public
- Based on evidence and cross-party input
- Can require a formal response
- Can inform Executive Decisions
- Responses and outcomes should be tracked and progress reviewed

Work planning principles



Maintain a transparent Work Programme.



Have regard for capacity and resources.



Reflects the priorities of the Committee



Flexible

Cross-cutting issues and joint working

Issues may cut across more than one scrutiny committee

Avoid duplication of effort and resource

Streamlined scrutiny will benefit the County Council

Opportunity for more strategic and cross cutting approach

Better outcomes

Topic selection — sources

Member suggestions

Cabinet Member referrals

Officer suggestions

Consultations

New legislation

Performance indicators

Audit Reports

From the public/matter of public interest

Reviewing the Forward Plan and Cabinet papers.

Considering issues for potential policy review or development.

Considering issues for in-depth review.

Identifying 'standard' items for scrutiny during the course of the year and programme in at the outset.

Considering areas for external scrutiny where there is significant community interest.

Legacy items:

Highways performance

To consider progress and any issues.

Waste Strategy – Annual Report

Follow up item , to consider the development of the strategy and consultation findings

Safer Speed Strategy

To consider emerging issues and proposals including asset management, cross-cutting with CPSC

LGR / Devolution

Questions to ask when considering a topic

What are we looking at? (clarity)

Why are we looking at this?

What do we hope to achieve?

How long is it going to take?

How will the Committee undertake it?

Other relevant induction sessions

Highways Strategy and Management 29 June 2026 - [slides](#) and [recording](#)

Policy and Economy 16 June 2026 - [slides](#) and [recording](#)

Scrutiny Induction 22 June 2026 [slides](#) and [recording](#)

[Place and Customer Services](#) 2 June 2026

[Making a start with Scrutiny – CFGS 30th July](#)



QUESTIONS

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