

Meeting date: 3 June 2026

Report to: Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board

Report title: Cabinet Portfolio Holder Key Priorities for 2026-27

Report from: Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Report author/lead contact officer: Sarah Alder, Assistant Director for Environment, Highways and Sustainability

Wards affected:

- All Wards | Bickenhill | Blythe | Castle Bromwich | Chelmsley Wood | Dorridge/Hockley Heath | Elmdon | Kingshurst/Fordbridge | Knowle | Lyndon | Meriden | Olton | Shirley East | Shirley South | Shirley West | Silhill | Smith's Wood | St Alphege
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Public/private report: Public

Exempt by virtue of paragraph: N/A

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the priorities of the Cabinet portfolio holder for Environment and Infrastructure 2026/27.

2. Decision(s) Recommended

- 2.1 For the Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board to note the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure priorities for 2026/27.

3. HIGHWAYS Priorities 2026/2027

Strategic Highways Contract (SHC)

- 3.1 Following successful retendering of the councils Strategic Highways Contract 2026 – 2033, a large focus of this coming year will be the remobilisation of our contractor Balfour Beatty to ensure a seamless transition to the new working arrangements, implementing innovation and lessons learned.

HS2

- 3.2 The HS2 project will be a key deliverable throughout the 2026/27 financial year. With

works on the highway and footpath networks planned to take place along the entire route of the railway with a particular focus on the:

- Realignment of the A452 Kenilworth Road, north of Bradnocks Marsh Lane and A452 at Stonebridge junction
- Completion of the tunnel that crosses beneath the A45 Coventry Road
- Design for the new bridges and road alignment taking HS2 beneath Diddington Lane, Lavender Hall Lane and Waste Lane
- Completion of the works allow HS2 to pass safely over Coleshill Heath Road.

Urban Traffic Control (UTC)

3.3 The following UTC schemes are programmed:

- The remaining part of the DfT funded Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) will be used to upgrade the obsolete 3G monitoring and communications equipment at nine traffic signals and pedestrian crossing sites during Spring 2026, enabling the UTC team to monitor faults, change timing plans and remotely control the signal equipment.
- The UTC Capital programme scheme programmed for Summer 2026 is the upgrade of the 25 year old signals at Streetsbrook Roundabout in the town centre with LED, ELV and Smartcross equipment. Such is the scale of this scheme that this will use all of the capital allocation for this year.
- Benefits of these upgrades will be seen in lower maintenance and improved visibility from much brighter LED signal heads, reduced energy costs with more energy-efficient equipment and improved accessibility for disabled pedestrians with Smartcross push buttons.

Local Network Improvement Plan (LNIP) Schemes

3.4 As part of the ongoing Local Network Improvement Plan, pedestrian safety improvements are being planned and agreed for 2026/2027. Design is underway for delivering new controlled crossings to enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety. These investments will address key local priorities identified through community consultation and support safer walking routes. A full list of these can be found in the ratified Cabinet Member decision (February 2025).

A45 / Damson Parkway Junction Improvement Scheme

3.5 Following the completion of the design work and successful bid for funding from the WMCA, a key priority will be commencement of construction of the new A45 / Damson Parkway junction which will provide additional capacity on the network and support wider growth in the area with works expected to run through to 2028.

A452 Corridor – Detailed Design Work

3.6 In preparation for future infrastructure enhancements, the Council is undertaking detailed design work for provision of additional capacity for the private car, public transport and cycle facilities along the A452 corridor. This incorporates a fully segregated cycle facility along the A452 corridor from Moorend Avenue to Coleshill

Heath Road connecting to Birmingham Business Park.

Active Travel Fund Tranche 5 (Subject to Funding Approval)

- 3.7 The Active Travel Fund (ATF5) funding will enable the delivery of additional pedestrian and cycle-friendly infrastructure, encouraging sustainable transport and improving active travel routes across the borough.
- 3.8 These proposed schemes will enhance accessibility and safety while supporting the borough's commitment to promoting healthier, greener travel choices.
- 3.9 Continue the installation of four new Zebra crossings at the SCP locations to ensure resilience for the safety of pedestrians crossing at these locations outside school hours.

4. ENVIRONMENT: Priorities 2026/27

- 4.1 Officers will be working with colleagues in ICT, Communications, Connect and Veolia to implement the changes to kerbside collections which start in the Autumn with the introduction of separate weekly food waste collections and change from weekly to fortnightly collections for refuse. These are significant changes and rely on the input of multi-disciplinary teams to ensure successful delivery. Planning and mobilising these changes will be the key focus of the waste and recycling team throughout 2026/27.
- 4.2 The SEC Partnership will continue its programme of environmental improvements across parks and cemeteries, building on the significant gains achieved this year. Further rounds of deep cleaning, targeted vegetation clearance and landscape enhancement are planned to continue lifting the overall quality and presentation of these sites. Through this work, the SEC Partnership aims to secure another Green Flag Award for Widney Cemetery, which would bring the total number of SMBC park and cemetery Green Flag sites to 19.
- 4.3 The Council's commitment to planting 250,000 trees will remain a key focus, with Officers continuing to lead delivery of the Planting Our Future programme. During the 2026/7, an additional 25,000 trees are planned to be planted, taking the cumulative total to 175,000.
- 4.4 Throughout 2026/27, work will continue with colleagues in Strategic Land to develop plans to upgrade Moat Lane Depot and Bickenhill Household Waste Recycling Centre.

5. Implications and Considerations

- 5.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the ambitions in the [Council Plan](#):

Ambition:	Contribution:
1. The right conditions for everyone to thrive.	Creating environments that support residents to thrive.
2. Services that people need in the right time at the right place.	Ensuring residents can access services easily through a range of channels.
3. Children and young people have the best possible outcomes.	Improving life chances and health outcomes, by supporting safe, active and

Ambition:	Contribution:
	sustainable travel.
4. Adults are supported to maximise wellbeing and independence.	Enhance wellbeing and independence through initiatives that promote active travel and healthier lifestyles.
5. A vibrant economy with increased access to opportunities.	Maximising the opportunities of HS2 and providing safe, accessible parking to support the town centre economy.
6. Opportunities and fairer outcomes by acting on climate change.	Enhancing the natural and physical environment, improving air quality and reducing net carbon emissions.
7. An attractive and aspirational place.	Continually improving Solihull's natural and physical environment.

5.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

5.2.1 The Scrutiny Board has oversight of the progress towards Cabinet Portfolio priorities as contained within this report.

5.3 Corporate Parenting Implications

5.3.1 There are no direct corporate parenting implications for this report. These will be considered at the appropriate time for each individual priority as required.

5.4 Financial implications:

5.4.1 There are no direct financial implications for this report. These will be considered at the appropriate time for each individual priority as required.

5.5 Legal implications:

5.5.1 There are no direct legal implications for this report. These will be considered at the appropriate time for each individual priority as required.

5.6 Risk implications, including Risk Appetite:

5.6.1 There are no direct risk implications for this report. These will be considered at the appropriate time for each individual priority as required.

5.7 Equality implications:

5.7.1 There are no direct equality implications for this report. These will be considered at the appropriate time for each individual priority as required.

5.8 Linkages to our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and / or the Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (ICS):

5.8.1 None

6. List of appendices referred to

6.1 None

7. Background papers used to compile this report

7.1 None

8. List of Other Relevant Documents

8.1 None