

ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
23 JUNE 2009

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) activity over the period February to April 2009, also the national and local developments in O&S.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the quarterly progress report on Overview and Scrutiny.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Working Groups

- 3.1 The table at Appendix 1 sets out the current status of the O&S Working Groups, along with the list of completed reviews. Reports finalised and published in the quarter included: the Working Group report on Extended Schools Services and Children's Centres; letters commenting on the Older People's Strategy, services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, and the statutory annual 'Healthcheck' letters to NHS organisations; and the Annual Report on O&S, which was adopted by Council on 15 April.

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

- 3.2 The O&S Commission continues to meet on a two-monthly cycle, with its last meeting on 1 April, when the main items included: the two Working Group reports on Waste & Recycling and Extended Schools Services & Children's Centres; the outcome of the review of services for Adults with Learning Disabilities; accommodating the new legal requirement for a 'Crime and Disorder Committee', and the proposed approach to O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership. The Commission had its annual meeting on 6 May, electing the Chairman and appointing the Vice Chairman and the Panels. The Commission's next meeting will be on 11 June.

Environment, Culture and Communities O&S Panel

- 3.3 The Panel has continued to meet on a three-monthly cycle. At its last meeting on 16 March, the Panel: considered the report of the Working Group on Waste and Recycling; received a report and presentation on Section 106 arrangements; reviewed the Department's Performance Monitoring report, also the quarterly report of O&S; considered the revised Community Arts Strategy; and considered the proposed approach to O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership. The main work of the Panel is being progressed through the working groups (see Appendix 1), which are progressing well. The Panel's next meeting is on 23 June.

Health O&S Panel

- 3.4 The Panel has continued to meet on a three-monthly cycle. At its last meeting on 12 March, the main items included: receiving proposals from Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust (H&WPHT) on service changes; meeting the Chief Executive and senior staff of 'Help and Care', the host organisation for the new Local Involvement Network; receiving updates from H&WPHT on the medical staffing position and progress in controlling hospital-acquired infections; and agreeing the annual 'Healthcheck' letters to NHS organisations, also the Working Group report on Extended Schools Services & Children's Centres. The Panel has commenced its Working Group on the Bracknell Healthspace, and re-launched its Working Group on Patient Focus. The Chairman and Vice Chairman have continued to represent the Panel at meetings of the South Central Health O&S group and at various Department of Health and other conferences. The Panel's next meeting is on 18 June.

Social Care and Learning O&S Panel

- 3.5 The Panel has continued to meet on a broadly three-monthly cycle. At its March meetings, one of which was at Edgbarrow School, the main items considered by the Panel included: consideration of the proposed approach to O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership; the Working Group reports on Extended Schools Services & Children's Centres and services to adults with learning disabilities; reviewing the department's latest Performance Monitoring Report, also the quarterly report of O&S; considering the Executive's response to the O&S report on English as an Additional Language in schools; receiving a presentation on the 'Grow Our Own' project; and considering a report on the re-roofing of The Pines School. The Panel has commenced its review of 14-19 years education. The Panel's next scheduled meeting is on 10 June.

Joint East Berkshire Health O&S Committee

- 3.6 This Committee, chaired and serviced by RB Windsor and Maidenhead until May 2009 when Slough BC will take over, continues to meet broadly on a three-monthly cycle, rotating between the three Councils' venues. The last Committee meeting was on 24 March in Maidenhead, when the Committee received updates on the Assisted Conception policy review, 'Right Care Right Place', also proposals from Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust on service changes. The Committee agreed its 'Annual Healthcheck' letters to NHS organisations, and considered its work programme for 2009-10. The Committee's next meeting will be on 29 June at Bracknell.
- 3.7 Responses to the feedback questionnaires on the quality of O&S reviews are summarised in Appendix 2.
- 3.8 External networking on O&S in the last quarter has included hosting a visit by a Member of the Isle of Wight Council to the meeting of the Environment, Culture and Communities O&S Panel in March, and attending a South East Employers O&S Members and Officers group in April. The Chairman of the O&S Commission and two O&S officers will be attending the annual conference of the Centre for Public Scrutiny in June.
- 3.9 Quarterly review meetings between O&S Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Executive Members and Directors are taking place regularly for the Commission and the Panels. Agenda-setting meetings continue to be held, usually in combination with the review meetings.

- 3.10 The indicative work programme for O&S for 2009/10 has been agreed by the O&S Commission and Panels, and included in the Annual Report of O&S. CMT and the Executive will be formally consulted on the work programme after the Commission's meeting in June 2009.

(ii) Developments in O&S

- 3.11 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill completed its third reading in the House of Lords on 29 April and will now be considered by the House of Commons. As advised in the last quarterly report, the main clauses relating to Overview and Scrutiny relate to the handling of petitions.
- 3.12 The O&S provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 commenced on 1 April 2009. The accompanying regulations and guidance relating to scrutiny of local strategic partnerships is awaited. The guidance on the new 'Councillor Call for Action' arrangements has been taken into account in recommendations to Council at its 6 May meeting on changes to the Constitution. An all-Member briefing has been issued on this, along with the 'Community Call for Action' which came into force on 30 April, consequent on the commencement of the O&S provisions in the Police and Justice Act. National guidance on those provisions is expected in May.
- 3.13 The proposed approach to the O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership (BFP) has been agreed by the O&S Commission and Panels, and this will now be presented to the BFP Board at their meeting on 21 May.
- 3.14 The Chairman of the Executive has agreed to a request from the Chairman of the O&S Commission that in future, O&S reports should be personally presented to the Executive at their briefing meeting by the Lead Member of the O&S review.
- 3.15 At its meeting on 6 May, Council approved the recommendations in a report by the Constitution Review Group, that the structure of O&S should be changed, with the Social Care and Learning O&S Panel being split into two: Adult Social Care, and Children's Services and Learning. This is designed to give a stronger focus needed on children's and adult social care, and to create more capacity to meet increased demands on O&S. Council also approved the recommendation that the O&S Commission's role should be expanded to include the new statutory role of 'Crime and Disorder' Committee.

Background Papers

Minutes and papers of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Panels.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUPS – 2008/09

Position at 1 May 2009

Overview and Scrutiny Commission								
WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Older Peoples Strategy	Edger (Lead), Mrs Birch & Virgo	Victor Nicholls	Richard Beaumont	√	√	√		Executive response awaited to letter of 29 April containing O&S observations on the strategy

Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel								
WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Strategic Review of Waste	Brunel-Walker (Lead), Mrs. Angell, Beadsley, Mrs. Ryder, Wade (Crowthorne), Allen (S'hurst & Ms Healy (Warfield)	Steve Loudoun / Janet Dowlman	Andrea Carr	√	√			The draft report was considered by the Commission on 1 April and is currently being finalised

Supporting People (SP)	Mrs. Shillcock (Lead) & Mrs. Fleming	Simon Hendey / Clare Dorning	Andrea Carr	√	07/08 √ (Annual monitoring)	07/08 √ (Annual monitoring)	N/A	The Working Group met on 30 September 2008 to monitor progress against implementation of the SP programme and reported its findings to the Social Care and Learning O&S Panel on 17 December 2009.
Housing Strategy	Finnie (Lead), Mrs. Fleming and Finch	Clare Dorning	Richard Beaumont	√	Detailed input provided to draft strategy			Nearing conclusion - next meeting arranged for 13 May
Implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Service Improvement Plan	Finch (Lead), Beadsley, Burrows	Simon Hendey / Shanaz Alam	Emma Silverton (Richard Beaumont to Support)	√	Final report being drafted			Final report being agreed with Members

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel								
WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Patient Focus/Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies	Burrows (Lead), Mrs. Angell, Thompson. Mrs. Mattick,	David Steeds	Andrea Carr/ Richard Beaumont	In draft				Working Group re-launched with different focus. First meeting held on 27 April 2009. Next meeting 14 May.
Bracknell Health Space	Virgo (lead) Mrs Angell, Baily, Leake, Mrs Shillcock	Glyn Jones/ Mary Purnell	Richard Beaumont (Emma Silverton in support)	In draft				First meeting held on 27 April 2009.

Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee								
WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Hospital Discharge Procedures	Baily, Coad (Slough BC), Napier (RB W&M)	N/A	Andrew Scott (RB W&M)	√				Met twice, but progress has been limited.

Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel								
WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Social Care Modernisation Agenda	Leake (Lead), Mrs. Shillcock & Virgo	Glyn Jones	Andrea Carr	√	√	√		Executive response awaited to letter of 6 April 2009 containing O&S recommendations on services for Adults with Learning Disabilities
Extended Services & Children's Centres (Joint with SC&L OSP)	Leake (Lead), Mrs. Birch, Mrs. Angell, Mrs. McCracken, Burrows, Beadsley	Graham Symonds / Karen Frost	Katie Dover/ Richard Beaumont	√	√	√		Executive response awaited to letter of 6 April 2009 enclosing the report
14-19 Years Plan	Mrs Birch (Lead) Dr Josephs-Franks, Kensall, Mrs McCracken, Mrs Ryder	Martin Surrell	Andrea Carr (Emma Silverton to support)	√				5 Working Group meetings held. Attending a meeting of the 14-19 Years Partnership on the 14 th May

Completed Reviews

Publication Date	Title
December 2003	South Bracknell Schools Review
January 2004	Review of Adult Day Care Services in Bracknell Forest (Johnstone Court Day Centre & Downside Resource Centre)
May 2004	Review of Community & Voluntary Sector Grants
July 2004	Review of Community Transport Provision
April 2005	Review of Members' Information Needs
November 2005	The Management of Coronary Heart Disease
February 2006	Review of School Transfers and Performance
March 2006	Review of School Exclusions and Pupil Behaviour Policy
August 2006	Report of Tree Policy Review Group
November 2006	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Review of the ASB Strategy Implementation
January 2007	Review of Youth Provision
February 2007	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2006
February 2007	Review of Library Provision
July 2007	Review of Healthcare Funding

November 2007	Review of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy
December 2007	Review of the Council's Medium Term Objectives
March 2008	2007 Annual Health Check Response to the Healthcare Commission
April 2008	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/08
May 2008	Road Traffic Casualties
August 2008	Caring for Carers
September 2008	Scrutiny of Local Area Agreement
October 2008	Street Cleaning
October 2008	English as an Additional Language in Bracknell Forest Schools
April 2009	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/09
April 2009	Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check 2008/09 (letters submitted)

Results of Feedback Questionnaires on Overview and Scrutiny Reports

Note – Departmental Link officers on each review were asked to score the key aspects of each O&S review on a scale of 0 (Unsatisfactory) to 3 (Excellent)

	Average score for previous 6 Reviews*
PLANNING	2.8
Were you given sufficient notice of the review?	
Were your comments invited on the scope of the review, and was the purpose of the review explained to you?	3
CONDUCT OF REVIEW	2.7
Was the review carried out in a professional and objective manner with minimum disruption?	
Was there adequate communication between O&S and the department throughout?	2.7
Did the review get to the heart of the issue?	2.8
REPORTING	2.8
Did you have an opportunity to comment on the draft report?	
Did the report give a clear and fair presentation of the facts?	2.2
Were the recommendations relevant and practical?	2.7
How useful was this review in terms of improving the Council's performance?	2.7

* Road Traffic Casualties, Review of the Local Area Agreement, Support for Carers, Street Cleaning, Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, English as an Additional Language in Schools.

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