

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
5 OCTOBER 2011**

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12  
AND PROPOSED NEW POWERS  
Assistant Chief Executive**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Members of the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Panel to note:
- its agreed work programme for O&S in 2011/12, which is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and takes account of constraints on Member and officer resources;
  - a proposed procedural change to reduce pressure on the O&S Commission by greater empowerment of the O&S Panels.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Children, Young People and Learning O&S Panel notes:**

- 2.1 **its agreed work programme for O&S in 2011/12; and**
- 2.2 **a proposed amendment to the Constitution to extend to the O&S Panels the O&S Commission's power to adopt O&S reports, the making of recommendations to the Executive, full Council and other organisations, and the consideration of responses to O&S reports.**

**3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Since the Panel was consulted on its 2011/12 draft indicative work programme at its last meeting, the work programme has been agreed by the O&S Commission and is now subject to consultation with the Corporate Management Team and the Executive, in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.
- 3.2 In order to reduce pressure on the O&S Commission and streamline the process for adopting O&S reports and considering Executive responses to them, the O&S Commission has recommended to the Governance and Audit Committee that Council be asked to approve an amendment to the Constitution to extend to the O&S Panels the Commission's power to adopt O&S reports, the making of recommendations to the Executive, full Council and other organisations, and the consideration of responses to O&S reports. This delegation is provided for in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Background Papers

Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Annual Report of O&S, 2010/11.

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**Extract from the Agreed Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) in 2011/12**

The agreed work programme for O&S in 2011/12 by the Children, Young People and Learning O&S Panel is set out below. The programme is aimed at maintaining a strategic and coordinated work programme based on major areas of Council and partner organisations' activity. The selection of review topics takes account of what is of direct and significant interest to residents, and what would be timely, relevant, and likely to add value. The programme incorporates the routine, on-going work of O&S and the completion of reviews currently underway. The overall programme is smaller than in recent years owing to the reduction in officer support for O&S, arising from the financial pressures facing the Council.

The O&S Commission has consulted the O&S Panels, the Council's Corporate Management Team and the Executive on the work programme, as required by the Council's Constitution.

The work programme will necessarily be subject to continual refinement and updating. The 'future proposed reviews' are those which are unlikely to be resourced until 2012/13 or later.

<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL</b>	
1.	<p><b>Monitoring the performance of the Children, Young People and Learning Department</b></p> <p>To include on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports on the Children and Young People's Plan, and on complaints received) and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.</p>
2.	<b>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</b>
3.	<p><b>2012/13 Budget Scrutiny</b></p> <p>To review the Council's Children, Young People and Learning budget proposals for 2012/13, and plans for future years.</p>
4.	<p><b>English as an Additional Language</b></p> <p>To carry out a follow-up review to the issues which arose in the 2008 Overview and Scrutiny review of English as an Additional Language in Bracknell Forest schools (Completed).</p>
5.	<p><b>Policy development</b></p> <p>a) <u>Child Poverty Strategy</u> – to monitor the implementation of the new strategy and contribute to its future development (Commenced with a presentation at the 15.06.11 meeting and return to later).</p>

	b) <u>School meals</u> – using the Member review of school meals, contribute to forming the procurement specification for the new school meals contract (to be continued, input to tendering process September to December).
6.	<b>Common Assessment Framework</b>  As a follow-up to the review of safeguarding children, to review the arrangements for the Common Assessment Framework in Children’s Social Care.