

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
3 OCTOBER 2012**

**WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORT
Working Group Lead Member**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the working group of the Panel reviewing school governance. It also invites the Panel to select its next piece of review work to pursue on completion of the school governance review when resources become available.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Panel

- 2.1 notes the progress achieved to date by its working group reviewing school governance; and**
- 2.2 selects its next piece of review work to pursue on completion of the school governance review when resources become available.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To keep the Panel up to date in respect of the activities of its working group and plan future review work.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

School Governance

- 5.1 The Panel established this Working Group to review school governance in Bracknell Forest's schools with a view to identifying areas for improvement in the light of the new Ofsted framework which places greater emphasis on the role of school governors and governance arrangements.
- 5.2 The first meeting of the Working Group took place on 13 September 2012 when Members received an introductory briefing from officers, discussed extracts from Ofsted inspections of the Borough's schools relating to governance and considered the scope of the review. The next stages of the review will focus on agreeing the scope, making preparations for meeting parent and link governors, and discussing the findings of an overview and scrutiny review of school governance undertaken by a neighbouring unitary authority.

Future Review Work

5.3 The Panel's work programme for 2012/13 is attached at Appendix 1 to facilitate selection of a future review topic for commencement on completion of the school governance review when resources become available.

**6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS / EQUALITIES
IMPACT ASSESSMENT / STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES /
CONSULTATION**

6.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283
e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Andrea Carr – 01344 352122
e-mail: andrea.carr@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Proposed Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny in 2012/13

The proposed work programme for O&S from 2012/13 is shown on the following pages. 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 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 2013/14 or later.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the Children, Young People and Learning Department</p> <p>To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service 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.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>
3.	<p>2013/14 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Children, Young People and Learning budget proposals for 2013/14, and plans for future years.</p>
4.	<p>Schools Governance</p> <p>To review the comments by Ofsted about governance in Bracknell Forest Schools, and the arrangements being made to ascertain and achieve effective governance in all schools. The review might focus on the importance of sound governance, the support given to school governors, and the effect of the new legislation concerning local authority and community representation on governing bodies.</p>
5.	<p>Policy Development</p> <p>To contribute to the formulation of the Council's new Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy.</p>

FUTURE PROPOSED REVIEWS (Unlikely to be resourced until 2013/14 or later)	
<u>Children, Young People and Learning</u>	
5.	The Provision of School Places To review the Council's arrangements for planning and providing places for children in Bracknell Forest's schools, to include the school admissions process. One focus of the review might be the greater complexity introduced by the Academies and Free Schools legislation.
6.	Supporting Disadvantaged Children and Families To review the implementation of the Child Poverty Strategy, together with the Council's arrangements for the Government's initiative on 'Troubled Families'.