

**TO: ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
22 JANUARY 2013**

WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report invites the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for 2013/14.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 **That the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel considers its Work Programme for 2013/14.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To seek the Panel's views in respect of its work programme for 2013/14.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Panel is invited to suggest topics for inclusion in its 2013/14 work programme. The 2012/13 work programme is attached at Appendix 1 as a point of reference.

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

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

The work programme for Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) in 2012/13 is aimed at maintaining a strategic and coordinated work programme based on major areas of Council and partner organisations' activity. The review topics take account of what is likely to be timely, relevant, and 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.

ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the Environment, Culture and Communities Department</p> <p>To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports; review of any inspection reports or self-evaluations; 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 Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2013/14, and plans for future years.</p>
4.	<p>Monitoring significant departmental issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the Local Development Framework. • The implementation of Neighbourhood Planning. • The procurement of environmental works
5.	<p>Highway Maintenance</p> <p>To complete the review of the Council's plans and performance for highway maintenance.</p>
6.	<p>Commercial Sponsorship</p> <p>To complete the Member Reference Group exploring the possible procurement of a commercial sponsorship scheme.</p>
7.	<p>Public Transport Subsidies and Concessionary Fare Support</p> <p>To review the proposed reductions to public transport subsidies and concessionary fare support. This has been requested by the Executive, in the context of a proposed indicative revenue budget saving of £200k in this area. Also to contribute to the</p>

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	development of a Bus Strategy for the Borough.
8.	<p>Policy Development (the O&S input will be conducted at Panel meetings)</p> <p>a) <u>Local Transport Plan</u> – To review the outcome of public consultation, and to contribute to the development of future policy, with a particular focus on highway improvements.</p> <p>b) <u>The Environmental Management of Schools</u> – To receive progress updates.</p>

**FUTURE PROPOSED REVIEWS
(Unlikely to be resourced until 2013/14 or later)**

Environment, Culture and Communities

9.	<p>Public Health</p> <p>To carry out a joint review, led by the Health O&S Panel, on the Council's wider response to the transfer-in from the Primary Care Trust of public health responsibilities. To include measures to prevent ill-health and to promote good health.</p>
10.	<p>Policy Development (October meeting)</p> <p><u>Pay-as-you-go Car Club Schemes</u> – To consider promoting such a scheme locally.</p>
11.	<p>Re-tendering of the Highway Maintenance Contract (October meeting)</p> <p>To be involved in the highway maintenance contract re-tendering process, particularly concerning the possible addition of further contracted services in the interests of economies. This review has been suggested by the Highway Maintenance Working Group.</p>