

**TO: ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
24 SEPTEMBER 2013**

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

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the Working Group of the Panel reviewing the Council's emerging Bus Strategy and invites the Panel to establish a new working group to undertake its next piece of review work. The Panel's Work Programme 2013/14 is attached at Appendix 1 for reference.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Panel:

- 2.1 **notes the progress achieved to date by its Working Group reviewing the Bracknell Forest Bus Strategy; and**
- 2.2 **establishes a working group to review the Council's cultural services offering.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To keep the Panel up to date regarding the activities of its Bus Strategy Working Group and to agree future review work.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Bus Strategy

- 5.1 The Bus Strategy Working Group was established to guide the Borough's emerging Bus Strategy for implementation in April 2014. A work programme of three Working Group sessions was designed. The first session, which consisted of an introduction to buses and bus networks, the Council's role and responsibility in relation to buses, and the bus service priorities for Bracknell Forest, took place in February 2013. The second session followed in early April 2013 when the Working Group received an introduction to the Borough's bus network and history and considered priorities for Bracknell Forest together with a critique of network strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. A third session took place in late April 2013 when, informed by the first two sessions, the Working Group was invited to consider and reach agreement on priorities, concrete principals and specific targets for the Bus Strategy.

Unrestricted

A final meeting of the Working Group will take place in October 2013 to look at the emerging Bus Strategy following the twelve week consultation exercise and prior to its agreement by the Executive.

Future Review Work

5.2 As the working group of the Panel reviewing the Bus Strategy is nearing completion of its work, the Panel is invited to establish a new working group to undertake its next piece of review work. There is one item of review work on the Panel's attached Work Programme which is to review the Council's cultural services offering, in the context of pressure on public finance, with particular reference to libraries and assistance for South Hill Park.

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

6.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None.

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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; the performance of the Leisure operations, 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> <p>To selectively contribute to the formulation of new policies in advance of their consideration by the Executive.</p>
3.	<p>2014/15 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2014/15, and plans for future years.</p>
4.	<p>Monitoring significant departmental issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Site Allocations process, including the outcome of the Public Examination of the Site Allocations proposals • The procurement of public realm works • Receiving a presentation on measures to maintain the public realm during the regeneration of Bracknell town centre.
5.	<p>Bus Strategy</p> <p>To complete the Working Group making an input to the development of a Bus Strategy for the Borough.</p>
6.	<p>Other Policy Development (the O&S input will be conducted at Panel meetings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Local Transport Plan</u> – To contribute to the development of future policy, with a particular focus on highway improvements. b) <u>The Environmental Management of Schools</u> – To receive progress updates.

FUTURE PROPOSED REVIEWS	
<u>Environment, Culture and Communities</u>	
1.	Cultural Services To review the Council's cultural services offering, in the context of pressure on public finance, with particular reference to libraries and assistance for South Hill Park.