

**Overview and Scrutiny Commission
Work Programme (2023-27)
29 February 2024**



Overview and Scrutiny

What is good governance?

Good governance is achieved by having efficient and effective decision-making processes and systems. The use of appropriate policy and accountability frameworks enable councils to focus on strategic rather than operational issues.



Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny has established a structure that allows activity to better align with the themes of the Council Plan. The function has established and delivered against a work programme that supports the council objectives. The Commission has carried out research and made recommendations to support the Council's climate change targets and has scrutinised the budget and monitored the performance of all Council departments through the Council Plan Overview Report. ([Annual Governance Statement 2020/21](#))



Overview and Scrutiny - Powers

Powers of scrutiny

The principal power of a scrutiny committee **is to influence** the policies and decisions made by the council and other organisations involved in delivering public services. The scrutiny committee **gathers evidence** on issues affecting local people and makes recommendations based on its findings.



Scrutiny can investigate any issue which affects the local area or the area's inhabitants. However, effective scrutiny work relies on **scrutiny's 'soft' influencing power**, as it has no formal power to compel anyone to make changes. Therefore, it is important to think about not only scrutiny's legal powers but also **about how to build a positive working relationship** with those who are the subject of scrutiny's recommendations. This ensures a much higher chance of scrutiny's recommendations being implemented.

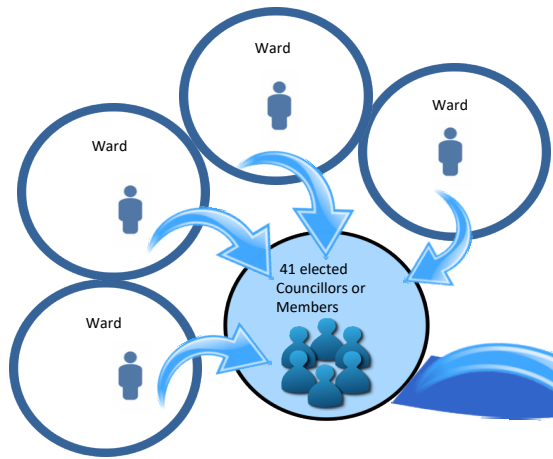


Overview and Scrutiny - Powers

Council's Constitution -The Overview and Scrutiny Commission shall:

- (i) **Develop a four-year strategic work programme aligned to the Council Plan** following input from scrutiny members, the Executive, Corporate Management Team, partners and the public, ensuring that it is flexible enough to accommodate urgent short-term issues.
- (ii) Co-ordinate the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels to make the best use of available resources which will include allocating topics to Panels and agreeing the scope of activity.
- (iii) Commission Panels to undertake deep dive reviews and support focussed policy development, chaired by the relevant chairman or vice-chairman. Their size and duration will be dependent on the activity.
- (iv) Receive findings and recommendations from Panel chairmen in respect of their Panel's scrutiny activity, for consideration and referral to the Executive or other decision-maker as appropriate.
- (v) Prioritise scrutiny activity to ensure that the overview and scrutiny function concentrates on the delivery of work of genuine value and relevant to the work of the Council.



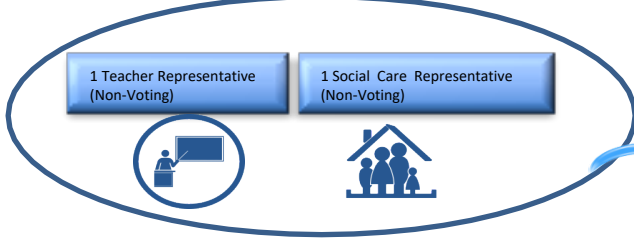
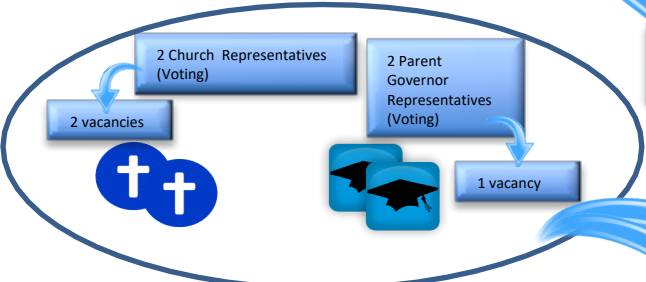


Arrangements In Bracknell Forest

Leader and 7 Executives chosen



Remainder of Councillors sit on Committees and Panels and shape decisions



Overview & Scrutiny Commission



Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Plan for year one

The Council plan has now been agreed by Full Council (29 Nov 2023) - Panel scopes must link in with the plan's themes of :



Growing together, shaping tomorrow



Borough priorities:

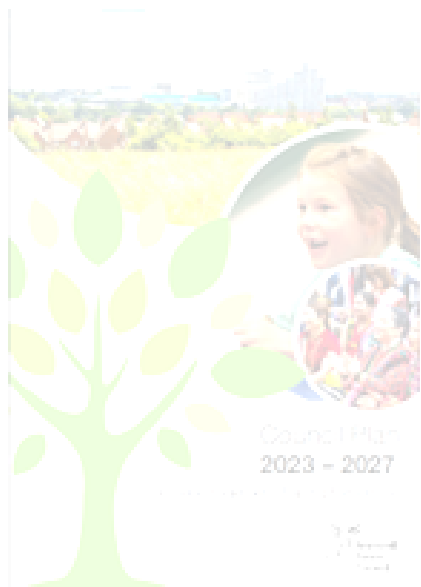
Engaged and healthy communities

Thriving and connected economy

Green and sustainable environment

Ambitious, resilient and sustainable organisation

Value • Residents • Climate • Quality • Partnership • Workforce



Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Plan for year two – four

Schedule for 2024/25 **9 meetings of the Commission** to:

- Council Plan Overview Report (CPOR) – Review the council's data performance report, ask questions of the **Executive Member** or the Executive Director. Chief witness is Chief Executive (Susan Halliwell)
- (sitting as) O&S Commission
 - [Crime and Disorder committee](#)– Community Safety/Police Superintendent / Executive Member (Councillor Iskandar Jefferies)
 - Strategic Health Panel
 - Public Health (Health in all policy)
 - Fire Service/Ambulance Service review panel



Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Plan for year two – four

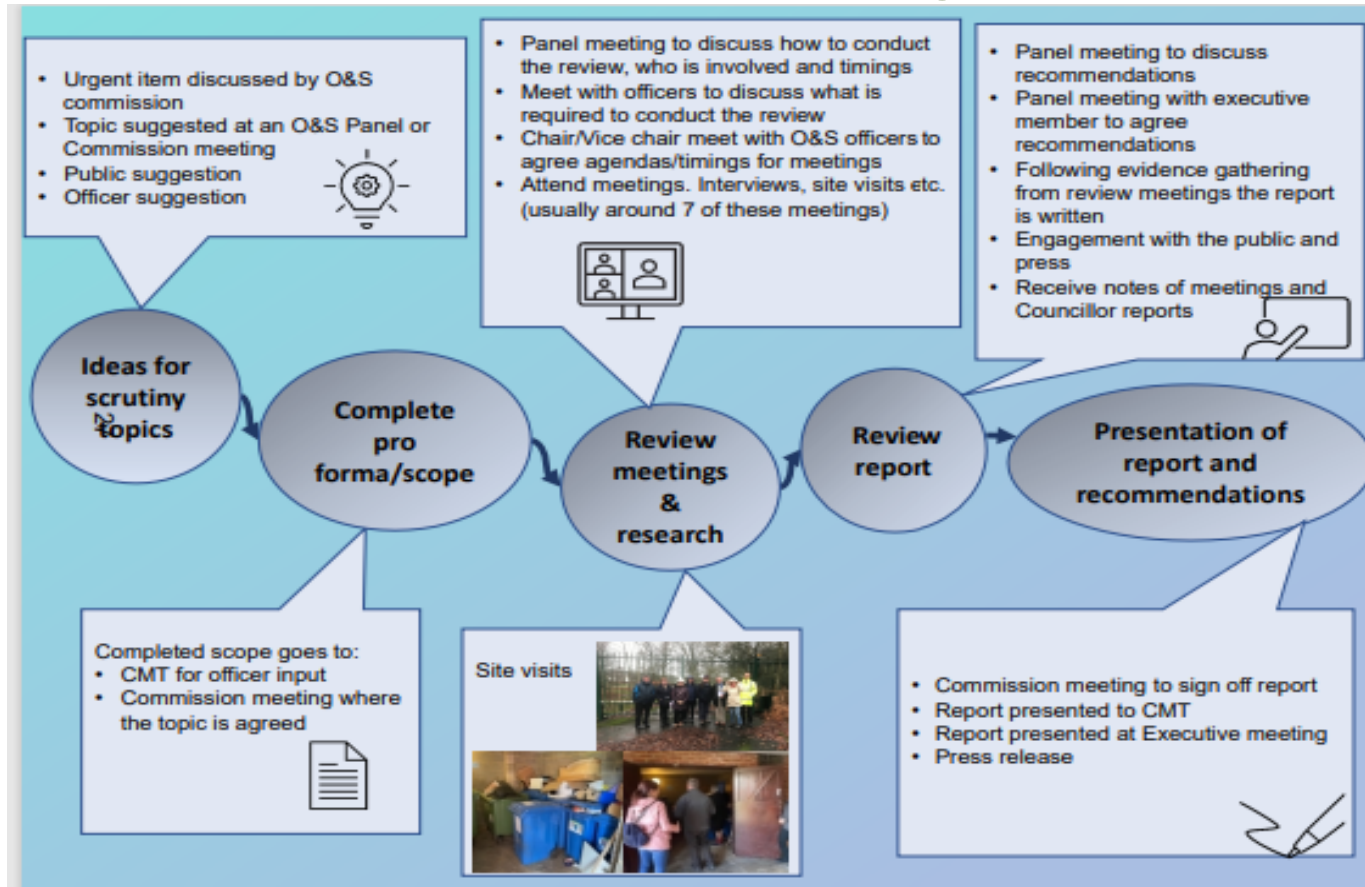
Schedule for 2024/25 **9 meetings of the Commission** to:

- Panel Chair reports – update reports and reviews
- Budget preparations and formal consultation
- Clear Panel reports for presentation to the Executive

Each meeting's agenda will be themed to ensure that a maximum of 2 substantive items are presented, plus oral reports from Panel Chairs



Overview and Scrutiny – Review Process



Work Programme

Resourcing Principles

- O&S Commission Members asked that the number of reviews is reduced so only two panels are conducting a review at any one time, due to pressure on Councillors' availability
- Each review requires significant preparation and activity before panel activity / review meetings commence for example collating evidence packs and setting up witness attendance
- Delays to conclusion of reviews will impact on commencement of a panel's own review and potentially another panel's review
- The Commission will need to carefully consider these impacts when agreeing the work programme and future amendments



Work Programme

Current Interdependencies

Education, Skills and Growth: the Panel has identified its first review topic as Transition from Children's to Adult's Services.

Panel members were conscious of the need to keep the Safety Valve Programme and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Action Plan under review, and it was agreed at a Panel meeting on 25 January that the Panel Chair would receive quarterly updates on these and report back at O&S Commission meetings so that all members were kept updated.



Work Programme

Current Interdependencies

Environment and Communities: the Thames Water review report has been finalised and on the agenda. Future review topics to be agreed by the O&S Commission and then scoped.

Health and Wellbeing: The panel has identified its first review topic as Sexual Health and the scope is on the agenda. Due to the rebuild of Frimley Park Hospital a JHOSC (Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) will be required and representatives from Bracknell Forest Council appointed.



Current Work Programme

Review due to start:	Education, Skills and Growth	Environment and Communities	Health and Care
23-24 Q4 (Jan-March)		Review no 1 -Thames Water	Review no 1 - Sexual Health
24-25 Q1 (April-June)	Review old reviews		Review no 1 - Sexual Health
24-25 Q2 (July-Sept)		Review old reviews	
24-25 Q3 Oct-Dec	Review no 1- Transition		Review old reviews
24-25 Q4 (Jan-March)	Review no 1- Transition	Review no 2	



Current Work Programme

Review due to start:	Education, Skills and Growth	Environment and Communities	Health and Care
25-26 Q1 (April-June)		Review no 2	Review no 2
25-26 Q2 (July-Sept)	Review no 2		Review no 2
25-26 Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Review no 2		Review no 2
25-26 Q4 (Jan-March)		Review no 3	



Current Work Programme

Review due to start:	Education, Skills and Growth	Environment and Communities	Health and Care
26-27 Q1 (April-June)	Review no 3	Review no 3	
26-27 Q2 (July-Sept)	Review no 3		Review no 3
26-27 Q3 (Oct-Dec)			Review no 3
26-27 Q4 (Jan-March)	Review old reviews	Review old reviews	Review old reviews



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