

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION –
ADVISORY MEETING
6 JULY 2023
18:00-19:05**



Present:

Councillors Pickering (Chair), Welch (Vice-Chair), Barnard, C Eberle, Egglestone, M Forster, Haffeggee, C Thompson and Webb

Present virtually:

Councillor McKenzie-Boyle and Watts

Executive Members:

Councillors Bidwell, Temperton and Wright

Also present:

Councillors Brown, Purnell (in person) and Hayes (virtually)

In attendance virtually:

Susan Halliwell, Chief Executive

Kevin Gibbs, Executive Director: Delivery, Bracknell Forest

4. Apologies for Absence

Councillors McLean and Victoria Hill (Parent Governor Representative)

5. Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2023 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

6. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no indications that members would be participating while under the party whip.

7. Urgent Items of Business

There were no items of urgent business.

8. Public Participation

No submissions had been made by members of the public under the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.

9. Statutory Scrutiny Officer Report

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Kevin Gibbs, introduced the Statutory Scrutiny Officer Report covering an overview of good governance and scrutiny and a reduction in the number of meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission in the forthcoming year.

It was explained that Overview & Scrutiny Panels were expected to pull together ideas from members of their Panels for topics to scrutinise over the next four years. Ideas would be fed back into a future Commission meeting to decide which ones to take forward.

Members of the Commission also discussed the need for training and support to enable Councillors to put a good work programme together and stressed the importance of the voice of people with 'lived experience' being part of those reviews.

RESOLVED that the Commission reduce the number of meetings from ten to five meetings this year (April 2023-March 2024) and the Commission use the previous work programme to help focus their work in the future.

10. **Overview and Scrutiny Review Reports - Enforcement Strategy and Child Criminal Exploitation**

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Kevin Gibbs, drew Overview and Scrutiny Commission members' attention to two outstanding reports carried out by the previous administration which did not have the opportunity to be presented to the Executive and three options to resolve how they would be dealt with.

A discussion took place which included the following points:

- The importance of the reviews going to the Executive as soon as possible so as not to delay any positive impact the recommendations would have on children.
- Members of the Commission who had been involved in the reviews advocated how useful they had been and that the recommendations should be presented to the Executive as soon as possible.
- Some members of the Panel felt they had not had an opportunity to read the documents thoroughly and a discussion was had about document accessibility.

RESOLVED – that Option 1 be followed, and the Chairs of the relevant Panels present both reports and recommendations, in their entirety, to the Executive on 19 September 2023.

CHAIRMAN