

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
5 JUNE 2008

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09
(Assistant Chief Executive)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to consider the indicative work programme for 2007/08 attached at Appendix 1 to this report, before formally consulting the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the Executive, as required by the Council's Constitution.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the indicative overview and scrutiny 2008/09 work programme for the Commission attached at Appendix 1 be approved.**
- 2.2 **That at its meeting on 17 July 2008, the Commission considers any amendments proposed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels to their own work programmes, prior to consulting CMT and the Executive on the whole programme.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and panels during 2007/08 was summarised in the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny, adopted by Council at its meeting on 23 April 2008. The Annual Report contained an indicative work programme which took account of the views of CMT and the Executive. That programme has been amended in Appendix 1 to reflect the Council's decision to restructure Overview and Scrutiny, also to incorporate additional topics put forward by Members since the Annual Report was produced.
- 3.2 The indicative work programme aims to continue the strategic and effective approach to Overview and Scrutiny coverage. It recognises that the work of many of the Working Groups in progress in 2007/08 will extend into the 2008/09 municipal year, that it has to reflect the limitations on both Members' and Officers' time, and that it has to allow space for additional review topics which experience suggests will arise during the year. To that end, Members may choose to adopt new review topics, but delay starting work on some or all of them until some of the current reviews have been concluded, thus releasing Member and officer resources to embark on new reviews. This is particularly so in the case of the large number of prospective reviews in the Environment, Culture and Communities area.
- 3.3 The officer resource allocated to O&S is being increased in 2008/09. However, in the light of experience over the last year, when 6 out of 11 planned reviews did not reach completion before the end of the year, it is clear that the O&S programme remains ambitious. Therefore, Members should note that the draft indicative programme may well roll into the next municipal year, as work on the reviews is refined, new, unplanned reviews appear, or the Commission changes its priorities in the light of prevailing circumstances.

- 3.4 The indicative work programme needs to be considered by the newly appointed Commission and Panels after the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2008, and the ensuing programme will be subject to consultation with the Council's Executive and Corporate Management Team, as required by the Constitution.
- 3.5 The Panels are due to consider their work programmes at their meetings scheduled between 12 June and 2 July 2008. The outcome of those discussions and any recommended changes to the overall work programme will be reported to the Commission at its meeting on 17 July.
- 3.6 The work programme for the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of which the Council is a member, is determined separately by that Committee.

Background Papers

Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny – 2007/08

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny-annual-report-2007-to-2008.pdf>

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Indicative Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny in 2008/09

Note – the indicative work programme in the Annual Report 2007/08 has been amended in the table below to reflect the Council’s decision to restructure Overview and Scrutiny, also to incorporate additional topics put forward since the Annual Report was produced.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION	
1.	Co-ordination of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels
2.	Routine Monitoring of the performance of the Council’s corporate functions To monitor the performance of the Chief Executive’s Office and the Corporate Services department. To include the Bracknell Town Centre regeneration and the building of the new Civic Hub.
3.	Audit Committee duties To include the review of plans and the reports of both internal and external audit.
4.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
5.	Periodic review of the Council’s strategic risk management arrangements
6.	Working Group on the Local Area Agreement To continue the on-going review of the new Local Area Agreement and the activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership
7.	2009/10 Budget Scrutiny Note – each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels will also scrutinise the budget proposals in their departmental areas.
8. (New)	Review of the Council’s Reorganisation To review the delivery of the Council’s reorganisation from three Service Departments to two in April 2008.
SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	Monitoring the performance of the Social Care and Learning department.
2.	Monitoring the implementation of the action plans for Supporting People and Adult Social Care

3.	Monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel This would include a review of action taken in response to the O&S report on Anti-Social Behaviour
4.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
5.	Budget Scrutiny To review the 2009/10 budget proposals for the Social Care and Learning department.
6.	Carers To complete the work of the working group undertaking a detailed review of the Council's arrangements for carers.
7.	Care Homes To continue the work of the working group on Care Homes in the Borough.
8.	Social Care Modernisation Agenda To complete the work of the working group undertaking a detailed review of the Council's implementation of the social care modernisation agenda, with particular reference to services for adults with learning disabilities.
9.	Refreshed Children and Young People Plan 2007 To complete the work of the working group reviewing the refreshed Children and Young People Plan with particular reference to 'English as an Additional Language' (EAL).
10.	Extended Services/Children's Centres To complete the work of the working group undertaking a detailed review of Extended Services/Children's Centres jointly with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
11. (New)	Adult Learning A strategic review, with particular reference to the new funding arrangements.
ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	Monitoring the performance of the Environment Culture and Communities department
2.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
3.	Budget Scrutiny To review the 2009/10 budget proposals for the Environment Culture and Communities department.

4.	Contributing to the development of the Community Arts Development Plan
5.	Strategic review of waste To complete the work of the working group undertaking the review of the new waste Private Finance Initiative Re3 contract and the experience of the first year of Alternate Bin Collection.
6.	Street cleaning / street scene To complete the work of the working group undertaking a detailed review of the Council's performance in this area.
7. (New)	The Council's Housing Functions Following the transfer of the Council's housing stock, to review the Council's housing role, including the interface with Registered Social Landlords and addressing the Borough's needs for Affordable Housing.
8. (New)	Climate Change and the Nottingham Declaration To review progress on implementing the actions flowing from the Council signing the Nottingham Declaration and in applying the new performance indicators set by government.
9. (New)	Leisure Trust To monitor developments on the potential creation of a Leisure Trust.
10. (New)	Residential Parking To review issues concerning residential parking in the Borough, and to contribute to the formation of new policy.
11. (New)	Road Traffic Casualties (Part 2) The May 2008 report of the working group on the review of road traffic casualties has recommended that the panel consider, as a low priority, reviewing the operational issues connected with the reduction of road traffic casualties in the Borough.
HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	Monitoring the implementation of the Borough's Health and Well-Being Strategy
2.	Monitoring the Berkshire East Primary Care Trust's budget for health care in the Borough
3.	Extended Services/Children's Centres To complete the work of the working group undertaking a detailed review of Extended Services/Children's Centres jointly with the Social Care and Learning

	Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
4.	<p>Patient focus</p> <p>To continue the work of the working group undertaking a detailed review centred on General Practitioner services.</p>
5.	<p>In conjunction with the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, monitoring the performance of the Berkshire East PCT</p>
6.	<p>Contributing to the annual 'Health Check' process and responding to consultations by the PCT and NHS Trusts operating in the Borough.</p>
7. (New)	<p>Maternity Services</p> <p>To review the quality and operations of maternity services in the Borough, with reference to the latest Healthcare Commission's assessment that Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust give a 'fair performing' service.</p>
8. (New)	<p>The PCT's New Commissioning Strategy</p> <p>To monitor the Berkshire East PCT's Commissioning Strategy, following the 'Right Care Right Place' consultation.</p>

Note – This programme may need to be amended to meet new requirements arising during the year.