

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
16 JULY 2009

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10
Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to invite Members of the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Commission to adopt the O&S work programme for 2009/10 which is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The earlier indicative programme has been revised to take account of the O&S Panels' consideration of their parts of the indicative work programme, and reviews which have been completed have been removed. The O&S Commission is required by the Council's Constitution to formally consult the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the Executive on the work programme.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

- 2.1 adopts the 2009/10 work programme attached at Appendix 1;**
- 2.2 consults the Corporate Management Team and the Executive on the programme;**
- 2.3 commences the Commission's working group on sustaining economic prosperity.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Panels during 2008/09 was summarised in the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny, adopted by Council at its meeting on 15 April 2009. The Annual Report contained an indicative work programme relating to 2009/10 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; incorporate additional topics put forward since the Annual Report was produced; include changes requested by the O&S Panels; and to remove those O&S reviews which have been completed since the Annual Report was produced.
- 3.2 The work programme aims to continue the strategic and effective approach to Overview and Scrutiny coverage. It recognises that the programme should reflect the limitations on both Members' and Officers' time and it allows some capacity for additional review topics which experience suggests will arise during the year.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Panels considered their work programmes at their meetings between 2 June and 23 June 2009. The outcome of those discussions is included in the revised work programme. The work programme will be subject to consultation with the Council's Executive and CMT, as required by the Constitution.

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The O&S Chairmen have previously indicated that they would like the Commission and each of the Panels to hold at least one meeting each year at a location outside Easthampstead House. The Commission's last external meeting was at Sandhurst Town Hall in June 2008.

Background Papers

Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny – 2008/09

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Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny in 2009/10

The work programme for O&S in 2009/10 is aimed at maintaining a strategic and coordinated work programme based on major areas of Council and partner organisations' activity, of direct and significant interest to residents. The programme incorporates the routine, on-going work of O&S and the completion of reviews currently underway. It proposes a limited number of new O&S reviews which are seen to be timely, relevant, significant and likely to add value.

The determination of the O&S Work Programme for the forthcoming year is a matter for the newly appointed members of the Commission and its Panels. The work programme will necessarily be subject to refinement and updating. It will also require consultation with the Executive and the Corporate Management Team, as required by the Council's Constitution.

The work programme for the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of which Bracknell Forest Council is a member, is determined separately by that Committee.

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 include: the Corporate Performance Overview Reports; the Performance Monitoring Reports of the Chief Executive's Office and the Corporate Services Department; progress on the regeneration of Bracknell Town Centre; the reports of both internal and external audit; and progress on strategic risk management.
3.	2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13. Note – each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels will also scrutinise the budget proposals in their departmental areas.
4.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
5.	Reviewing the Action Taken on Previous Overview and Scrutiny Reports To periodically review the action taken by the Executive in relation to agreed recommendations from earlier O&S reports.
6. New	The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's Theme Partnerships for: The Town Centre Partnership, The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and The Economic and Skills Development Partnership.
7. New	Sustaining Economic Prosperity To review the service plans for the Council's new Priority 6, to sustain the economic prosperity of the Borough during the current economic downturn.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

1.	Monitoring the performance of Adult Social Care Services To include: a series of visits to adult social care facilities in, and possibly outside, the Borough; on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports on complaints received) and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.
2.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
3.	2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Adult Social Care budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13.
4. New	Transforming Social Care and Safeguarding Adults All-Panel workshops to familiarise Members with distinct areas of the initiative, including Care Homes, after which a working group will be established to undertake more in-depth review work in this regard.
5. New	Safeguarding Adults To monitor the Annual Safeguarding Adults Annual Reports.
6. New	The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's Health and Social Care Partnership.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of Children's Services and Learning To include on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports on the Children and Young People's Plan) 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>2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Children's Services and Learning budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13.</p>
4.	<p>14-19 Years Education Provision To complete the work of the Working Group undertaking a strategic review of education services to the age group 14-19 years.</p>
5. New	<p>The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's two Theme Partnerships for: The Children's Trust and The Early Years, Child Care & Play Partnership.</p>
6. New	<p>Safeguarding Children To review the Council's plans and performance with regard to safeguarding children, including the role of the Executive Member, and a specific review of child protection practice and procedures.</p>
Reviews to be considered when resources become available	
7. New	<p>Transport A strategic review of the procurement and provision of transport used by Children's Services and Learning.</p>

ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

1.	Monitoring the performance of the Environment, Culture and Communities Department To include on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports; monitoring the arrangements for securing and applying receipts from Section 106 agreements; and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.
2.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
3.	2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13.
4.	Monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan for Supporting People
5. New	Playbuilder Programme To contribute to the decision-making process on the allocation of funding, and to monitor the implementation of the Council's participation in the government's 'Playbuilder' programme for transformation and creation of play areas.
6. New	The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's Theme Partnerships for: The Strategic Housing Partnership, The Cultural Partnership, The Transport Partnership, and The Climate Change Partnership.
7. New	Highway Maintenance and Improvement To review the Council's plans and performance for highway maintenance and improvement.

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	Monitoring the implementation of the Borough's Health and Well-Being Strategy
2.	Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies To complete the work of the Working Group undertaking a detailed review of the preparedness of the Council and NHS organisations for handling public health emergencies
3.	In conjunction with the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, monitoring the performance and budget of the Berkshire East Primary Care Trust and the Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust This review will include the linkage with the Operating Framework and the national NHS priorities set by the Department of Health; also the progress of health service providers on infection control, particularly in relation to MRSA and C Difficile.
4.	Contributing to the annual 'Health Check' process and responding to consultations by the PCT and NHS Trusts operating in the Borough
5.	The New 'Healthspace' in Bracknell To complete the work of the Working Group undertaking a detailed review of the PCT's plans and progress towards creating the new 'Healthspace' for Bracknell.
Reviews to be considered when resources become available	
6. New	The New NHS Constitution To review the implementation by NHS organisations of the new NHS Constitution, which brings together a number of rights, pledges and responsibilities for staff and patients.

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