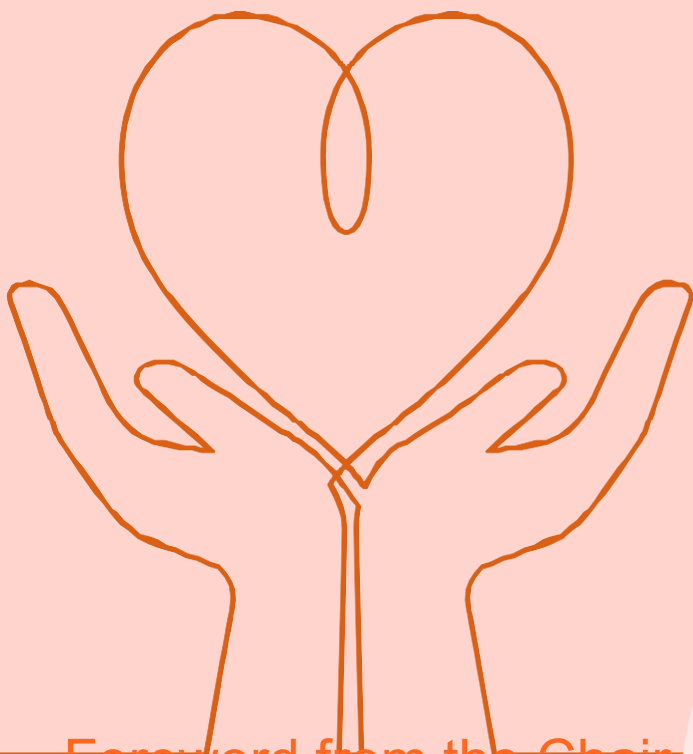


# Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Review



Foreword from the Chair  
of the Overview and



## Scrutiny Commission

**Overview and Scrutiny Commission Chair:** Councillor Robert Angell  
**Overview and Scrutiny Commission Vice Chair:** Councillor Tony Virgo

This report covers April 2022 to March 2023, as well as providing an overview of the work undertaken by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission over the past four years. As our current term of office comes to an end, we wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the changes which have been implemented during this whole period to understand what has worked well, and where we can make improvements.

### 2022-2023

Building on our successful programme of work in 2021-2022 we carried out a further four reviews and reviewed how the recommendations from a previous review had been implemented. We felt this was important to measure the impact our work has on the lives of residents and are committed to this way of working.

In addition to the Panel's scrutiny review work the Commission sat as the Strategic Health Scrutiny Commission for the first time and scrutinised how well current health provisions met existing and emerging needs within the borough. Witnesses from Healthwatch were invited to address the Commission. By doing so, the Commission was able to gain a stronger understanding of the issues facing residents.

In September, witnesses from Public Health provided an update on the progress they have

In October the Commission considered the performance of the Community Safety Partnership and the priorities in the Community Safety Plan for the coming year.

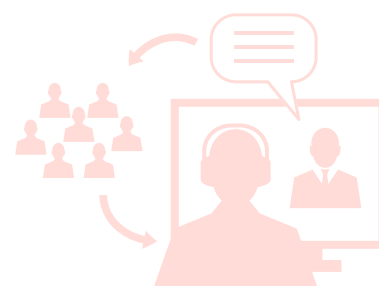
In January the Commission considered the



council's draft budget proposals for 2022/23 before deciding whether they supported the recommendations which were open for public consultation.

Overview and Scrutiny has a vital role in performance management by linking the planning and delivery of services to the experiences of and impact upon local people. The Council Plan sets out the key objectives for 2019 to 2023. At the end of each quarter, the Chief Executive provides a high-level summary report of performance across all services to the Executive, known as the Corporate Performance Overview Report (CPOR), to identify achievements, as well as areas of concern. While the report is useful, there is a future role Overview and Scrutiny could play if data received was timelier.

And last, but not least, coming out of pandemic restrictions we have moved to hybrid meetings!



### Past four years

A major success over the past four years has been the Panels and how they conduct their scrutiny reviews. Originally, there was an overarching Commission and three sub-Commissions which each met quarterly. Task and Finish groups would be commissioned to investigate an issue which had been highlighted as warranting closer scrutiny, but it was felt these took too long, and sub-Commission meetings detracted from review work. We reorganised scrutiny in 2019 into a Commission responsible for oversight of cross-cutting issues, such as Climate Change strategy

development, and three distinct Panels which would lead on scrutiny reviews. However, we were forced to suspend Panel review work, for around 6 months, during the Covid-19 pandemic and only three reviews were undertaken during the first half of our tenure.

A renewed sense of purpose in September 2020 meant our work programme was planned to ensure we made the best use of our resources and allowed us to complete a total of 16 reviews, each with a report stating recommendations for the Executive to consider. Some of these reviews took were completed in one day and others took five months, depending on the work involved. Some attracted much media attention, others very little, but all review reports were considered by the O&S Commission and the Executive.

As well as sponsoring the panel activities, the Commission's annual work programme continued to scrutinise established milestone sessions such as health, crime and disorder and the Council's budget. The Council also carried out another review of its own into Digital Access.

Throughout the past four years the Commission has tracked progress towards delivering the Council Plan by reviewing the overview report which identifies achievements, but data presented has sometimes been out of date. By aligning our meetings with performance and finance information and triangulating it with the experiences of residents and customers, members of the Commission can consider the potential impact on all the borough's residents. Going forward it has been agreed CPOR data will be scrutinised by the O&S Commission prior to the Executive so that members of the Commission can help identify areas of concern to the Executive, which I think will be a strength.

The Commission had two conscientious parent governor representatives who, as well as attending Commission meetings, involved in Education, Skills, and Growth O&S Panel reviews. Sadly, their terms of office came to an end recently, but we have successfully recruited a new primary school parent governor representative and are seeking a new secondary school representative, as it is important to us that the voices of parents are heard in scrutiny.

O&S benefits from a wide range of experience and viewpoints. The Commission welcomes input from residents and local organisations via its public participation scheme. Panel reviews have involved a variety of residents and service providers in their reviews but I would like to see an increased impetus placed on publicity and attracting the public to participate in Commission meetings. This should be a feature next term to attract broader opinions on the council's performance.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and staff, from all organisations who have maintained a high level of support for our scrutiny work over the past four years.



## Introduction from Kevin Gibbs, Executive Director: Delivery, acting as Statutory Scrutiny Officer



The important role that Bracknell Forest Council's Overview and Scrutiny functions provide as part of the corporate governance of the council has been illustrated by the programme of meetings and reviews completed over the four years of the work programme.

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny set out the elements that make for effective scrutiny.

These being:

- Dedicated officer resourcing.
- Member training which is of a high quality and integrated into councillors' ongoing work.
- A positive relationship between scrutiny and the executive – driven by a clear understanding of scrutiny's role and responsibilities.
- Timely access to proportionate, high-quality information.
- Good cross-party relationships between scrutiny members.

([The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny](#)).

The requirement for local authorities in England to establish overview and scrutiny committees is set out in [sections 9F to 9FI of the Local Government Act 2000](#) as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Statutory guidance "[Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils and combined authorities](#)", sets out that as each council is a "democratically-elected body", it is for each council to determine how it sets out its arrangements to meet the requirement of the Act. Therefore, in line with this guidance, the arrangements in Bracknell Forest Council were revised in 2019, taking on board the feedback from the council's own commissioned review of its arrangements, and the issuing of the statutory guidance (May 2019).

The structure and approaches have now been in place for the last four years. The thematic structure of our panels, with the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, as sponsor and quality assurance, are central to the value of the work to the council, demonstrating the success of these arrangements. The role of the Commission in overseeing workloads, managing the programme and ensuring that the staff resources are used productively, has been at the core of the effectiveness of the work programme. Therefore, it is recommended that this approach is continued into the next Commission.

One change was made during the review period, to strengthen the health scrutiny function. In 2021, the Commission designated one Commission meeting per year as the Commission's Strategic Health Scrutiny Committee. Further, that the Finance and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel be retitled as the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Within the council's Annual Governance Statement (Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement), prepared by the council's Monitoring Officer, he has confirmed that:

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](#))

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer has responsibility for promoting the role of overview and scrutiny, and supporting and advising:

- The Overview and Scrutiny Commission & panels
- The Council's Executive and Executive Portfolio holders
- Officers and Chief Officers of the council

In my role of Statutory Scrutiny Officer, I am required to make regular reports to full council on the state of scrutiny, explicitly identifying any areas of weakness. I am happy to give the council assurance that scrutiny over the last four years has been and is effective. The work has been adequately resourced with dedicated scrutiny officers and departmental review resources. It has achieved the work programme it set itself and has been able to be agile to pick up issues of note and concern without losing the focus of the work programme.

In terms of areas of development, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function must, and must be seen to, hold all commissioners and providers of publicly funded services to account for the quality of their services within the borough area.

As the council increases its role in the system leadership of health and social care, so must the coordination on changes in this system be linked into Overview and Scrutiny. Further, having addressed the role of health within the governance of the Commission, so must the Commission look to see how the other blue light (Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust) services, operating in the borough are commissioned, are performing and are meeting the needs of local people.



## Overview and scrutiny at Bracknell Forest Council

The current Overview and Scrutiny structure with an overarching O&S Commission and three O&S panels, has served the council well for the last four years. Each panel has been responsible for up to two themes from the Council Plan. By aligning activity areas with strategic themes, O&S has focussed on topics that closely supported the council's objectives over the four-year administration period. These themes will be reviewed as part of the development of the Council Plan for the next four years.

These arrangements recognise that scrutiny is most effective when operating the task and finish group model rather than as sub-committees of the Commission. Panels are able to work flexibly to carry out focussed enquiries and deep dive reviews across a wide range of topics in support of the council's objectives. Panels meet as required to deliver the work programme rather than on a pre-agreed fixed cycle.

The format is also flexible, and activities range from a single scrutiny panel meeting on an issue to a three - six month focussed review. In addition to the core panel membership, all non-Executive councillors can take part in any review work. This enables the O&S function to tap into the skills and knowledge of councillors across a wide variety of topics. It also means that councillors who need to balance external responsibilities can be involved effectively based on their availability, interests, and knowledge.

The importance of non-Executive councillors' involvement in policy development and pre-decision input and scrutiny is recognised by this approach, ensuring that scrutiny not only provides challenge but actively contributes to the work of the council.

### Overview and Scrutiny Commission

#### Membership:

Councillor Angell (Chair), Councillor Virgo (Vice-chair)

Councillors Mrs Birch, Brossard, Gbadebo, Mrs Mattick,  
Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, McLean, Mossom, Porter, Temperton, Gibson

#### Responsibilities:

- Create a focussed work programme to ensure scrutiny activity contributes effectively to the Council Plan objectives
- Continually manage the work programme to ensure the best use of resources, accommodating any necessary extensions or urgent short-term issues
- Act as sponsor for panels as they undertake deep dive reviews or support policy development
- Consider the recommendations from panels' scrutiny activity and, where they are supported, refer to the appropriate decision-maker
- Scrutinise the council's budget proposals
- Hold the Executive to account for council performance according to the Corporate Performance Overview Report
- Carry out the council's crime and disorder responsibilities and strategic health responsibilities.
- Strategic theme: Value for money
- Manage call in (the process to scrutinise Executive decisions).
- Review the policy framework.



**Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel****Panel membership:**

Councillor Mrs Birch (Chair), Councillor Brossard (Vice-chair)

Councillors Ms Gaw, Mrs Hamilton, Gbadebo, Ms Hayes, Ms Merry, Skinner, Temperton

Parent governor representatives (voting): Victoria Hill

**Strategic themes:**

Education and skills  
Economic resilience

**Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel****Panel membership:**

Councillor Porter (Chair), Councillor Mrs McKenzie-Boyle (Vice-chair)

Councillors Angell, Allen, Brossard, Brown, Ms Gaw, Mrs Ingham, Kirke

**Strategic themes:**

Communities  
Protecting and enhancing our environment

**Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel****Panel membership:**

Councillor Mike Gibson (Chair), Councillor Mrs Mattick (Vice-chair)

Councillors Allen, Atkinson, Bhandari, Brossard, Finch, Mrs L Gibson, Mrs McKenzie, McLean, Skinner, Mrs Temperton

**Strategic themes:**

Caring for you and your family

O&S activities are supported by officers from the Overview & Scrutiny Team within the wider Democratic and Registration Services function, providing 86 hours of support per week.



**Ann Moore**  
Assistant Director:  
Democratic &  
Registration  
Services

Overview & Scrutiny Officer	Overview & Scrutiny Officer	Overview & Scrutiny Officer	Governance & Scrutiny Manager
0.68 FTE	0.68 FTE	0.68 FTE	0.3 FTE

Scrutiny officers work across all three panels, supporting one review at a time. Moving support between panels ensures sharing of good practice and increases collaboration and understanding across strategic themes. It avoids siloed working and provides a balance of opportunities for councillors and officers to develop and share their skills.

Following a restructure of the Democratic & Registration Services Division a new officer model was put in place from 1 March 2023 to support the scrutiny function

Head of Scrutiny & Democratic Services	Team Leader: Overview & Scrutiny	Overview & Scrutiny Officer	Overview & Scrutiny Officer
0.3 FTE	0.68 FTE	0.68 FTE	0.68 FTE

## Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel



**Chair: Councillor  
Mrs Gill Birch**



**Vice-Chair:  
Councillor Michael  
Brossard**

All the panel members work very well together, and I would like to thank them all for their help and support during 2022-2023. I really appreciate their commitment, expertise and drive to make the council and services better for our residents.

Although the Coronavirus Pandemic has still impacted on our capacity to meet in person, so some activities have taken longer to complete, the officer support has been excellent, and the member involvement has increased so I would like to thank everyone for their commitment and efforts. We have continued to have virtual meetings, and this has enabled us to schedule meetings to accommodate people from outside the council attend reviews to give evidence and take part. However, it is very good to have meetings in person and they are gradually happening, for example desk-top exercises work better, and with one review all of us looking at websites was more effective as a group together.

The four-year plan has been delivered and we have completed all our planned reviews.

Monitoring reviews is standard practice, so the Chair went to the Town and Parish Liaison meeting in November to monitor progress with the recommendations of the [Community Infrastructure Levy](#). It showed that most of the recommendations are actioned and there is more partnership working with the Towns, parishes and Bracknell Forest.



**Site visits to local schools**

The two reviews completed in 2022-2023 were the special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the Child Criminal Exploitation.

The [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities review](#) was endorsed by The Executive in October 2022.

However, some issues require longer timescales and significant investment. Our recommendations are aimed at addressing issues in order to strengthen services and support provided for children, young people and their families in the borough in the future so some were to be addressed within a six-month timescale, 18 months or three years.

The recommendations were accepted by The Executive, and we monitored the review in March to look at the six month recommendations. Good progress had been made, although the SEND department is still dealing with a backlog of cases, the new structure is now becoming embedded and staff recruitment is nearly complete. Communication is still a priority.

The Panel had a meeting in September to look at the forward plan and another in November to discuss the budget.

We also had a meeting to discuss areas that we think could form the work programme for the next four years. Ideas for reviews are Foster Carers, Residential placements, Transition from Children's Social Care to adult Social Care, Exclusions and Inclusion in Schools and SEMH in young people.



## Findings and observations

- The last four years have been challenging with Covid and sickness but I feel that the reviews undertaken: Care Leavers Review, Apprenticeships, Community Infrastructure Levy, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities review, Child Criminal Exploitation have been exceptional reports that have had a positive effect on our residents and improved our services.
- Weekly meetings with the lead officer have been very useful to keep on track with progress with the SEND review. If possible, I would recommend it as best practice to other panels.
- Staff sickness has had an impact on support with delaying the completion of reviews.
- Monitoring the Community Infrastructure Levy and SEND review has enabled the reviews to be concluded. Monitoring reviews is now firmly embedded as good practice.
- Member involvement was excellent with the reviews, up to 14 people, due to a mix of virtual meetings and in person meetings.
- Having meetings at different times, especially in the evening, has meant more members have been able to contribute. Members are now aware that there isn't an expectation of them being able to attend all meetings and visits, but if they have expertise and/or are interested they can take part as much as they have availability.
- There was more opportunity to look at the budget and scrutinise it, but I would like a separate opportunity for the Panel to look at it in greater depth.
- Having the latest Data has been a challenge and I hope going forward we will have the opportunity to receive the latest data to enable effective scrutiny.

**Councillor Mrs Gill Birch**



## Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel



**Chair:**  
**Councillor John Porter**



**Vice-Chair:**  
**Councillor Mrs Tina McKenzie-Boyle**



**Site visits to assess waste and recycling facilities**

At the start of the new term in 2019 the objectives of the panel changed. The purpose was still to scrutinise how each service item had been delivered and whether it met the key objectives. However, in addition the panel will now input into reviews of upcoming contracts, initiatives and plans. This process results in more research and information which increases the influence of scrutiny and therefore allows Councillors to make a greater contribution on behalf of residents. To enable the continued success of this new process the Chair and monitoring officer need to ensure that reviews are revisited so that any recommendations made have been implemented on time and are successful. This part of the new process is vital for scrutiny to be effective.

### Reviews during the term 2019 - 2023

#### Registered providers of social housing

This review looked at registered providers of social housing and was carried out due to an increased number of residents contacting their councillor regarding issues. A key recommendation from the review was for Bracknell Forest Council to provide information on their website about what to expect from landlords, including statutory health and safety requirements. In total five recommendations were made and accepted by the Executive. The full report can be found [here](#)

#### Burial Choices

This review looked at additional burial space within the Borough as the crematorium is running out of

space. Various sites were visited, and a suitable site was recommended for testing.

The report also identified a second phase to this review which was to understand what other burial options could be offered to residents that would increase the number of burials possible as well as increasing choice. This review requires to be revisited in the new term.

#### Food waste in flats

After the highly successful implementation of food waste collection from households, the panel reviewed the viability and introduction of food waste collection from flats and houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs).

Recommendations were that the Executive implements a progressive roll out of food waste collection for up to 20% of properties (up to 1800) with officers developing the criteria for suitable flats.

Additionally, a recommendation was that the Executive produces a report reviewing the roll out after 1 year along with a report on the effectiveness and cost by spring 2023. The full report can be found [here](#)

#### Integrated enforcement

Enforcement often requires collaboration between teams, services or external partners and this review looked at the potential development of this collaborative approach, in the form of a more integrated model. This was achieved by looking at the current enforcement structures and policies at the council while exploring a range of best

practices relating to integrated enforcement from other local authorities.

One of the main recommendations was to introduce the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) as a new standard. A further recommendation was to develop enforcement strategies encouraging greater collaboration across services and with partners. In total five recommendations were made and approved by the Executive. The full report can be found [here](#)

### Enforcement strategy

This review, due for approval at The Executive in June 2023, was a companion review following the Integrated Enforcement Review. The objective was to focus on the use, effectiveness, and consistency of application of enforcement powers within the council and discuss if any changes to policy or approach should be recommended. Good practice was recognised within

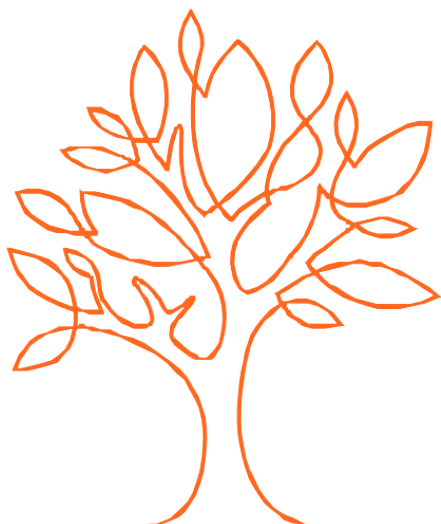
enforcement, specifically around the recent success of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) which has provided security staff at the Lexicon with greater powers to help curb anti-social behaviour (ASB). Six recommendations were proposed, and the report will be published once approved.

Potential topics for the next four years have been discussed and include residential parking and EV charging for flats, cycleways in the borough, generation of own electricity for Council buildings, review of Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) and a review of parks and open spaces. Additionally, reviews of the burial choices, registered providers of social housing and food waste in flats reviews are a priority.

During the past four years one of my favourite reviews has to be that of introducing food waste into flats and houses of multiple occupancy. The success of food waste into households made this review even more important. The value of food waste collection supports the Council in achieving a greater recycling rate, reducing landfill, cutting emissions, assisting in a small way with achieving zero emissions and saving the Council money. The panel will soon look to review the recommendations and provide an update from officers on their progress.

Finally, I would like to thank my vice chair, Cllr Mrs Tina Mc Kenzie-Boyle, members of the panel and the officers from democratic services for all their hard work and dedication over the past four years.

**Councillor John Porter**





## Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel



**Chair: Councillor  
Mike Gibson**



**Vice-Chair:  
Councillor Mrs  
Isabel Mattick**

The Health and Wellbeing O&S Panel focuses on the Council's work addressing health and social care needs of the local community.

During the last year, a meeting was held to review progress of the recommendations made during the [Blue badge review](#). This enabled officers to provide feedback regarding the impact the recommendations were having and raise any issues that have arisen through the implementation of recommendations. This was an important process and I would like to emphasise the value of reviewing recommendations made in reviews to assess their impact and identify areas for improvement.

The panel recognises that the engagement of the public is key to the success of the scrutiny process, and therefore highlight the importance of public involvement in scrutinizing health and social care services. This was an important aspect of the O&S [review into Mental Health](#) in Bracknell Forest last year which led to 8 recommendations being accepted by the Executive.

The importance of accessibility of meetings and technological advances have enabled the panel to hold hybrid meetings, providing wider opportunities for public engagement. This has resulted in more inclusive, accessible and participative meetings, leading to better decisions and outcomes.








Benchmarking with other local authorities has also been identified as a valuable tool to assess the effectiveness of local health and social care services. This enables the panel to identify areas for improvement but also share good practice with other authorities. Site visits are also an essential part of the scrutiny process in assessing the quality of health and social care services as they provide an opportunity to meet staff and service users, observe how services are delivered and to raise any issues with service providers.




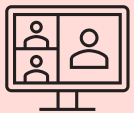




Furthermore, I would like to flag how communication is key. It is important to keep the public informed about the panel's work, as well as ensuring that they understand the importance of scrutiny in improving health and social care services. This encourages service providers to strive for improvement, leading to better outcomes for the local community.

**Councillor Mike Gibson**

## Governance and Overview and Scrutiny in figures

This section summarises O&S activities over the current administration:

Commission			
2019-20	2020-21	2021 - 22	2022-23
<b>6</b>  <p><b>meetings held</b> Climate Change review commenced</p> 	<b>9</b>  <p><b>meetings held</b> 3 reviews completed – recommendations to Executive</p>	<b>9</b>  <p><b>meetings held</b></p>	<b>7</b>  <p><b>meetings held</b></p>
2 over 2 hrs	8 over 2 hours	1 over 2 hours	2 over 2 hours
Average 1:40 hrs each	Average 2:20 hrs each	Average 1:40 hrs each	Average: 1:45 hrs each
Total = 9:45 hrs	Total = 20:20 hrs	Total = 15:15 hrs	Total = 16 hrs







Panels			
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>6</b>  <p>panel meetings held across 3 panels</p>	<b>25</b>  <p>review meetings held across 3 panels</p>	<b>36</b>  <p>review meetings held across 3 panels</p>	<b>25</b>  <p>review meetings held across 3 panels</p>
<b>2</b>  <p>reviews completed – recommendations to Executive <b>1 review almost complete – on hold</b></p>	<b>1</b>  <p>review complete – recommendations to Executive <b>2 reviews close to completion</b>  <b>3 reviews in early stages of pre-review preparation</b></p>	<b>5</b>  <p>reviews complete – recommendations to the Executive <b>1 review close to completion</b>  <b>2 reviews in progress</b>  <b>1 post-review feedback completed</b></p>	<b>4</b>  <p>reviews complete – recommendations to the Executive <b>2 post-review feedback completed</b></p>



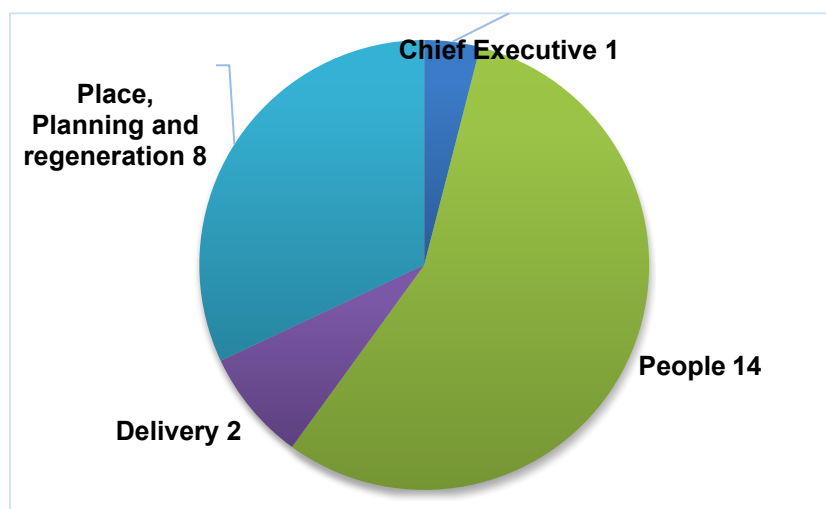
## Further insights into O&S activities in 2022-23:

Activity overview by council theme		
 <p>Value for money</p> <p>Time in panel meetings: 4 hours Pages of evidence: 25</p>	 <p>Caring for you and your family</p> <p>Time in panel meetings: 8 hours Pages of evidence: 132</p>	 <p>Economic resilience</p> <p>Time in panel meetings: 4 hours Pages of evidence: 25</p>
 <p>Protecting and enhancing your environment</p> <p>Time in panel meetings: 3 hours Pages of evidence: 10</p>	 <p>Education and skills</p> <p>Time in panel meetings: 10 hours Pages of evidence: 203</p>	 <p>Communities</p> <p>Time in panel meetings: 4 hours 45 Minutes Pages of evidence: 38</p>

### Summary of witnesses 2022-23:

Commission	Panels	Total
 <p><b>13</b> Officers</p>	 <p><b>17</b> Officers</p>	 <p><b>27</b> Officers</p>
 <p><b>4</b> External</p>	 <p><b>7</b> External</p>	 <p><b>10</b> External</p>
Executive members: 4	Executive members: 3	Executive members: 7

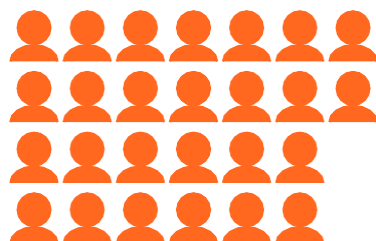
## Bracknell Forest Officer witness by directorate



Number of councillors involved in reviews:

32

(Not including Executive Members)



Total press articles:

5



## Overview of reviews 2019 – 2023

	2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Education, skills and growth Overview and Scrutiny panel			Care leavers				Apprenticeship		Evaluation of Care leavers recommendations		SEND						Child Criminal Exploitation
									Community infrastructure levy								
Environment and Communities - Overview and Scrutiny panel				Burial choices			Registered providers of social housing		Food waste in flats		Integrated enforcement						Enforcement strategy
Health and care - Overview and Scrutiny Panel							Isolation and loneliness				Mental health						Adult safeguarding - postponed until Q2 2023
								Blue badges									Evaluation of Blue badges recommendations

## Getting involved

Overview and scrutiny activities benefit from a wide range of knowledge, experience and viewpoints and the Commission is keen to encourage wider participation. Review recommendations help shape the services we deliver for residents. Here are some insights from partners and officers about what they gained from recent reviews.

“The development of the written statement of action was a comprehensive, coproduced piece of work exploring the key actions needed to improve Special Educational Needs and Disability Service in Bracknell Forest. It is vitally important that we aspire to achieve the high standards of support and provision for all of our families and that the actions within the written statement of action aim to deliver that for children and young people with SEN and their families. I welcome the scrutiny review and note the findings.”

Grainne Siggins, Executive Director: People

“The findings of the mental health review chime with our experience and we will look to build on them in our work to increase access and self-referral. Being involved in this scrutiny review highlighted the collaboration already in place across primary mental health services and meant we were able to help shape quality recommendations for the benefit of patients.”

Nadia Barakat, Director for Mental Health, NHS Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group

“There are a number of teams, in different departments across the Council that provide enforcement services and the panel heard evidence from them. As one of those teams we have been engaged throughout the scrutiny review process which has enabled us to share our good practice with the panel.

The opportunity to present evidence of current enforcement work and share potential options for the future has been invaluable so that Councillors appreciate the complexity and breadth of enforcement activity.”

Damian James, Assistant Director: Contract Services



Find out more about the [overview and scrutiny work programme](#). If you would like to be involved in future activities, contact [committee@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:committee@bracknell-forest.gov.uk).

