

**TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
21 NOVEMBER 2013**

**WORK PROGRAMME AND PANEL ACTIVITY UPDATE REPORT
Assistant Chief Executive**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Work Programme for 2013-14 and Panel activity, with particular reference to Working Groups of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

- 2.1 **Reviews the progress by the O&S Commission and the O&S Panels against the work programme**
- 2.2 **Notes the progress achieved to date by the Commission's Working Groups.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

O&S Work programme

- 3.1 The O&S Work Programme for 2013-14, incorporating where available each Chairmen's assessment of progress, is at Appendix 1.

Delegated Authorities Working Group

- 3.2 The Working Group, comprising Councillors Angell (Lead Member), Mrs Birch, Finnie, Gbadebo and Leake has completed its work, and the Executive's response to the Working Group's report is on the agenda at item 9, for the Commission's consideration.

Re-Localisation of Business Rates Working Group

- 3.3 This Working Group is not planned to commence until later in 2013-14.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS/ EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES / OTHER OFFICERS/ CONSULTATION – Not applicable

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283
e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Monitoring Of Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny in 2013/14

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Chairmen's assessment of the progress on the work programme for O&S in 2013/14 is shown below, where the symbols represent:



Completed or on course for completion



Delayed or completion at risk



Will not be achieved in 2013-14

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION		Status / Comment
1.	Co-ordination of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels	
2.	<p>Routine monitoring of the performance of the Council's corporate functions</p> <p>To include: the Corporate Performance Overview Reports; the Quarterly Service Reports of the Chief Executive's Office and the Corporate Services Department; on-going monitoring of departmental performance and expenditure; progressing the regeneration of Bracknell Town Centre; and the application of Regulation of Investigatory Powers functions.</p> <p>To receive briefings on: the Commercial Property portfolio; the work of the Economic and Skills Development Partnership; progress in implementing the Economic Development Strategy; and the implementation of the customer contact channel strategy.</p> <p>To receive briefings on the implementation of strategies where the Commission made an input to their formulation, including the Communications Strategy.</p>	
3.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p> <p>To selectively contribute to the formulation of new policies in advance of their consideration by the Executive.</p>	
4.	<p>2014/15 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's budget proposals for the Chief Executive's Office and the Corporate Services Department for 2014/15, and plans for future years. To include a discussion with the Borough Treasurer during 2013 on the evolving budgetary position. Overview and Scrutiny Panels will also scrutinise the budget proposals in their departmental areas.</p>	

5.	<p>Crime and Disorder Committee</p> <p>To carry out the role of statutory 'Crime and Disorder Committee', to include an annual meeting with representatives of the Community Safety Partnership, and relationship building with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Particular attention will be given to measures to tackle domestic violence and anti-social behaviour.</p>	
6.	<p>Other Policy Development</p> <p>a) To keep a watching brief on the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. b) To form a Working Group to review the impact of <u>Re-Localisation of Business Rates</u>, and the connection with economic development initiatives.</p>	 
7.	<p>Delegated Authorities</p> <p>To complete the Working Group reviewing the scheme of delegation and the extent of powers delegated to officers.</p>	

Comments By Adult Social Care and Housing Panel Vice Chairman, Councillor Harrison

The Panel is making good progress. It met last on 17 September, the main items being: the evolving budgetary position; the quarterly service report; the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report; the Modernisation of Older People's Services; the draft Joint Commissioning Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities; the outcome of the Carers' Survey; and the reforms to the Adult Social Care system due to start in April 2016. The Panel's Working Group on the Council's role and responsibilities in relation to regulated Adult Social Care services commenced in October. The next Panel meeting on 14 January is likely to have as its main item scrutiny of the 2014-15 budget proposals.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the Adult Social Care, Health and Housing Department</p> <p>To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports on complaints received), monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel, and being briefed on the implications of new legislation. This will include the implementation of the new national structure for Housing and Council Tax benefits, and any assessment of the impact of those changes.</p>	
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>	

	To selectively contribute to the formulation of new policies in advance of their consideration by the Executive.	
3.	2014/15 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Adult Social Care and Housing budget proposals for 2014/15, and plans for future years.	
4.	The Council's Role In Regulated Adult Social Care Services To form a Working Group to review the Council's role in regard to care governance and managing safeguarding in regulated services.	
5.	Other Policy Development a) To form a Working Group to contribute to the annual review of the <u>Local Council Tax Benefit Scheme</u> . • <u>Adult Social Care White Paper</u> – to receive briefings on the progress of the White Paper and monitor the implementation of any new legislation.	

Comments By Children, Young People and Learning Panel Chairman, Councillor Mrs Birch

The panel meeting on September 11th had a full agenda with looking at the budget position, academic performance of the children in our schools for 2012-3, the Children's Social Care Compliments and complaints Annual report 2102-143, an update on the Life Chances team and a very interesting Annual report on the work of the virtual school. The panel also received the Executive response to the excellent School Governance Report. This has now been through the executive and all the recommendations have been well received. Our next review is the School Places Overview and Scrutiny working group and the members are: Councillors Mrs Birch, Gbadebo, Kensall, Mrs McCracken, Mrs Temperton and Parent Governor representative Mr Briscoe. Mr Briscoe is the lead member. The scoping document was established at the meeting on September 12 and meetings are in the diary. The last meeting was November 7th. It is hoped to finish the report in the new year for the March panel meeting.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	Monitoring the performance of the Children, Young People and Learning Department To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and on complaints received). Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of Looked After Children, and the implications for service delivery and resources; • Schools' performance, particularly secondary schools; • The action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel, in particular an update on the transfer from 	

	Primary to Secondary education.	
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p> <p>To selectively contribute to the formulation of new policies in advance of their consideration by the Executive. To include education transport.</p>	
3.	<p>2014/15 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Children, Young People and Learning budget proposals for 2014/15, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>Schools Governance</p> <p>To complete the review of the arrangements being made to ascertain and achieve effective governance in all schools.</p>	
5.	<p>The Provision of School Places</p> <p>To review the Council's arrangements for planning and providing places for children in Bracknell Forest's schools, to include the school admissions process and national comparisons. One focus of the review might be the greater complexity introduced by the Academies and Free Schools legislation.</p>	

Comments By Environment, Culture and Communities Panel Chairman, Councillor Finnie

ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the Environment, Culture and Communities Department</p> <p>To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports; the performance of the Leisure operations, review of any inspection reports or self-evaluations; 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> <p>To selectively contribute to the formulation of new policies in advance of their consideration by the Executive.</p>	
3.	<p>2014/15 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2014/15, and plans for future years.</p>	

4.	<p>Monitoring significant departmental issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Site Allocations process, including the outcome of the Public Examination of the Site Allocations proposals • The procurement of public realm works • Receiving a presentation on measures to maintain the public realm during the regeneration of Bracknell town centre. 	
5.	<p>Bus Strategy</p> <p>To complete the Working Group making an input to the development of a Bus Strategy for the Borough.</p>	
6.	<p>Other Policy Development (the O&S input will be conducted at Panel meetings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Local Transport Plan</u> – To contribute to the development of future policy, with a particular focus on highway improvements. b) <u>The Environmental Management of Schools</u> – To receive progress updates. 	 

Comments By Health Panel Chairman, Councillor Virgo

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	<p>Policy development and monitoring the implementation of the major changes from the 2012 Health and Social Care Act</p> <p>To contribute to and monitor the Council's and NHS policy development, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing the transfer of the Public Health responsibilities from the PCT to the Council; • The work of the Health and Wellbeing Board; • The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy; • Further integration of health and social care functions (with particular focus on hospital discharge and managing long-term health conditions); • Relationship building with Local Healthwatch, MONITOR and the Care Quality Commission. <p>[Panel updates]</p>	
2.	<p>The Brants Bridge Health Facility</p> <p>Forming a Working Group to review the operation of the cancer</p>	

	and renal facilities, also the creation of the Urgent Care Centre.	
3.	<p>2014/15 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's budget proposals for public health in 2014/15, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the NHS trusts and Clinical Commissioning Group serving Bracknell Forest</p> <p>This will include: the work of the Bracknell Forest and Ascot CCG; reviewing the application of any lessons learnt from the Francis Report on the failings of the NHS and Health Overview and Scrutiny in Mid Staffordshire; the implementation of the actions from the 'Shaping The Future' consultation; delivery of the national NHS priorities set by the Department of Health; the progress of health service providers; the results of the GP Patient Survey; and the financial position of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust.</p>	
5.	<p>Responding to NHS Consultations</p> <p>The Health O&S Panel is a statutory consultee for any substantial variation in NHS services affecting the Borough.</p>	