

**TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
10 JULY 2014**

**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 2014-15 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 2014-15, incorporating each Chairman's assessment of progress, is at Appendix 1.

Business Rates Working Group

- 3.2 This Working Group, comprising Councillors Angell (Lead Member), Leake, Heydon and Virgo, met for the first time on 19 May. A background briefing was given by officers, and members discussed the purpose and scope of the Working Group. The Group met next on 17 June, to discuss with Executive Members their perspectives, also to finalise the scope of the review. Further meetings are in the course of being planned.

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

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Monitoring Of Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny in 2014/15

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Chairmen's assessment of the progress on the work programme for O&S in 2014/15 is shown below, where the symbols represent:



Completed or on course for completion



Delayed or completion at risk



Will not be achieved in 2014-15

Comments by O&S Commission Chairman

In the time since the last report, the Annual Meeting of the O&SC has taken place for the 2014/2015 Municipal year and the Chairman and vice-Chairman have been appointed.

Mrs Linda Wellsted has been appointed as a parent-governor representative and has made welcome contributions to our work.

A Call-in relative to the Shoulder of Mutton road junction has been held and, following discussion in Council, a revised Executive decision been made.

All Panel meetings and Working groups are proceeding according to programme and the outcome of the trial working arrangements of the Health Panel is being monitored.

The Annual conference of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) was attended and our submission for the Good Scrutiny Award was nominated for an award. Regretfully, we did not win, but at least a 'bronze' seemed likely! Our thanks go to Richard Beaumont and Andrea Carr for their work on this.

A number of members have mentioned to me the issue of progress on the Town Centre development. This now seems to be an issue which we may have to consider along with (or as a separate topic) the issue of Business rates. That working party has now started its work.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION		Status / Comment
1.	Co-ordination of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels	
2.	Routine monitoring of the performance of the Council's corporate functions	
3.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan	
4.	2015/16 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's budget proposals for the Chief Executive's Office and the Corporate Services Department for 2015/16, and plans for future years. To include a discussion with the Borough Treasurer during 2014 on the evolving budgetary position.	

5.	<p>Crime and Disorder Committee</p> <p>To include an annual meeting with representatives of the Community Safety Partnership.</p>	
6.	<p>Other Policy Development</p> <p>To make an input to the review of the <u>Economic Development Strategy</u>.</p>	
7.	<p>Business Rates</p> <p>To review the impact of Re-Localisation of Business Rates, and the connection with economic development initiatives.</p>	

Comments by Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman

The Adult Social Care and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel met on Tuesday, 17 June 2014.

The Panel received an update in respect of the transition in service for former users of the in-house Dementia Homecare Team.

As part of the ongoing monitoring of departmental performance and commitment to safeguarding service users, the committee noted that the implementation of an electronic monitoring system to measure the time actually spent by care workers at clients' homes was on track but that the integration with financial systems was behind schedule and questioned officers on the implications for service users and the Council.

The panel considered reports on:

- Living with Positive Choices – a Community Strategy for Adults With Long Term Conditions Aged 18-64.
- Complaints and Compliments
- Alcohol Brief Intervention in Social Care

The committee also received a report on the Government's Care Act 2014 and discussed with officers the implementation and implications for Bracknell Forest.

The Council will be exposed to risks arising from the imposition of a Minimum Eligibility Threshold, universal deferred payments for home care and the £72000 lifetime care charges cap.

The Working Group reviewing the Council's Role in Regulated Adult Social Care Services met on the 22nd April and noted that its work is nearing completion.

The Panel appointed a new working group to conduct a review into the Council's approach to homelessness.

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 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, including the Government's Care Bill.</p>	
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>	
3.	<p>2015/16 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Adult Social Care and Housing budget proposals for 2015/16, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>The Council's Role In Regulated Adult Social Care Services</p> <p>To complete the review of the Council's role in regard to care governance and managing safeguarding in regulated services.</p>	
5.	<p>Forestcare</p> <p>A review of the lifeline alarms and other services provided under Forestcare.</p>	

Comments by Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman

The latest working group, School Places has been completed and accepted by the panel so it is ready for the Executive response and then the commission.

The panel meeting on June 11th started with a presentation by the Youth Council Scrutiny Group. They are currently evaluating the Youth provision and their video and presentation was excellent and very informative. They are keen to come to the panel and present their findings again. The professional way they conducted themselves and presented their information was truly inspiring.

The next working group is looking at substance misuse and the impact on families and children so the meeting started with a presentation by Jillian Hunt from New Hope. This was an excellent introduction to the panel and working group. Jillian showed us samples of drugs we had never heard of, covered the impact of parental substance misuse, the number and trends of young people engaged in substance misuse and then told us about services available for young people and adults.

We had a briefing on the Children and families Act 2014.

The panel looked at the updated Children, young People and Families Plan 2014-2017. For the QSR for the fourth quarter we had an update on the schools submissions for this year and a report on the latest OFSTED outcomes for schools by Bob Welch.

The panel had a photograph taken with Bob Welch to mark his retirement and we expressed our thanks for all his hard work with school improvement for the borough.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the Children, Young People and Learning Department</p> <p>To include receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and on complaints received). Monitoring:</p> <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 	
2.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan	
3.	<p>2015/16 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Children, Young People and Learning budget proposals for 2015/16, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>The Provision of School Places</p> <p>To complete the review of the Council's arrangements for planning and providing places for children in Bracknell Forest's schools.</p>	
5.	<p>Substance Misuse</p> <p>Further to the 2012-13 review by the Adult Social Care and Housing O&S Panel, to review actions to minimise substance misuse by children and young people.</p>	

Comments by Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman

The Cultural Services working group are nearing completion of their review of libraries and assistance given to South Hill Park by the Borough Council and will be publishing their report in the near future.

They have also prepared a list of cultural activities carried out in the Borough by groups other than the Borough Council with the help of Town and Parish Clerks but with

very little response from Borough Councillors to the request made to them. This list will be made available later in the year.

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 the performance of the Leisure operations, review of any inspection reports or self-evaluations; monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel, and monitoring significant departmental developments.</p>	
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>	
3.	<p>2015/16 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2015/16, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>Cultural Services</p> <p>To complete the review of the Council's cultural services offering, in the context of pressure on public finance, with particular reference to libraries and assistance for South Hill Park.</p>	

Comments by Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman

We are holding our third 6-weekly meetings on Monday 30th June to discuss current concerns from lead members. Members will be required to table their report of the current issues in their designated specialist areas. We are planning a visit to Prospect Park in September together with a briefing on mental health provision in preparation for our meeting with Julian Emms CEO Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in October. This is part of regular reviews for all the main trusts operating in our area.

We are also running a refresher members training programme in September as a result of members request.

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	<p>Implementing the new Approach to Health Scrutiny</p> <p>To deliver the new approach to health scrutiny as recommended by the Panel's Working Group on the Francis report. This might in due course lead to a focussed review in 2014/15 or later years</p>	
2.	<p>2015/16 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's budget proposals for public health in</p>	

Unrestricted

	2015/16, and plans for future years.	
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