

**TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
29 JANUARY 2015**

**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 Group.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

O&S Work programme

- 3.1 The O&S Work Programme for 2014-15, incorporating (where available) 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, commenced on 19 May and has completed its work. The Working Group's report is included at item 7 on the agenda, for adoption by the O&S Commission.

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

There has been no major change in the work or work programme for the Commission this quarter. Actions arising from the meeting in November have been dealt with and advised to members. The report of the Working group on Business Rates will be presented at the meeting and is the result of extensive research and much effort by both members and officers. One matter which needs further discussion and review is the report on the implications of the Francis Report (which arose from the crisis at the Mid - Staffordshire Health Trust). A meeting is to be arranged between the Commission Chairman, Health OSC Chairman and the Head of O&S to review the recommendations and establish a way forward.

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.	Crime and Disorder Committee To include an annual meeting with representatives of the Community Safety Partnership.	
6.	Other Policy Development To make an input to the review of the <u>Economic Development Strategy</u> .	

7.	<p>Business Rates</p> <p>To review the impact of Re-Localisation of Business Rates, and the connection with economic development initiatives.</p>	
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<p>ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL</p>		<p>Status / Comment</p>
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 working group has met four times since the last panel meeting and members visited New Hope on their Christmas open day.

The working group are hoping to have the draft report ready for the March meeting.

The panel looked closely at the recruitment of teachers and senior management in our schools at the last panel meeting. David Watkins gave a very informative presentation and the panel is going to review recruitment at subsequent meetings.

The draft budget was scrutinised, the Annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, the Annual report of complaints and compliments and the Annual report of the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Director and Lead Member for Children's Services. The work programme for 2015 was reviewed.

The next panel meeting is on the 4th March 2015 at 7.30pm.

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>	

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.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan	
3.	2015/16 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2015/16, and plans for future years.	
4.	Cultural Services 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.	

Comments by Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman

Summary of work during 2014

Following the recommendation from the Francis Report - the panel adopted individual responsibility for different parts of the NHS. The idea behind this was to enable members to specialise in certain areas and thus improve the depth of scrutiny, given both member's time and availability. We suspended additional reports to concentrate on members area of expertise and meet every 6 weeks. The panel has also been strengthened with the addition of Dr Norman who brings his practical and technical experience as a GP to our meetings and panels. We also have a regular dialogue with Healthwatch Bracknell to monitor the topics and matters of concern that are being discussed locally.

It has been a busy year catching up with the re-organisation of the Heath Service.

At the start of the year we held an additional special meeting to consider the CQC second report and findings on Wexham Park Hospital. It was extremely serious and members questioned in great details the findings with both the Chairman and Chief Executive. I summed up at the end of the meeting on behalf of the panel the seriousness which members viewed the report and the urgency and importance of correcting all the service shortcomings.

As well as meeting our principle partners of the NHS Trusts operating in our area during the year, we visited the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust facility at Prospect Park in Reading. It specialises in mental and community health services and in addition we received a detailed briefing on mental health provision.

I would like to thank the members, Cllr Birch, Lisa McNally, Glyn Jones and his officers and Richard Beaumont for their help during the year.

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	Implementing the new Approach to Health Scrutiny 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	

2.	2015/16 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's budget proposals for public health in 2015/16, and plans for future years.	
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