

**TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
19 NOVEMBER 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 2015-16 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 2015-16, incorporating (where available) each Chairman's assessment of progress, is at Appendix 1. As previously explained to the Commission, the Panels have seen the need to make some changes to the previously adopted work programme.

O&S Commission's Working Groups

- 3.2 As reported previously to the O&S Commission, the Commission's Working Groups on the Economic Strategy and the Draft Council Plan have completed their work and no further meetings are 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 2015/16

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Chairmen's assessment of the progress on the work programme for O&S in 2015/16 is shown below, where the symbols represent:



Completed or on course for completion



Delayed or completion at risk



Will not be achieved in 2015/16

Comments by O&S Commission Chairman

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.	2016/17 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's budget proposals for the Chief Executive's Office and the Corporate Services Department for 2016/17, and plans for future years. To include a discussion with the Borough Treasurer during 2015 on the evolving budgetary position. Overview and Scrutiny Panels will also scrutinise the budget proposals in their departmental areas.	
5.	Crime and Disorder Committee To include an annual meeting with representatives of the Community Safety Partnership.	
6.	The Council Plan (Formerly Medium Term Objectives) To contribute to the review of the Council's Plan (formerly Medium Term Objectives) following local government elections in May 2015.	

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





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 receive an introductory briefing on the role 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 progress of any significant developments (such as the Care Act).</p>	
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>	
3.	<p>2016/17 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Adult Social Care and Housing budget proposals for 2016/17, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>To form a Working Group to make an input to the preparation of the new Homelessness strategy</p>	

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

The panel met on Wednesday 30th September and the focus of the meeting was education. We had the usual report on the outcomes of Ofsted school inspections, school results for summer 2015 with particular attention to the KS2 results, as they weren't as good as expected. There was a report on Elective Home Education which was very informative and an area that we are going to look at in the future as the policy and procedure is currently being reviewed. We have 39 children being home educated in the borough, higher than we had expected.

We considered the executive response to the Substance Misuse report and noted that all recommendations were accepted. It was a good review and the information and observations link with the current review, Child Sexual Exploitation. The CSE working group is progressing extremely well, three meetings having already taken place and three more in the diary.

The Independent Reviewing Officer annual Report, Children's Social Care complaints, concerns and compliments Annual Report 2014/2015 and changes to School designated areas were noted at the meeting.

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 receive an introductory briefing on the role of the Children, Young People and Learning Department.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of the 'Learning Village' in Binfield • Schools' performance, particularly secondary schools; • The action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel 	
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>	
3.	<p>2016/17 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Children, Young People and Learning budget proposals for 2016/17, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>Child Sexual Exploitation</p> <p>To form a Working Group to review the Council's response to the risks of Child Sexual Exploitation, delivered in concert with Community safety partner organisations.</p>	





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

The last report to the Commission covered the period to 22nd September 2015, both written and a verbal update.

The next Panel meeting is not until 12th January 2016 which leaves me only to report on the Working Groups progress in looking at the Planning practices and procedures including enforcement.

By the time of this Commission meeting the working group will have met on five occasions plus a visit to Elmbridge Borough Council to see how their planning operates. Why Elmbridge BC? Because they received an Excellence commendation from the Royal Town Planning Institute which is a national recognition.

These meetings have effectively been about seeking information and obtaining answers to many questions. The work of formulating our conclusions started during our meeting on 16th November. I do not anticipate the group to complete the work until late January/early February 2016.

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 receive an introductory briefing on the role of the Environment, Culture and Communities Department.</p> <p>To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports; the performance of the Department, 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, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The works at Coral Reef • The Local Development Framework • The potential extended uses of the Council's E+ Smartcard. 	
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>	
3.	<p>2016/17 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2016/17, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>The Council's Planning Function</p> <p>To form a Working Group to review the Council's Planning Function, including making an input to the draft Local Enforcement Plan.</p>	

Comments by Health Overview And Scrutiny Panel Chairman

The Health O+S panel has met on 2 occasions since the O+S Commission met in September.

In October we met with the Chief Executive of Frimley Health who gave an insightful overview of the current state of affairs across the three hospital sites and how they feel confident that the Wexham site will show improvement at the next imminent CQC inspection. Members of this panel are planning to attend the Listening In Event once dates are known.

The panel met to discuss the Health and Wellbeing Draft Strategy. Comments have been made and submitted to the Executive Member who has assured us they will be looked at.





The Panel revisited the recommendations made by the Francis report and are confident that systems are in place following the recommendations. This will continually be monitored and any slippage identified.

The Panel also agreed a date for the first meeting where GP Capacity would be explored. The panel had also had been briefed of what has occurred locally up to that date. The date of the first meeting will be Nov 19th and core members have been identified.

The Panel also agreed that a formal link needed be made with councillors who were not on the O+S panel but sat on external positions within the NHS locally. This first meeting is to take place on Nov 23rd to identify ways of sharing information in the view of improving care for our local residents.

Finally the panel also agreed that it would be useful to set up a data base of individuals who have professional knowledge of various health issues whose expertise could be called upon when the panel is working in a specific area. ie...ex psychiatrists, mental health nurses, etc...

We look forward to our next panel meeting exploring Public Health provision

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		Status / Comment
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the Local NHS Organisations and the Adult Social Care, Health and Housing Department in relation to health</p> <p>To receive an introductory briefing on the Council's role in relation to Health. To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports and monitoring significant developments, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Better Care Fund • The Care Act • Improvements at Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals following the acquisition by Frimley Park Hospital Trust <p>Provision of sufficient GP surgeries to match long-term growth in the Borough's population (see below)</p>	
2.	<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.</p>	
3.	<p>2016/17 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's budget proposals for public health in 2016/17, and plans for future years.</p>	
4.	<p>Responding to NHS Quality Accounts and Consultations</p> <p>Under Department of Health guidance, the Health O&S Panel should provide comments on the annual Quality Accounts produced by the NHS Trusts nearby, and the Panel is a statutory</p>	

Unrestricted

	consultee for any substantial variation in NHS services affecting the Borough.	
5.	GP Capacity To form a Working Group to review whether there is sufficient GP capacity to match the long-term growth in the Borough's population and other demands.	