

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Forward Plan
Meeting date	7 Decemb er
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board have worked with Officers to identify the priority areas of work for the Board with contributions from the Board members. The work priorities of the Board have been developed on the basis of risk. The proposed Forward Plan is attached at Appendix A. The Board is asked to consider the proposals contained in the Forward Plan and approve or amend the contents. The current published Cabinet Forward Plan is attached at Appendix B to aid the Board in deciding on its priorities for scrutiny.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board amend as appropriate and then approve the Forward Plan attached at Appendix A to this report.
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny bodies to set out proposed work in a Forward Plan which will be published with each agenda.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Contributors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	N/A
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. All Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) bodies are required by the Constitution to consider work priorities and set these out in a Forward Plan. When approved, this should be published with each agenda.
2. The Constitution requires that the Forward Plan of O&S bodies shall consist of work aligned to the principles of the function. The BCP Council O&S function is based upon six principles:
 1. Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'.
 2. A member led and owned function – seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development. Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process.
 3. Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence.
 4. Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the council.
 5. Agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.
3. The O&S Board may take suggestions from a variety of sources to form its Forward Plan. This may include suggestions from members of the public, Officers of the Council, Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet and Council, members of the Board, and other Councillors who are not on the Board.
4. The Constitution requires that all suggestions for O&S work will be accompanied by detail outlining the background to the issue suggested, the proposed method of undertaking the work and likely timescale associated, and the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed. No item of work shall join the Forward Plan of the O&S Board without an assessment of this information.

Summary of financial implications

5. When establishing a Forward Plan, the Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Board to take into account the resources, including Councillor availability, Officer and financial resources, available to support their proposals.
6. To ensure sufficient resource availability across all O&S bodies, Officer advice is that, in addition to agenda items, one additional item of scrutiny inquiry work may be commissioned by an Overview and Scrutiny body at any one time. This may take the form of a working group or task and finish group, for example. Bodies commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Board may have conferred upon them the power to act on behalf of the parent body in considering issues within the remit of the parent body and making recommendations directly to Portfolio Holders, Cabinet, Council or other bodies or people within the Council or externally as appropriate.

Summary of legal implications

7. The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny bodies to set out proposed work in a Forward Plan which will be published with each agenda.

Summary of human resources implications

8. N/A to this decision

Summary of environmental impact

9. N/A to this decision

Summary of public health implications

10. N/A to this decision

Summary of equality implications

11. Any member of the public may make suggestions for Overview and Scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

12. N/A to this decision.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Board proposed Forward Plan
Appendix B – Published Cabinet Forward Plan