

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Cabinet Member Report – Tourism, Leisure & Culture
Meeting date	1 March 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Overview and Scrutiny Board has agreed a programme of reports from Cabinet members to be received at meetings of the Board. The programme will provide an opportunity for in depth discussions with individual Portfolio Holders on current and forthcoming priorities; and identification of potential areas of overview and scrutiny work. An outline of the priority areas for the Tourism, Leisure & Culture Portfolio are provided within this report, to be expanded upon in discussions with scrutiny members at the meeting.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Overview and Scrutiny Councillors consider and contribute to the discussion with the Cabinet member on the Portfolio areas within his remit; and identify any resulting suggestions for the Forward Plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
Reason for recommendations	To assist non-executive councillors to effectively contribute to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'. To ensure that the items included in the Forward Plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Board can add value to the work of the Council overall.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mohan Iyengar – Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure & Culture
Corporate Director	Bill Cotton – Corporate Director, Regeneration & Economy
Report Authors	Claire Johnston – Senior Democratic and Overview & Scrutiny Officer Councillor Mohan Iyengar - Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure & Culture
Wards	All
Classification	For Information and Decision

Background

1. Any council operating a cabinet model must by law have at least one overview and scrutiny (O&S) committee to provide in depth test and challenge to decisions made by the Cabinet, and to support the Cabinet in developing policy. BCP Council has one Overview and Scrutiny Board with overall responsibility for the whole O&S function and a wide breadth of scrutiny responsibility; and two Overview and Scrutiny Committees based on scrutiny of children’s services, and adults and health services. The relationship between these O&S bodies and the Cabinet is integral to the decision-making structure of the Council and to the enablement of robust decision making. This relationship is reflected in principle one of the six principles of good scrutiny, outlined in Part 1 of the Council’s Constitution, as follows:

- Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a ‘critical friend’.
- 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.
- Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence.
- Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the council.
- Agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.

These principles underpin the Overview and Scrutiny function and its work.

2. During Autumn 2020 the members of the O&S Board undertook refresher training and worked with a representative of the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) to reflect on the work of the Board to date, it's alignment to the above principles and to consider how best to develop the Board's future direction. Overview and Scrutiny members reported a wish to be more informed of medium to long term Cabinet priorities, and to undertake more 'overview' work such as participating in the development of policy at an earlier and more influential stage. To address this, at the meeting of 7 December 2020 the Board agreed to trial a programme of Portfolio Holder reports to the Board. It was hoped that this would provide opportunity for the Board to strengthen how it fulfils the six principles listed in paragraph 1 above, by:

- providing space through each of the Portfolio Holder reports for in depth two-way discussion on a specific Cabinet area;
- aiding a better understanding by O&S members of medium to long term Cabinet priorities and where O&S may add value to these through assisting in policy development;
- providing opportunity for all non- executive members to provide more insight and engagement to overview and scrutiny through the submission of questions to be answered by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder;
- developing the relationship between O&S and the Cabinet in order to strengthen decision making.

The O&S Board agreed that Portfolio Holder reports should follow a pattern of one per month, commencing in January 2021, with other meeting items themed to align to the reporting areas where possible. The opportunity to submit questions for the Executive member would be advertised to all non-Executive councillors in advance of the meeting.

Cabinet Member Report - completed by Councillor Mohan Iyengar, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure & Culture

Current Priorities

3. An outline of current priorities for the areas of responsibility within the Portfolio is provided below, including identification of risks, challenges and opportunities associated with these. This will be expanded upon by verbal presentation at the O&S Board meeting:

3.1: Tourism Sector

- Support for tourism and hospitality providers
- Festival Coast Live – expansion of events and offerings
- Destination marketing – keeping profile high in key markets

3.2: Seafront

- Readiness for visitors post-lockdown
- Beach huts – operations and commercials

- Support to tenants, franchisees and contractors along the seafront

3.3: Physical Exercise

- Support for leisure and exercise providers (indoor) during lockdown
- Support for exercise spaces, facilities and organisations (outdoor) during lockdown

3.4: Cultural-Expression

- Support for arts, cultural and heritage organisations during lockdown
- Mobilisation of cultural compact
- Delivery of Poole Museum and Scaplen's Court project
- Transition of Russell Cotes Art Gallery & Museum to independent charity status

3.5: Libraries

- Staff support to communities and Covid-effort while libraries are closed
- Readiness to resume library services at earliest opportunity
- Support for the integration of customer service and libraries functions

Future Priorities and Portfolio Development

4. An outline of the anticipated future priorities and aspirations for the portfolio is provided below, including identification of risks, challenges and opportunities associated with these. This will be expanded upon by verbal presentation at the O&S Board meeting:

4.1: Tourism Sector

- Refinement of BCP's 'destination strategy'
- Development of Bournemouth International Centre (BIC)
- Expansion of the range and diversity of events

4.2: Seafront

- Consolidation of seafront projects into a single programme with clearer definition and benefit
- Refinement of policies for the use of promenade, beach and car parks which are progressive and unified
- Refinement of the business-operational model for beach huts

4.3: Health & Physical Exercise

- Forward-looking view of leisure-centre offerings and provider(s)
- Campaign for developing outdoor exercise and broader well-being

4.4: Cultural-Expression

- Implementation of all aspects of cultural compact

- Input to medium-to-long term development of buildings, sites, highways and open space, including support for heritage
- Development of groups and organisations to foster cultural expression
- Mechanism to protect and develop cultural talent

4.5 Libraries

- Evolution of library services within common-service hubs

5. Possible Areas of Overview and Scrutiny

Suggestions from the Cabinet Member for potential overview and scrutiny work that would add value to the work of the Portfolio are outlined below. This will be expanded upon by verbal presentation at the O&S Board meeting:

5.1: Ideas and challenge for the evolution of tourism. A leading destination ...

- offering a broader experience of entertainment, well-being and education
- developing the economic strength of the sector
- fulfilling all objectives towards climate-protection

5.2: Ideas and challenge for the regeneration of sport and physical exercise:

- offering a range of opportunities and incentives to exercise
- enabling people to practice sport from casual to advanced levels

5.3: Ideas and challenge for allowing cultural expression to flourish:

- enabling and encouraging all communities towards cultural expression
- building the mechanisms – hard and soft – that support cultural expression such as venues, organisations, groups and customs

6. Overview and Scrutiny Councillors are asked to consider and contribute to the discussion with the Portfolio Holder and to identify any resulting suggestions for the Forward Plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Summary of financial implications

7. Not applicable to this decision.

Summary of legal implications

8. Not applicable to this decision.

Summary of human resources implications

9. Not applicable to this decision.

Summary of sustainability impact

10. Not applicable to this decision.

Summary of public health implications

11. Not applicable to this decision.

Summary of equality implications

12. The information discussed with Cabinet members may prompt councillors to suggest an area of work for the Overview and Scrutiny Board Forward Plan. Any councillor has the right under the constitution to suggest an item for the Forward Plan of the O&S Board or Committees. Any member of the public may also make suggestions for overview and scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

13. Not applicable to this decision.

Background papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.