

Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Guidance on the use of this form:

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution, under procedure rules 2.4-2.9

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/s25674/Part%204%20-%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

Emergency Procedures and Civic Commemorations

2. Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.

A cross-party member led review of emergency planning and civic commemorations procedures undertaking through the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Background to the issue

Following the recent death of HM The Queen and the implementation of Operation London Bridge there have been a number of challenges to overcome in relation to how our council operations, democratic processes and civic plans

were implemented. Reflections should include how we liaise with our wider community partners including faith communities to ensure smooth implementation of civic plans; and the balance between the corporate role and the civic role for town councils, charter trustees and mayors.

In terms of wider emergency planning procedures - there have been a number of events covered under emergency procedures – fires on Canford Heath, major storms, Summer 2020 Beach crisis etc – where members have noted a need to reflect on the communications used or the use of emergency powers.

4. Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)

Working Group reporting back through O&S

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

We hope that it will be many years before Operation London Bridge is activated again. However we should be expecting a coronation within 6 months and so there are likely to be civic commemorative matters that will need to consider the balance between the role of BCP and of the Charter Trustees and Town Councils. This gives some urgency to the standing up of a working party – ideally to be confirmed at the next meeting of the O&S Committee.

We cannot know when the next Emergency might occur – if weather related this could happen in midwinter.

If the working group were stood up at the next standard meeting in October it could meet several times with a report back early in 2023

6. Notes/ additional guidance

Submitted by Cllr Vikki Slade & Cllr Millie Earl

Already contacted Chair of the Committee, Head of Democratic Services and Chief Executive

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk