

Overview and Scrutiny Board – Work Programme , 2024/25

Table 1: Proactive Topic Suggestions Scoped by CfGS			
Topic / overall research question	Topic incorporates the following suggestions	Key questions to be answered	Notes
What more can we do to meet local people's housing needs?	10, 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we understand the pressures on local people to be in respect of housing, and the pressures on the wider housing market? • How do we ensure the rigour and robustness of viability assessments when undertaking negotiations with developers on s106/CIL? • What steps can we take to improve housing conditions in the social and private rented sectors? • What steps can we take to ensure that people who need it have access to appropriate housing in the social and private rented sectors? 	
How can we build a sense of place for BCP as a whole?	26, 28, 31 To an extent, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What opportunities exist to develop and expand area and locality working? • To what extent can regeneration / economic development policy contribute to building a distinct sense of place 	

		<p>across the three conurbations in the area, and across the wider area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can and should local people be involved in driving forward this activity? 	
How can we build the capacity of the local community / local community organisations to transfer ownership of assets, or share responsibility for service delivery?	24, 29, 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the council's improvement / financial position, what emerging plans are there for pursuing different models of service delivery? • Might these involve asset transfers or contracts with local bodies for partnership delivery of certain services? • What might some of the risks (and opportunities) be associated with these moves (in general)? • Where transfers are planned or possible, what local capacity building is needed and is being carried out? 	

Table 2: Longlist of Topics suggested by Councillors			
Suggestion from:		Topic and link to completed scrutiny request form:	Notes
2	Oliver Walters	Public Consultation	
4	Mark Howell	Community Led Services	
6	Sue Aitkenhead	Safeguards against corruption	Suggest this be notified to Audit
7	Sue Aitkenhead	Ethical and local procurement with good governance	Suggest this be notified to Audit

8	Karen Rampton	MoreBus pricing	Suggest that this be reconsidered when the ongoing position on the national bus fare cap is known (not sue this is particularly relevant to the particular issue being raised)
9	Felicity Rice	Road Dangers to children	
10	Kate Salmon	Addressing the housing crisis	
11	Kate Salmon	Local Transport Plan	Early engagement in the direction of the plan. EH: Possibly as a member briefing session organised by the department in question?
13	Stephen Bartlett	Project Management in BCP	EH: Think this is more an Audit issue
14	Michael Tarling	Local Plan	Already taken to O&S Board – return after examiner decision.
15	Stephen Bartlett	Assurance Review Action Plan - monitoring	
16	Stephen Bartlett	Council finances - monitoring	<p>Greater role of O&S Board in financial scrutiny – deep dive into service areas, what challenges they are facing.</p> <p>EH: A wider ongoing programme of work here</p> <p>LM has since raised the approach suggested by cfs in recent financial scrutiny training for a budget/MTFP O&S working group. Chair of O&S Board in agreement with this approach for 24/25. If agreed this would form a significant area of commissioned work for the O&S Board in 2024.</p>
17	Sue Aitkenhead	Council finances – lessons learned	EH: See above
19	Felicity Rice	Social value	EH: Would need to be a specific question or issue – the title alone is probably too broad
20	Felicity Rice	Viability Assessments	<p>Planning issue</p> <p>EH: Suggest something on housing stress / demand / pressures?</p>

23	Michael Tarling	Staff redundancy programme	EH: In the first instance I'd suggest that this needs to be driven through separate member briefings. Difficult for members to influence workforce matters other than in a specific / limited way
24	Felicity Rice	Community empowerment – community management of assets and local decisions	Other community dev views raised in session: Cllr Tony Trent said community groups need to be brought together to get to the stage where they can be empowered to take on responsibilities. Some are not at this level. Budget impact on community development. Could work if framed as being about developing a model/framework for the support of community groups to come forward to co-manage (or wholly manage) certain assets.
25	Stephen Bartlett	Performance of the council – data, and performance of directorates and staff	EH: Ongoing responsibility
26	Phil Broadhead	Place Making and Regeneration Including Wessex Fields	EH: Possibly too broad, as currently framed. Links to 31
28	Phil Broadhead	Economic Growth Policy	EH: Again, possibly too broad, though links to 26
29	Crispin Goodall	Arts / Lighthouse / BSO - funding	
30	Michael Tarling	Charitable trusts – looking to transfer ownership or long lease to external organisations	Looking more to voluntary sector to take on a number of areas – do we agree with this policy which is based around funding considerations? Connects to community development items at 24 above. By what process is cabinet assessing and addressing this problem?
31	Various	Working more collectively across BCP geographical areas/ Locality Governance	Bringing the three geographical areas of BCP together as one, councillors working as one BCP council etc Cllr Bartlett suggested the council consider what areas of council work should be seen as collective and how to support individual elements of the conurbation to be more localised?

			EH: A big topic and scrutiny would need to understand the scope/appetite for council action on locality working before proceeding
32	Patrick Canavan	Devolution Plans.	<p>What is the Council's views on this? It is expected that discussions are ongoing but little is known about it.</p> <p>EH: Currently feels too remote to take action (and is subject to changing Government priorities)</p>

Table 3: Suggested topic selection for O&S Board 24/25 – for consideration by councillors and agreement/ amendment at 2 April O&S Board meeting

Note: items in red text are proactive topics that require further scoping

Meeting Date	Item 1 (1 hour) (pre-decision Scrutiny)	Item 2 (1 hour)	Item 3 (1 hour)	Information only items (issues raised by exception only)	Working Group (1 at a time)
13 May 2024	Corporate Strategy Delivery Plans	Transformation Report (April Cabinet)	Regeneration Priorities and Progress – Committee Report		To be selected from proactive topic list
10 June	Finance Scrutiny – MTFP Cabinet Report	Seafront Strategy – Cabinet report	Local Transport Plan (Date TBC)		
8 July	Corporate Review – year end performance report – expected at Cabinet (TBC)	Coastal /Town Centre BIDs – building a sense of Place Verbal updates /	O&S Annual Report.		

		presentations from BIDs			
27 August	Reserved for pre- decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	Assurance review - Committee report to ensure review is completed	29 – Arts, Culture and Leisure Funding		
23 September	Reserved for pre- decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	Production and Effectiveness of Public Consultations (2)	4/24/30/31 community empowerment, asset management etc -	Add in local plan for pre-decision scrutiny (check date)	
21 October	Reserved for pre- decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	Transformation and the centralised handling of complaints – Report to Committee	Performance of the council – data, and performance of directorates and staff (25) Informal investigation report by O&S Board	Accounting for Social Value in decision making (19)	
18 November	Reserved for pre- decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update) – potentially Devolution plans	Working more collectively across BCP geographical areas / Locality Governance			
9 December	Reserved for pre- decision or reactive	To be selected from proactive topic list	Crime and Disorder Scrutiny		

	scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)		of Community Safety Partnership		
6 January	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	To be selected from proactive topic list		
27 January	Budget Scrutiny		To be selected from proactive topic list		
24 February	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	To be selected from proactive topic list		
24 March	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)	To be selected from proactive topic list		

Table 4: O&S Board Informal Briefing Sessions
For use in considering early direction of pre-decision scrutiny / horizon scanning
None scheduled at present – dates to be determined on an ad hoc basis