

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
<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

Play Streets Policy, requested by Councillor Felicity Rice.

Please can the council update us on establishing a simple Play Streets Policy to BCP?

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

Playing out is vital for children's physical and mental wellbeing. Having ample time and space to play is widely recognised as fundamental to every child's health, happiness and development. So much so that it is actually a human right, as set out in the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). Unlike organised or

paid-for activities, playing outside near home – where it is safe and possible – is cost-free and open to all children, regardless of background.

But children in the UK and many other countries around the world are far less able to play out than previous generations. Children haven't changed – they still desperately want and need to play out with friends – but the world around them has. National and local decisions around traffic, housing, planning and education have not considered children, pushing them out of streets and public space. We can change this, together, with a simple step being that BCP council can set up a BCP Play Streets Policy. A Play Streets Policy has been adopted by over 100 councils in the UK and the government sent a letter to all highway authorities encouraging them to support play streets.

3. Background to the issue

A resident who specialises in community play contacted the council in 2020 with 12 residents that were keen to run play streets in their local street, if the council could introduce a play streets policy. Since then I have been enquiring about when a play streets policy would be ready. There has been the pandemic, and there has been the reorganisation of the BCP council, however, I now see this as an urgent matter to be actioned given the level of play opportunities that are being missed out on due to the lack of a play street policy in the BCP area.

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

A simple email/verbal update is enough – no need for significant report writing, I would prefer the time to be spent on getting a play street policy in place.

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

It could be added to the next E&P overview and scrutiny meeting.

6. Notes/ additional guidance

www.playingout.net has all the relevant policy information that can be utilised by any council, free of charge. There is also the relevant information for housing providers/residents/community groups to start setting up play opportunities once the council has a policy in place.