

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

Culture of the Council – requested by Councillor Mark Howell.

The appointment of a new CEO presents an opportunity to strengthen the culture of councillor/ officer working relationships and to propose reforms designed to deliver improved performance and motivation.

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

Recommendations to the new CEO such as:

1. The need for a teamworking dynamic which encourages collaborative project development by officers and members, including respect for the skills and experience of councillors and consultation with ward councillors at an early stage in decision making.
2. The benefits that may accrue in terms of greater accountability if minutes of officer and officer/member meetings are required to be produced.
3. The need for recognition of the importance of promoting the distinctiveness of each of the three towns and respect for these geographic and civic entities when designing services (subject to reasonable cost considerations), within the overarching ethos and promotion of BCP Council.

3. Background to the issue

Perceived difficulties experienced by some councillors in being consulted about ward issues, accessing information and support, and scrutinising decision-making.

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

Working group

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

ASAP given that recruitment of the new CEO is under way.

6. Notes/ additional guidance

None

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk