

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Work Plan
Meeting date	24 August 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: the Overview and Scrutiny Board review, update and confirm the Work Plan.
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda.
Portfolio Holder(s):	N/A – Overview and Scrutiny is a non-executive function
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Work Plan updates

1. This report provides the latest version of the Committee's Work Plan at Appendix A and guidance on how to populate and review the Work Plan in line with the Council's Constitution. For the purposes of this report, all references to Overview and Scrutiny Committees shall also apply to the Overview and Scrutiny Board unless otherwise stated.
2. Items added to the Work Plan since the last publication are highlighted as **'NEW'**. Councillors are asked to consider and confirm the latest Work Plan, subject to any updates agreed at the meeting.
3. The most recent [Cabinet Forward Plan](#) can be viewed on the council's website. This link is included in each O&S Work Plan report for councillors to view and refer to when considering whether any items of pre-decision scrutiny will join the O&S Committee Work Plan.

Resources to support O&S Work

4. The Constitution requires that O&S committees take account of the resources available to support proposals for O&S work. Advice on maximising the resource available to O&S Committees is set out in the O&S Work Planning Guidance document referenced below.

Work programming guidance and tools

5. The [Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference](#) document provides detail on the principles of scrutiny at BCP Council, the membership, functions and remit of each O&S committee and the variety of working methods available.
6. [The O&S Work Planning Guidance](#) document provides detail on all aspects of work planning including how to determine requests for scrutiny in line with the Council's constitution.
7. The [O&S Framework for scrutiny topic selection](#) was drawn up by O&S councillors in conjunction with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. The framework provides detail on the criteria for proactive, reactive and pre-decision scrutiny topics, and guidance on how these can be selected to contribute to value-added scrutiny outcomes.
8. The '[Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny](#)' form is an example form to be used by councillors and residents when making a new suggestion for a scrutiny topic. Word copies of the form are available from Democratic Services upon request by using the contact details on this agenda.
9. Performance information: progress against the council's Corporate Strategy can be viewed on the council's [Performance Dashboard](#). The dashboard includes ratings to show where the council is on target, areas for monitoring or where action is required, and explanations. The dashboard includes measures relevant to all O&S committees and is provided to assist committees in their horizon scanning and work selection process.
10. The Overview and Scrutiny Board has utilised a structured [Decision Matrix](#) as part of the process for prioritising work plan items. Evaluating suggested topics on the following measures: resident impact, urgency, influence and the value scrutiny could add.

In Year Scrutiny Requests

11. Pre-decision topics can be identified and confirmed by the Board on a monthly basis when the Cabinet Forward Plan is refreshed.
12. Working group suggestions will be passed to the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs Group for consideration. The Group will agree the order of progression for working groups, in line with Constitution requirements which allow for one working group to be progressed at a time across the whole O&S function.
13. Key Lines of Enquiry documents will be progressed for individual scrutiny topics. Advice on scoping will be sought from officers to strengthen inquiries (in line with usual practice) and from the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs Group (to provide additional test and challenge, in line with updated Constitution requirements).
14. In year topic requests: notwithstanding the Board's planning of its annual programme of work, councillors retain the right to suggest scrutiny topics throughout the year. Requests for scrutiny work may also be made by residents and other council bodies, such as full Council, at any time. For arising 'in year' requests, the Board is recommended to make use of the matrix tool to assess the topics in an evidence-led way. Where scrutiny capacity is reached, the Board can weigh up the value of swapping scrutiny topics for others by referring to the body of evidence generated through the annual work planning workshop.

Options Appraisal

15. The O&S Committee is asked to review, update and confirm its Work Plan, taking account of the supporting documents provided and including the determination of any new requests for scrutiny. This will ensure member ownership of the Work Plan and that reports can be prepared in a timely way.
16. If updates to the Work Plan are not confirmed there may be an impact on timeliness of reports and other scrutiny activity.

Summary of financial implications

17. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

18. There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Council's Constitution requires that all O&S bodies set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda. The recommendation proposed in this report will fulfil this requirement.

Summary of human resources implications

19. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

20. There are no sustainability resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

21. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

22. There are no equality implications arising from this report. Any councillor and any member of the public may make suggestions for overview and scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included within O&S Procedure Rules at Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

23. There is a risk of challenge to the Council if the Constitutional requirement to establish and publish a Work Plan is not met.

Background papers

- [Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference](#)
- [O&S Work Planning Guidance document](#)
- [O&S Framework for scrutiny topic selection](#)
- [‘Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny’](#)

Further detail on these background papers is contained within the body of this report.

Appendices

Appendix A - Current O&S Work Plan