



Overview and Scrutiny in Bradford

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015-16

Wednesday 7 September 2016

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Chairs' Foreword

Dear Resident

We have the pleasure of presenting the 2015-16 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report. This report summarises the achievements and contributions made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the last 12 months.

The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is a very important contributor to the delivery of Council Services in a challenging operational environment.

We would like the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those people who contributed to and supported the work of Overview and Scrutiny and look forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

We are also very appreciative of the Bradford District Councillors and Co-Opted Members, who sat on our Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the year.

Finally, we are pleased to note the positive results of the latest Overview and Scrutiny Annual Survey which continue to show high levels of satisfaction in the overall operation of the scrutiny function. The survey is carried out in March each year and full details can be found on page 5.

Cllr Arshad Hussain - Corporate.

Cllr Dale Smith - Children's Services.

Cllr Martin Love - Environment and Waste Management.

Cllr Vanda Greenwood - Health and Social Care.

Cllr Adrian Farley - Regeneration and Economy.

Overview and Scrutiny in Bradford

Bradford Metropolitan District Council has five Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Corporate O&S Committee has ten members, and the other Committees have nine members each.

Three of the Committees have additional members of the public, as “co-opted” members.

The Committees are:-

- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (also has a co-ordinating role);
- Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

And their role is to:-

- act as a “critical friend” to the Council’s leadership and senior officers;
- drive improvement in public services;
- enable the concerns of the public to be heard;
- consist of independently minded people who decide their own agenda and how they will do their work.

A total of 42 members and 16 Co-opted members were engaged with Overview and Scrutiny.

The Committees take a considered and evidence based approach to the areas of work they address, which also includes listening to different officers, organisations and the public on topics that are of interest to them.

Our meetings are open to the public and we always welcome contributions from people who attend our meetings or send us their views. We are delighted that a number of you came to several of our meetings to tell us what you think.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Survey 2015-16

Question	Very Satisfied		Fairly Satisfied		Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied		Fairly Dissatisfied		Very Dissatisfied	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
<i>Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the general operation of overview and scrutiny in Bradford District?</i>	20%	21% (+1%) ↑	56%	52% (-4%) ↓	12%	21% (+9%) ↑	9%	6% (-3%) ↓	3%	0% (-3%) ↓
<i>How dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the level of public involvement in the scrutiny process?</i>	11%	10% (-1%) ↓	44%	34% (-10%) ↓	32%	43% (+11%) ↑	13%	12% (-1%) ↓	1%	2% (+1%) ↑

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Don't Know	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
<i>O&S effectively acts as acts as critical friend to the Council's leadership, senior officers and partners.</i>	31%	25% (-6%) ↓	51%	59% (+8%) ↑	9%	9% ↔	4%	1% (-3%) ↓	6%	6% ↔
<i>O&S contributes to improving services in Bradford District.</i>	35%	21% (-14%) ↑	50%	62% (+12%) ↑	7%	9% (+2) ↑	2%	1% (-1%) ↓	6%	8% (+2%) ↑

Responses – survey carried out Feb/March 2016 (2015 results in brackets)

Overall response rate: 47% (33%)

Total surveyed: 257 (269)

Total number of responses: 121 (89)

Councillors (all): 29 (21)

Co-opted Members and officers (Council and external): 91 (63)

Number of O&S Committee meetings attended by respondents: 0-3 meetings = 58% (56%); 4+ meetings = 43% (44%)

Comment

By comparison with the last survey in 2015, there has been an increase in both the number of responses received and the response rate*. The response rate from Councillors has also increased to 32% (up from 23% last year). Once again the results are broadly positive, with only 6% of respondents expressing a degree of dissatisfaction with the overall operation of overview and scrutiny. However, it is the case that well under half of respondents (44%) are satisfied with the level of public involvement in the scrutiny process.

*This may in part be explained by a technical problem experienced by some Council officers and Councillors when trying to complete the 2015 survey.

Examples of work undertaken in the past year

During the year, the Committees have looked at a wide range of issues which have been of interest and concern to a wide ranging audience. Set-out below are some examples of the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Bradford.

Poverty Scrutiny Review

Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny agreed to undertake an in-depth Scrutiny Review, into the effectiveness of Bradford Council and its Partners to address poverty across the District.

The Committee has held a number of information gathering sessions relating to the links poverty has with low income, children and families, fuel and health and housing.

The key findings and recommendations of the review were considered by the Committee on Wednesday 29 June 2016, where members agreed the key findings and review recommendations.

Progress against the recommendations will be considered by the Committee in December 2016.

Finance and Performance Monitoring

Monitoring Finance and Performance across the Council is and remains key for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Here members will be considering budget and performance pressures and the effectiveness of steps being taken to address them.

Safer and Stronger Communities

Safer and Stronger Communities has been and continues to be an important area of work for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This will continue through the scrutiny of Safer and Stronger Communities performance and engagement with the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

Educational Attainment

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee last year continued to monitor the recommendations resulting from its detailed investigation into Educational Attainment in the district, and the recommendations from Professor David Woods report on the effectiveness of the District's arrangements to support School Improvement.

Workloads of Children's Social Care Services

The Committee received three reports during the year detailing the workloads of Children's Social Care Services. Members were keen to understand the pressures on the service and also what systems were in place to address any concerns. Social Workers from the service attended Committee meetings to speak about their experiences.

Schools Forum

The primary function of a Schools Forum is to recommend to the Council's Executive Committee how the funding, which the Government provides for schools and individual pupils (known as the Dedicated Schools Grant), is managed.

The Committee built a good relationship with the Schools Forum, and received regular updates on the work of the forum throughout the year.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

A key area of work which has been considered by the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been the developments around the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, but with particular reference to Transport links and the Strategic Transport Infrastructure Priorities for the District. Members have agreed to keep an overview of this.

Transportation and Rendering of Animal By-Products by Omega Proteins

This continues to be an issue of public concern and an area that members of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee are keen to keep an Overview.

Renewable Energy

Reports have been received from the Environment and Climate Change Unit regarding renewable energy in the District. This has raised a number of further issues to be included in our work programme and members of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee have asked for further information.

Domiciliary Care

At its meeting of 9 January 2015, following a detailed scrutiny, the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee made seven recommendations to the Council's Executive in respect of the impact of the Council's £12.50 fee for standard domiciliary care. At the Executive's meeting of 15 September 2015, all but one of the recommendations was accepted. The work of the Committee, along with that of Healthwatch Bradford and District has since influenced the development of the Council's Integrated Personalised Support and Care Framework (which was scrutinised by the HSCOSC in January 2015). The new framework, once implemented, aims to improve the quality of services, enhance safeguarding and will review rates and cost models.

Arrangements for dealing with obstructions on the highway (advertising 'A' boards)

Following an earlier recommendation of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on 13 October 2015 the Council's Executive resolved that a 12 month trial of a zero tolerance approach to obstructions on the highway would be adopted in four areas of the District. The trial of the ban commenced on 4 January 2016 and will

conclude in early December when a report on the findings will be considered by the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Following two successive Care Quality Commission inspection judgements of 'requires improvement', the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken extensive scrutiny of the Trust over the last 12 months. This has focussed on progress and action to address serious backlogs in the outpatient appointment system, improvements to the hospital estate and management of staffing issues. The Committee has also sought assurance around the strength of the Trust's governance arrangements.

The Committee also scrutinised the relocation of hyper-acute stroke services from Airedale NHS Foundation Trust to the Bradford Teaching Hospitals site.

The National Media Museum

In response to public concern and media coverage the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a special meeting to discuss the transfer of photographic artefacts from the national Media Museum to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The Media Museum Director Jo Quinton-Tulloch attended to address the meeting as did Jonathan Newby, the Deputy Director of the Science Museum Group.

Regeneration in Keighley

The Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a "Keighley" themed meeting, discussing the key issues in relation to the Town including the Keighley Business awards, the former Keighley College building, the Worth Valley Shopping Centre, Transportation and Heritage issues.

Get Bradford Working

The Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee received information on the "Get Bradford Working" scheme, in particular the SkillsHouse initiative – Bradford's Retail Academy. The initial priority is to support unemployed people in the district, by upskilling them and providing them with qualifications in Retail, Hospitality and World Host Principles of Customer Service. Members heard that to date SkillsHouse has supported 342 individuals into work, 166 of which are working within "The Broadway" shopping centre.

Looking ahead

It is important that we consider the Overview and Scrutiny activity carried out this year, in order to continue to improve the manner in which Overview and Scrutiny operates in Bradford.

Furthermore there are some big challenges in the upcoming year and set-out below are some of the key areas of work for Overview and Scrutiny.

Detailed Scrutiny Reviews

Following a recommendation from Council, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee are undertaking a detailed Scrutiny Review into the effectiveness of Bradford Council and its Partners in dealing with the December 2015 floods.

Domestic Violence within the District will also be the subject of another detailed Scrutiny Review, by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in this Municipal Year.

The Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be conducting a detailed Scrutiny Review to consider the future of Water Management and associated problems of flooding in the Bradford District.

The Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will, over the next 12-24 months, take an in-depth look at the health and social care workforce issues facing the District.

Impact of leaving the European Union on Bradford

Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be exploring the impacts of leaving the European Union on the Bradford District.

West Yorkshire Fossil Fuel Disinvestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry

Following a referral from Council, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be examining the legal position of the Pension Fund in terms of its powers to invest and disinvest, the financial consequences of disinvesting from the fossil fuel sector and consideration of the risks and positive effects of fossil fuel disinvestment.

Income Streams

Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee are keen to explore income streams into the Council and how these be further improved, in light of the current climate.

Changing Landscape of Education Services

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will look at the Changing Landscape of Education Services and the implications of recent policies with a view to identifying roles and responsibilities, now that more schools are converting to become academies.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have a strong focus on ensuring measures are in place to combat Child Sexual Exploitation and raising awareness of the issues involved. They will receive reports relating to Child Sexual Exploitation, including information on Children missing from home and care, the annual safeguarding report and reports on the workloads of Children's Social Care.

Procurement of Waste Treatment Arrangements

The progress relating to the Procurement of Waste Treatment arrangements for the District will be a key area of work for the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as members will seek involvement at key stages in the procurement process.

Road Safety

The Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be particularly focusing on road safety, especially Bradford's Casualty Reduction Performance and Strategy for Road Safety across the District.

Performance Monitoring

Members of the Environment and Waste Management Committee will continue to have an overview and scrutinise the performance in Transport and Highways and Waste Management.

Quality of adult residential care provision

There continue to be concerns about the quality of residential care provision in the District. The Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to focus on this issue through the year, scrutinising Care Quality Commission inspection results and activity, the Airedale and Partners Vanguard programme for enhanced health care in care homes and the Council's Great Places to Grow Old Programme.

Mental Health

In September 2016 the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be contributing to the development of a joint 5 year mental health strategy for the District, followed in October by a special joint meeting with the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at mental health issues and services for young people and children. In addition, early in 2017 the Committee will be taking a detailed look at community mental health services.

Dentistry

Oral health and, in particular, access to routine NHS dental care, continues to be a major concern for people in the District. The Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will hear from Healthwatch Bradford and District, NHS England commissioners and Public Health on the current issues and will scrutinise what, if any, progress has been made to address them over the past 12 months.

Housing

The Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee will hold a themed meeting which will cover several reports related to Housing. The areas to be covered include the Empty Homes Strategy, Affordable Housing, Housing and Homelessness strategy and Housing Enforcement.

Sports Facilities Investment Plan

The Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the Sports Facilities Investment Plan which involves the development of new swimming pools and sports facilities across the District. The Committee will receive information on revenue projections for the first phase, and the detailed designs for the scheme.

Tourism

The Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive a report on Tourism in the District including feedback from the public consultation on the Tourism review and the impact of other strategies.

Work Programmes for each Overview and Scrutiny Committee are available by contacting the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Lead.

Corporate

mustansir.butt@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432574

Children's Services

licia.woodhead@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432119

Environment and Waste Management

mustansir.butt@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432574

Health and Social Care

caroline.coombes@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432313

Regeneration and Economy

licia.woodhead@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432119