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Overview and Scrutiny in Bradford



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19

Email: scrutiny@bradford.gov.uk

Twitter: Bfd_Scrutiny



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Dear Councillor

We have the pleasure of presenting the 2018-19 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 and 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 particularly 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 results of the latest Overview and Scrutiny Annual Survey which continue to show positive 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.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs 2018-2019



Cllr Nazam Azam
Corporate



Cllr Vanda Greenwood
Health and Social Care



Cllr Mike Gibbons
Children's Services



Cllr Rizwana Jamil
Regeneration and
Environment

Overview and Scrutiny in Bradford

Bradford Metropolitan District Council has four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Two of the Committees also have additional “co-opted” members.

The Committees are:-

- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

And their role is to:-

- act as a “critical friend” to the Council’s leadership (the Executive) 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 43 members and 13 Co-opted members were engaged with Overview and Scrutiny.

The Committees take a thoughtful, 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 and / or concern 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.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Survey 2018-19

Responses – survey carried out March 2019

Overall response rate: 42%

Total surveyed: 313

Total number of responses (n): 132

Councillors (all): 32

Co-opted Members and officers (Council and external): 101

Number of O&S Committee meetings attended by respondents: 0-3 meetings = 70%; 4+ meetings = 30%

Comment

As in previous years the results are broadly positive with a large majority agreeing with the statement that 'O&S contributes to improving services in Bradford District'. However, also in common with previous years, the main area of challenge is the level of public involvement in the scrutiny process.

Results

Question (1 & 2)	Very Satisfied	Fairly Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Fairly Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<i>Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the general operation of overview and scrutiny in Bradford District?</i>	18%	40%	23%	14%	5%
<i>How dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the level of public involvement in the scrutiny process?</i>	8%	31%	43%	11%	7%

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<i>O&S effectively acts as acts as critical friend to the Council's leadership, senior officers and partners</i>	14%	56%	13%	3%	14%
<i>O&S contributes to improving services in Bradford District</i>	20%	55%	8%	2%	15%

Examples of work undertaken in the past municipal 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 two detailed examples of the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Bradford during the municipal year 2018-19.

Single Use Plastics Scrutiny Review

At its meeting on Tuesday 16 January 2018, Council considered a motion in relation to Single Use Plastics and recommended that the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a detailed Scrutiny Review into Single Use Plastics and make recommendations.

Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee members began their deliberations on Wednesday 19 September 2018, with the session focusing on setting the scene into how Bradford Council currently deals with the single use plastics. At the information gathering sessions on Tuesday 9 October 2018 and Tuesday 27 November 2018, members met with representatives from external organisations.

Information gathering sessions were undertaken as part of this scrutiny review which focused on three areas for improvement, in accordance with the terms of reference adopted at the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 20 February 2018. Specifically, the committee resolved to:

- reducing the use of single use plastics by Council staff and visitors on its own estate;
- engaging with the users of Council parks and other recreational facilities to reduce the use of single use plastics;
- working with partner organisations, local businesses and residents to encourage a reduction in the use of single use plastics across our District.



Yorkshire on Tap event, free reusable water bottles for staff.

As a result of the review, this Committee has made a number of recommendations for consideration which were agreed by members, on Tuesday 26 March 2019. The overarching recommendation related to the development of a Single Use Plastics Policy and Implementation Plan.

Recommendations were also developed around other key and recurring issues that have arisen during this scrutiny review. These issues included:

- moving towards becoming a plastic free organisation;
- procurement of goods and materials;
- improved recycling offer;
- education and awareness raising;
- greater Partnership working.

Members of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will not just be scrutinising the progress made against the Scrutiny Review recommendations, but will also be keeping an overview of Bradford Councils overall approach to becoming a Single Use Plastic free organisation.

Youth Voice

The Children's Services O&S Committee has shown interest and enthusiasm in terms of hearing and acknowledging the voice of young people in Bradford.

The Youth Service presented a report to the Committee who then proposed that some work should be done in order to produce a framework to get the views of young people regarding agenda items for meetings, so that the concerns of young people could be addressed and considered.

The youth service organised a meeting of their service users, who discussed the issue and came to a conclusion on the best approach.

They decided that as social media plays such a large role in the life of young people, it made sense to utilise this resource to reach out to the young people of Bradford. The group decided that instagram would work well as it is a social media site which most young people have accounts for.

A pilot of the instagram scheme was set up with report authors reflecting in their report on how young people have been involved.

Report authors were also required to provide a couple of sentences about their reports, which was intended to simulate young people's discussion.

This information is shared via instagram (see picture). The comments are collated, and the social media apprentice and/or another of the young people involved in the project, feedback to the Committee at the meeting, when that item(s) is being discussed.

This has resulted in young people being able to have an influence on items that they are interested in, or have concerns about.

Obviously not every report lends itself to this type of approach, but so far it seems to be working well.

 <p>bradfordyouthvoice 🔄 📌 👤 ...</p> <p>Liked by bradfordmdc, lughciferr and 4 others</p> <p>bradfordyouthvoice Today's "Tell Us What You Think" Consultation at Shipley Library! We're here until 19:00, if you're local come on down!</p>	<p>On the left is an example of an Instagram post.</p> <p> </p> <p>Above are the symbols for interactions on Instagram. The speech bubble icon, when pressed will allow the user to type a comment on the post.</p> <p>The heart when pressed will notify whoever shared the post that you have liked it!</p> <p>Finally, the arrow icon shown on the picture on the left allows you to send the post to one of your followers.</p>
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Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Social Care O&S Committee has consistently sought to ensure that the importance of mental health and wellbeing, and mental health services is reflected in its activity and this was again the case during the 2018/19 Council Year.

In December 2018 the Committee held a meeting given over entirely to scrutiny of a number of issues where the District faces significant challenges: vocational and employment support for people in mental health recovery, access to psychological therapies, perinatal mental wellbeing (this refers to the period including pregnancy and the first year following the birth of a child), and acute care.

This was followed in February 2019 by a joint meeting with Children's Services O&S Committee that focussed specifically on young people's mental wellbeing. The meeting was attended by young people who spoke about their experiences and activities they are involved in such as peer mentoring.



Display by young people who attended the meeting

The Committee has found that progress is being made in a number of areas, will continue to highlight areas of continued concern and will seek to promote the importance of mental wellbeing as part of policies and services across the board.

Call-In

“Call-in” is an important way Scrutiny Councillors can hold the Council’s Executive to account. A call-in delays implementation of an Executive decision until a Scrutiny Committee has had a close look at the decision. The Scrutiny Committee may choose to ask the Executive to reconsider its decision. There was one call-in of Executive decisions in 2018-19:

- Tuesday 3 July 2018 – Regeneration & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Amendments to Off Street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2015. The decision was released for implementation.

Engaging the Public

As well as publishing our agenda and reports on the internet, we now also:

- Tweet regularly about scrutiny (@Bfd_Scrutiny);
- Promote our work through local media.

When scrutiny meetings are considering controversial subjects or matters of public interest, we often get several members of the public attending.

Complete Work Programmes for each 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

Health and Social Care

caroline.coombes@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432313

Regeneration and Environment

mustansir.butt@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432574/licia.woodhead@bradford.gov.uk
01274 432119

Looking Ahead

It is important that we consider the Overview and Scrutiny activity carried out this year, in order to continue to improve the way 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

Members of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny have been concerned at the level of Hate Crime across the District and have subsequently decided to undertake a Scrutiny Review into this area.

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

Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny members have increasingly become concerned about air quality across the District and subsequently agreed to undertake a detailed Scrutiny Review into this area, pending the outcome of the feasibility study into air quality across the District

Gambling

Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee are keen to examine the approaches to tackling gambling across the District.

Libraries and Museums

The future provision of Libraries and Museums in the Bradford District, is likely to be a key area of work for members on the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Ofsted Inspection of Looked after Children

The Children's Services Committee will be closely monitoring the response to the Ofsted Inspection of Looked after Children. This area will feature as a standing item at each meeting of the Committee.

Scrutiny of Health and Social Care

This will include advocacy services, HIV and sexual health, carers, young people's mental health, primary care GP access and services, reconfiguration of some hospital services, autism, 0-19 children's health services and home care for adults. The Committee will continue to be a member of the West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.