

How to take part in Overview and Scrutiny

We welcome your involvement.

You can:

- attend meetings
- submit evidence to an inquiry/review
- raise an issue/topic for inquiry
- contact your local councillor
- contact the council's Overview and Scrutiny officers

Meetings usually take place in the council chamber at Easthampstead House, in Bracknell town centre. Occasionally, meetings are held in community settings.

The dates of Overview and Scrutiny meetings are on the council's website and notice boards, and you can get the papers for meetings from our website or by contacting the Chief Executive's Office on 01344 352283.



How can I raise an issue/topic for inquiry?

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission and panels welcome suggestions for topics of inquiry from residents, interest groups or local businesses.

Suggestions can be made by contacting the Overview and Scrutiny team, or visit our website and complete the 'Suggest a Topic for Inquiry' form.

Contact us

Overview and Scrutiny
Bracknell Forest Council
Chief Executive's Office
Easthampstead House
Town Square
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1AQ

T: 01344 352283

F: 01344 352324

E: overview.scrutiny@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny

Your chance to check up on the council



Helping to make Bracknell Forest a place where all people can thrive: living, learning and working in a clean, safe and healthy environment.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny makes sure Bracknell Forest Council is working in the best interests of the community and helps shape services and policies. It:

- aims to improve services by monitoring the work of the council and other agencies and makes recommendations on the way services are provided;
- allows local councillors to examine decisions made by the council's leadership and others on services delivered to the public, in an open and accountable way;
- has the power to 'call-in' decisions and ask for them to be re-considered;
- rigorously monitors performance;
- informs and influences the actions of the council and its partners, such as the police and the health service.

Bracknell Forest's overview and scrutiny is carried out by local councillors and other representatives such as church, parent governor and teacher representatives.

What Overview and Scrutiny does

Overview and Scrutiny reviews the council's work in public. It:

- monitors the performance of services, such as school exam pass rates, waste recycling and supporting vulnerable adults;
- influences public policy, for example on the council's strategic plans for the future, dealing with abandoned vehicles and on the new housing strategy;
- carries out legal duties, such as examining the council's detailed budget proposals each year;
- carries out detailed reviews of major topics, such as support services for carers, children's centres and road traffic casualties.

Overview and Scrutiny produces reports which have recommendations for improvements to the council's leadership. These reports can be found on our website or by contacting a member of the overview and scrutiny team.



What powers does Overview and Scrutiny have?

Overview and Scrutiny has legal powers in the Local Government Act and elsewhere to review the activities of a wide range of public bodies, to require people to attend public meetings, and to issue reports which must be responded to.

Overview and Scrutiny cannot change the executive's decisions, but it has the power to 'call in' a decision which has not yet been carried through, and require it to be reconsidered.



What Overview and Scrutiny cannot do

Overview and Scrutiny does not deal with individual queries, concerns or complaints. If you are not satisfied with a council service then please use the council's complaints procedure. Contact the council on 01344 352 000 or visit www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk