

2019/20

Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council



Chair's Foreword



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function for 2019/20. This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by our Committee Members during the course of the year. This includes work undertaken as part of our Committee Meetings as well as on our Task and Finish Groups in considering services vital to Barnsley residents.

Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in holding the local authority as well as partner agency decision makers to account. It helps to provide 'critical friend' challenge to ensure the effective delivery of public services and drive improvement. Although the committee is not a decision-making body, it is where parties come together to provide the voice of our diverse communities by influencing services and making recommendations.

During the last 12 months committee members have undertaken 32 meetings, made 37 recommendations and considered 19 different topics covering the work of both the Council and its partners. Each of these contributes to the Council's three priorities of having the following outcomes of:

a thriving & vibrant economy – whereby we create more and better jobs, increase people's skills, strengthen our visitor economy, as well as create more and better housing;

people achieving their potential – through ensuring every child attends a good school, enabling access to early help, keeping children and adults safe from harm as well as ensuring people are healthier, happier, independent and active; and

strong & resilient communities – where we help people get the most out of where they live by volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities, protecting the borough for future generations by recycling and using renewable energy, and that customers can contact us easily and use more services online.

We continue to undertake business by upholding the Council's values of being **Proud, Honest, Excellent** and **Working as a Team** and will continue this into our work during 2020/21.

As I write this, we are in the middle of a global Coronavirus pandemic which has disrupted all our lives and will bring increasing challenges and demands on public services. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in responding to this crisis and ensured the maintenance of essential services as well as ensured support for our most vulnerable residents.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Committee Members as well as all those who provided information, attended meetings and assisted with the Overview and Scrutiny function's work during the last 12 months, it is much appreciated. I look forward to the next 12 months and contributing positively to both the Council and our partners' work, especially in the ongoing response, recovery and renewal plans regarding the pandemic.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Ennis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Jeff Ennis OBE

Introduction

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Overview and scrutiny is a process of achieving open and democratic accountability for the provision of public services to ensure they meet the needs of local residents.

Like many other local authorities, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) operates the Cabinet system of governance for decision making, which is made up of the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and 8 other Elected Members.

Overview and scrutiny is carried out by non-Cabinet Members and is there to act as the check and balance to the decisions being made by both the Council and its partners.

The key principles of Overview and Scrutiny are to:

- Provide 'critical friend' challenge;
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public; and
- Drive improvement in public services.

Although overview and scrutiny is a key part of the political process, it is not party political. Elected Members involved in the process are from across all political groups and are there to work together to look objectively at issues.

Overview and Scrutiny is there to look at borough-wide issues and is not a mechanism for individual complaints from the public or Elected Members. The Council has separate procedures for these. Nor can Overview and Scrutiny look at individual planning or licensing decisions.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Structure in Barnsley

The OSC meets formally 12 times per year in total. 3 times per year, the committee meets in plenary mode of 34 Elected Members plus our Parent Governor Co-optee to consider Safeguarding topics including a private briefing on Children's Social Care performance as well as to consider other significant issues, such as substantial National Health Service (NHS) changes.

For the remaining 9 meetings, Committee Members allocate time to 3 workstreams which each meet 3 times per year. Workstreams consist of 12 Elected Members plus our Parent Governor Co-optee; however, all Committee Members usually have an open invitation to attend all workstreams, which are aligned to the Council priorities of:

- Thriving and Vibrant Economy;
- People Achieving Their Potential; and
- Strong and Resilient Communities.

The OSC also carries out its work programme through 3 Task and Finish Groups (TFGs), each made up of around 8 Committee Members. Each of the groups examine a topic in detail and then report their findings to Cabinet.



Work carried out in 2019/20

Thriving & Vibrant Economy Workstream

Town Centre Redevelopment: In June 2019, this workstream considered the progress of the Town Centre redevelopment. This included providing check and challenge to financial concerns including the implications of Brexit as well as the lettings strategy. The committee ensured that the concerns of Market Traders were raised as well as that public safety concerns had been considered and addressed. Although not usual for the OSC, this session was held in private due to the commercial sensitivity of the aspects being discussed.



Berneslai Homes Empty Homes Standards: Due to a number of concerns raised regarding the standard of properties being let on behalf of the Council via its managing agent 'Berneslai Homes', the workstream considered the Berneslai Homes Void Standard as well as recent Empty Property Spot Check Reports. The meeting took place in October 2019, during which the workstream acknowledged the positive performance in relation to void turnarounds in comparison with other managing agents, including the proactive estate management undertaken as well as advice and support given to tenants. Given the substantial recommendations made by the committee, a separate report was submitted to the Council's Cabinet for consideration (Cab.27.11.2019/6):

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s59906/Recommendations%20to%20Cabinet%20further%20to%20the%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf>

A response report to the recommendations was provided by the Council's Cabinet (Cab.22.01.2020/6):

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s62025/Response%20to%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Recommendations%20regarding%20Void%20Properties.pdf>

BMBC's Digital First Programme: In February 2020, Members considered how BMBC is using digital technology as an enabler for transformation of the organisation. This was to ensure Council services are fit for an increasingly digital world and able to meet customer demands as well as continuing to provide for those not able to access digital services. Members challenged the monitoring systems in place for the implementation of the programme and were reassured by the mitigations in place to support potential challenges, such as holding digital support clinics for staff as well as provision of ready-made instruction videos. Members were keen to ensure they are kept abreast of developments and requested that an All Member Information Briefing should be held in due course.

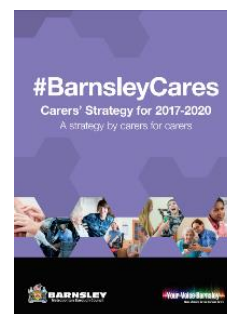
Digital Barnsley: At the meeting in February 2020, Members also covered an item on what is in place to make Barnsley 'Digital as a Place', such as supporting local people to improve their digital skills and access appropriate training and services. Members highlighted the barriers in communities in accessing digital technology due to its affordability and were reassured by the work being done in partnership with other local agencies such as Barnsley College to access funding for initiatives. Members were reassured by the work being done by BMBC with other agencies across Europe; learning from good practice elsewhere which was helping Barnsley to attract new digital business to the town centre Digital Media Centre (DMC).

Overview & Scrutiny Thriving & Vibrant Economy Workstream Added Value:

As a result of the work undertaken, Committee Members have had opportunity to challenge performance and ensure that public concerns are considered and impact on how services are delivered. This includes ensuring barriers are removed to enable residents to access particular services. Additionally, work is now being undertaken to improve property standards for Council tenants as well as re-introduce a decoration scheme.

People Achieving Their Potential Workstream

Carer's Strategy 2017-2020: During this meeting in June 2019, Members considered the Carers' Services for both adults and young people. The committee heard directly from a service user and gained an understanding of the vital support these services provide. Members challenged the support provided to young carers including regarding their wellbeing as well as to ensure their caring role does not impact negatively on their educational attainment. The committee were given information regarding support mechanisms in place for carers as well as work being done to raise awareness of caring responsibilities, especially as many do not recognise that they are 'carers'. Members were keen to support awareness raising and were subsequently invited to and attended relevant events.



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Provision: In November 2019 Members considered a report outlining the development and implementation of a SEND improvement programme; the strengthening of governance arrangements as well as the ongoing challenges, particularly in relation to meeting the increased demand for more specialist school placements. Members challenged partners from across the SEND system including those from education, health and care services as well as those involved in ensuring the voices of parents, carers, children and young people are heard. The committee discussed the improvement plans in place and acknowledged the work being done to make provision available locally; however, they recognised this as an area requiring ongoing consideration.

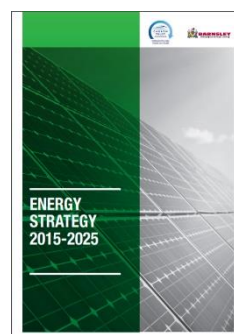
Youth Services: Members undertook a session in March 2020 regarding Youth Service provision in Barnsley. This included hearing from Barnsley's Young Mayor and their view of services as well as their role on the Youth Council. Committee Members learned of the results from the annual 'Make Your Mark' campaign and the issues highlighted by local young people. The committee praised the wrap around care for the whole family in conjunction with other agencies; however, questioned the effectiveness of promotion of the available services. Recommendations were made to improve promotional activity as well as to strengthen links between the Youth Service and Area Councils.

Overview & Scrutiny People Achieving Their Potential Workstream Added Value:

As a result of this work, Committee Members have assisted in ensuring services are joined-up and meet the diverse needs of communities. This includes ensuring Carers' services are linked to relevant armed forces groups as well as that services delivered corporately are linked with those of Area Councils. Committee Members have also been able to seek assurance that appropriate Governance is in place for the ongoing improvement of key services delivered by the Council and partner agencies.

Strong & Resilient Communities Workstream

Energy Efficiency & Pollution Reduction: In July 2019 the committee considered the Council's Energy Strategy and associated targets for reducing carbon emissions. Members noted the positive benefits of a cleaner environment, more active lifestyles and reduced living costs alongside opportunities for businesses and jobs in new technologies. Members challenged work around air quality, to which follow-up information was provided. Questions were also raised regarding the effectiveness of alternative heating sources such as biomass boilers as well as air and ground source heat pumps. It was acknowledged that it was imperative that work on the agenda continues despite economic constraints and that difficult decisions will be required, but this was the right thing to do.



Flooding & Emergency Resilience: In November 2019 the UK experienced exceptionally heavy rainfall which caused flooding in parts of Barnsley. The following month, the committee held a session to consider both the response to the recent flooding event as well as the ongoing work public bodies undertake in the planning and prevention of flooding. The committee also followed-up the recommendations made as part of their Task and Finish Group (TFG) on Flooding during 2016/17. The committee acknowledge the positive progress

made in seeking funding and implementing flooding prevention measures to a number of properties. Concerns were raised regarding a number of areas which had been impacted by the most recent flooding as well as developments on land at risk of flooding. Reassurances were given regarding stringent Planning measures in place for such sites as well as ongoing work with other agencies to address issues and campaign for funding.

NHS Cancer and Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm Screening Programmes in Barnsley: At the end of March 2020 the committee were due to consider performance in relation to these NHS adult screening programmes. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the UK being placed in lockdown, unfortunately this meeting had to be cancelled. However, the reports were published for information as a helpful position statement on performance in relation to screening and the importance of these programmes in saving lives as well as improving quality of life through early identification of conditions. Committee members are able to utilise the information in the reports to publicise these programmes in their communities as well as consider how the Coronavirus pandemic affects performance in future.

Overview & Scrutiny Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream Added Value:

As a result of the topics considered, Members were able to challenge, debate and make suggestions regarding different solutions to improving energy efficiency and reducing impacts on the environment. The timely consideration of the response to recent flooding events enabled Members to highlight residents' concerns and identify hotspots requiring further remedial works. Finally, although not discussed at a meeting, information provided to Members on screening programmes will be utilised for performance comparison in future, as well as providing reassurance regarding current service provision.

Full Committee

Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report 2018/19: In September 2019 the BSAB Chair alongside 10 representatives from local partnership agencies met with the committee and answered questions regarding work undertaken to safeguard adults across the Borough. This included Members interrogating data in relation to safeguarding issues such as financial abuse and incidents in care homes. The committee were provided with a number of vulnerable adult case studies which had been resolved by agencies working together effectively including support provided to victims. Members were keen to support the agencies in the ongoing need to raise the profile of unseen abuse and encouraging residents to report issues and were reassured by the strong commitment to Safeguarding from all the agencies present.

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report 2018/19:

Following consideration of the work to safeguard adults, the committee were joined by additional representatives specifically involved in the safeguarding of children. Members acknowledged Barnsley's progression from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement' to 'good' via Ofsted inspections. This has provided independent verification that Barnsley has moved a long way, with a continuous service improvement plan and ambition to improve. Members expressed concern regarding the ability of staff being enabled to persist with 'hard to reach' children and were reassured that a structured multi-agency audit programme is in place to ensure this takes place and that relevant resources are utilised to intervene such as the 'Neglect Toolkit'. Members welcomed knowledge of the wider remit of the Child Exploitation Sub Committee as well as the comprehensive safeguarding training programme on offer at nil cost to partnership agencies as well as local voluntary organisations.



Outcome & Actions of the Corporate Peer Review: At the start of January 2020 the committee welcomed the Council's Leader, Chief Executive and members of the Leadership Team to discuss the findings of the Corporate Peer Review in February 2019 and the progress on the recommendations. Members scrutinised work to ensure staff wellbeing, the management of risk, undertake sound financial management and work with partners to ensure positive future outcomes for the Borough. The committee acknowledged the positive results from the peer challenge as well as the areas requiring ongoing improvements to the way the organisation is run and how services are delivered.

Provisional Education Outcomes across the Borough 2019 including Vulnerable Groups:

At the meeting in January, the committee also considered provisional education outcomes for 2019, with the knowledge that there are usually limited changes to the finalised outcomes and by considering them at this time provides opportunity for recommendations to be implemented prior to the following year's exams being undertaken. The committee questioned the interventions in place to ensure that children and young people in Barnsley are supported to achieve their educational attainment potential. Committee members welcomed reassurance that schools were undertaking a broad and balanced curriculum, especially as these schools were outperforming those with a narrow focus on English and Maths. Members challenged data regarding fixed-term exclusions and welcomed the significant reduction in these over the last 12 months. Members acknowledged concerns surrounding the transition from primary to secondary school, particularly for children with an Education, Care and Health Plan (EHCP) in place and welcome good practice being shared amongst schools regarding this.

Adult Social Care Local Account 2018/19: In April 2020 the full committee were due to consider performance in relation to adult social care services. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic this meeting was cancelled; however, the reports were published for information and a brief update was provided in relation to the impact of the pandemic on Adult Social Care services at that time as well as links to ongoing service updates.



Children's Social Care Performance Private Member Briefings: Throughout the Municipal Year, private member briefings are held for committee members to provide overview and scrutiny of performance in relation to children's social care services. The reports include a summary section with an overview of performance, using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings and a direction of travel for most indicators. Areas of performance considered good and areas where improvement is required are highlighted. Specific challenge has been undertaken on re-referral rates, the implementation of the Neglect Strategy and the Graded Care Profile, adoption timescales, agency workers, recruitment and increased social worker caseloads. Members considered trends evident in year-end data including challenging performance in relation to care-leavers accessing education, employment and training. Members requested future sight of a number of review reports currently being compiled.

Overview & Scrutiny Full Committee Added Value:

As a result of the topics considered, Members have had opportunity to meet with, question, and challenge a variety of senior leaders from both the Council and partner agencies, which provides evidence and assurance of agencies working together locally. Members have gained additional knowledge of available services, especially those supporting the most vulnerable, which they can refer local residents to. Ongoing sight of specific service performance has enabled Members to identify trends and suggest attention is drawn to areas of underperformance alongside providing praise to staff to acknowledge areas of excellence.

Task & Finish Groups (TFGs)

In addition to meetings undertaken throughout the year, Committee Members can opt to participate in TFGs which undertake detailed investigations into particular topics. These provide Members with opportunities to work in small groups and visit services both within and outside the Borough to learn from good practice, meet with a variety of service-users and officers as well as gain a better understanding of the complexities involved in the issues concerned.

At the conclusion of each investigation a report is compiled and presented to the Council's Cabinet with a number of recommendations, to which a formal response is provided from relevant services outlining whether they accept the recommendation and if so, how they propose to implement it. During 2019/20, committee members undertook the following detailed TFG investigations:

Poverty: This TFG considered what poverty looks like in Barnsley in terms of data and intelligence; what the key challenges are; what support services are available from the Council and other local agencies; and what the future plans are in terms of this agenda. As part of the TFG, Members met with a number of representatives from local agencies including undertaking a visit to Athersley Community Shop to understand how they are helping people to build confidence and skills to gain employment, and ultimately get out of poverty.



The TFG highlighted a number of recommendations in support of further improvement including undertaking a Poverty Needs Assessment to better understand the current picture in relation to poverty in Barnsley to enable better targeting of support services. The TFG were also keen to ensure that the Council alongside other local agencies are exemplary employers in offering in-work progression as well as focus recruiting staff from our most deprived communities to support Barnsley having an inclusive economy. The TFG's full report is available on the following link - Cab.18.3.2020/8:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s64022/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20-%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20-%20Poverty.pdf>

Adult Mental Health – Early Intervention & Prevention: This TFG co-opted Mark Smith, Vice-Chair of Healthwatch Barnsley, to provide additional expertise to their investigation, which focused on early intervention and prevention in relation to adult mental health. This work included considering brain health for the whole population to avoid even needing 'early intervention' services. During the investigation, the group met with the commissioners and providers of a number of local support services, including visiting the Age UK Barnsley 'Men in Sheds' project. This service provides a safe, supportive and friendly place to meet, where men can socialise, do a bit of light work or busy themselves doing a hobby or learn new skills. This is a safe space for the service users, which avoids drawing attention to it being a 'mental health' support service; however, attending the service for some had been life-saving.



As a result of the TFG's investigation the group highlighted a number of recommendations in support of further improvement. These included further promotion of '5 ways to wellbeing' as a way to ensure everyone looks after their emotional wellbeing. The group were also keen to promote Adult Skills and Community Learning Services, both in terms of services on offer to our communities as well as to utilise our local cultural establishments to display work produced by our residents. The group also made recommendations to partner organisations, including to make a specific budget available to support local voluntary and community groups with running costs as their services were frequently being referred to by statutory organisations. The TFG's full report is available on the following link - Cab.18.3.2020/9:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s64178/TFG%20Adult%20Mental%20Health%20Early%20Intervention%20and%20Prevention%20Cabinet%20Report%20FINAL%2020200309.pdf>

Recycling: This TFG investigated the current picture in relation to recycling in Barnsley; how well we perform as a local area and how we compare with others; what local businesses are doing in terms of recycling; and what the future plans are in terms of this agenda. The TFG met with a local community group and several local agencies as well as undertook site visits to learn more. This included visiting Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham (BDR) Waste Treatment Facility at Manvers to understand how residual waste is processed once collected, as well as a Morrisons' Store and Distribution Centre to learn of their different environmental considerations.



A number of recommendations have been made by the TFG in support of further improvement. These included a communications campaign to reduce residents' confusion over what items can go in which bin as it is important they adhere to the local scheme rather than national messages. The group were keen that the Council is seen to lead the way in terms of the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' agenda, including encouraging schools to cover this as an essential part of their curriculum to instil good habits in the younger generation. The TFG's full report is available on the following link - Cab.18.3.2020/10:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s64024/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20-%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20-%20Recycling.pdf>

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (JHOSCs)

Within legislation, there is provision for Local Authorities to form Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees with other councils to respond to substantial reconfiguration proposals covering more than one council area. These can be convened over varying geographical areas as well as over varying timescales as is deemed appropriate for the matters being considered. During 2018/19, the Chair of Barnsley's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has contributing positively in the region through our joint arrangements and has attended the following JHOSCs:

South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: This committee considers NHS services over the stated geographical footprint which previously considered statutory consultations on Hyper-Acute Stroke Services as well as Children's Surgery and Anaesthesia services. This JHOSC has been involved in the ongoing consideration of changes implemented to these services as well as the development of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB) Integrated Care System (ICS). As part of this committee Barnsley's OSC Chair participated in a workshop with interested members of the public to hear their concerns regarding the relevant services to then feed into future JHOSC meetings.

The link to the meetings of this JHOSC is provided below:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=468>

West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Due to proposed changes to Assessment & Treatment Units (ATUs) which affect a small number of Barnsley residents, Barnsley OSC Chair was invited to the West Yorkshire JHOSC. ATUs are designed to be short-term specialist hospital placements for people with learning disabilities to receive specialist mental health treatment so they can return home as quickly as possible. The OSC Chair was involved in ensuring proposals lead to safer, higher quality care for some of our more vulnerable members of society.

The link to the papers for this JHOSC is provided here:

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1056&MId=9834&Ver=4>

Liaison with Other Bodies

In addition to the formal meetings undertaken by committee members, work is undertaken to ensure constant liaison with partner agencies to share learning and good practice as well as avoid duplication. Regular contact is maintained with those involved with the Council's governance arrangements including Area Council Chairs, the Audit Committee, partnership boards including BSAB, BSCP, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Barnsley's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). Liaison is undertaken with NHS colleagues at Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT), South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation trust (SWYPFT) as well as Healthwatch Barnsley.

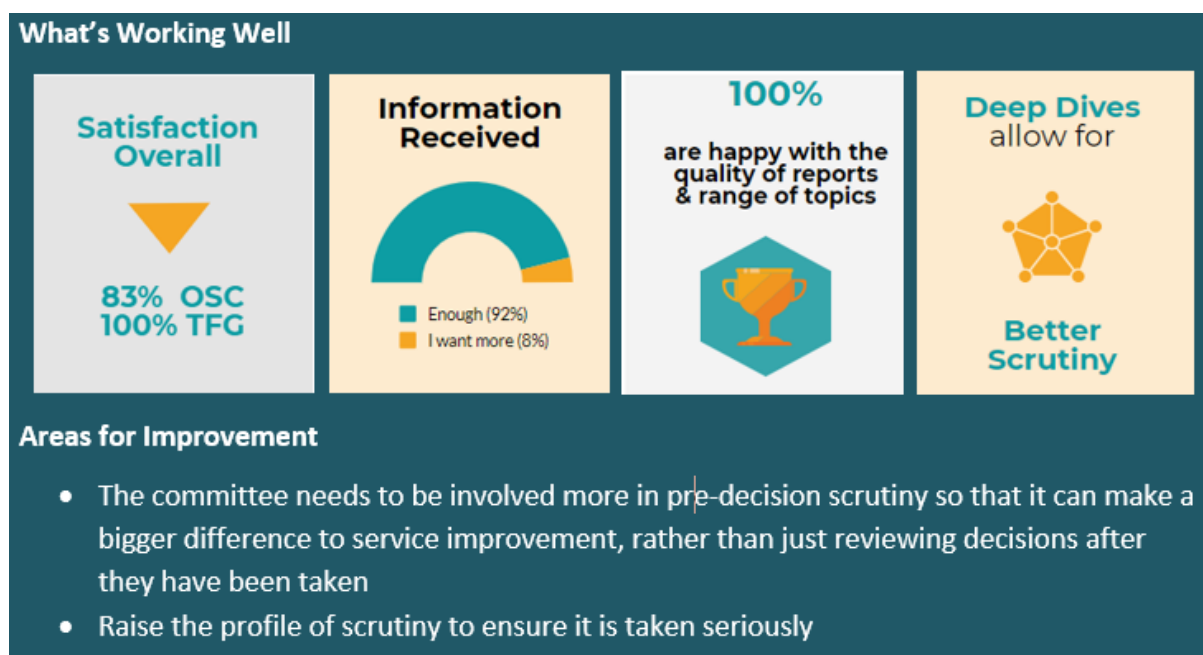
The committee also maintains links with other scrutiny committees in the region, including the Sheffield City Region Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SCROSC). During Barnsley OSC's work programme planning session for the 2019/20 Municipal Year, public transport came up as an area of concern for a number of committee members. Members raised concerns over poor bus and train services in Barnsley, especially poor bus services. Given the role of Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority, it was felt that the issues raised would be better served by oversight and scrutiny by the regional committee, especially given the Bus

Review consultation which was being undertaken at the time; therefore, a referral was made to SCROSC in July 2019. A response was provided to Barnsley's OSC in January 2020:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=224&MId=5896&Ver=4>

Feedback

At the end of the municipal year, committee members are surveyed regarding their satisfaction with the operation of the overview and scrutiny function. The questionnaire provides opportunity for committee members to comment on the relative strengths and weaknesses of the arrangements and make suggestions about improvements. Highlights of the Committee Member Survey 2019-20 are shown in the infographic below:



Throughout the year, surveys are also undertaken of expert witnesses who attend the meetings to answer questions from committee members. This enables us to ensure attendees feel appropriately prepared for meetings and so that we can respond to any recommendations for improvement they may make. Highlights from the Expert Witness Surveys 2019-20 are:



Comments from Expert Witnesses 2019-20 include:

I found it an interesting experience and have taken valuable learning from it

Scrutiny offered support for us to better promote our service which we have taken on board

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is well run and although questions can be challenging, witnesses are always treated with respect

I only attended yesterday but I will definitely be taking the suggestions on board and ensuring that actions are implemented

The Year Ahead

As we enter the 2020-21 municipal year, the world is in the middle of a Coronavirus pandemic which has brought about increased demands and pressures on services, placing the Council's resources under further strain. The year ahead is more uncertain than ever; however, there is opportunity for the overview and scrutiny committee to have an important role in providing assurance that the Council and its partners are utilising the available resources effectively.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be able to play an essential role in providing 'critical-friend' challenge to both the ongoing and future response, recovery and renewal plans. This will help to ensure that our residents' voices are heard in the design and delivery of services as we move to 'a new normal'.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair, alongside other Members is involved in the local Outbreak Control Advisory Group. This group will work to advise the local Outbreak Control Board who are responsible for overseeing the prevention of Coronavirus transmission within the borough and ensure that outbreaks are managed effectively if and when they do happen. The Board will undertake the following, with the support of the Advisory Group:

- Provide oversight, assurance and scrutiny of plans to prevent and manage outbreaks of COVID-19 in Barnsley and actions taken to prevent and manage outbreaks and their outcomes;
- Lead communication with residents, businesses and stakeholders in the borough generally in relation to outbreak prevention and management;
- Engage with communities and groups where outbreaks may be more likely or where they have occurred;
- Ensure implementation of the Barnsley Outbreak Control Plan.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to work together to provide critical friend challenge to all services, including those of partners. This includes making a positive contribution to plans for the future, ensuring the voice of the public is heard. Work will also be undertaken to utilise the feedback from our recent surveys regarding the ongoing improvement of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

How to find out more

Agendas, reports and minutes for all of our Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings are available here: <https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteId=224>

Alternatively, you can contact us at: scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk