

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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Democratic Services supporting Overview  
and Scrutiny



# Getting involved with Overview and Scrutiny in Bournemouth - Why we are here



Following a review of the Council's external representatives on Overview and Scrutiny we are looking at expanding our pool of community representatives. Community representatives will help contribute to the important review and enquiry work of Overview and Scrutiny in Bournemouth.

# Items covered in this presentation

- What is Overview and Scrutiny?
- How does Overview and Scrutiny work in Bournemouth?
- What are Overview and Scrutiny Community Representatives?
- How can people become involved with Overview and Scrutiny Reviews?



# What is Overview and Scrutiny?

- Overview and Scrutiny is about 'Making a Difference'.
- Overview and Scrutiny was first introduced to local government in the year 2000 and most local authorities operate a decision making structure which includes a scrutiny element
- Councils which have an Executive, also known as a Cabinet, are required to have at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The Councillors who sit on Overview and Scrutiny Panels in Bournemouth are not Members of the Cabinet and have the task of holding the Cabinet to account.
- Overview and Scrutiny also helps influence the development of council policies and checks on the performance of the Council's services.

# The functions of Overview and Scrutiny - What does Scrutiny do?

Monitors the performance of Cabinet & Council services.

Examine decisions made by Cabinet and Officers.

Can 'Call-in' Cabinet and Cabinet member decisions that have yet to be carried out.

Can make recommendations to Cabinet and full Council

Helps with the development and review of Council Policies, Plans & Strategies.

Investigates issues of local concern and allows residents, local businesses and visitors to have a greater say in Council matters.

# Overview and Scrutiny in Bournemouth

The Council has an Overview and Scrutiny Management Panel and six other Overview and Scrutiny Panels to support the work the Council:

- Administration and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Adult and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Economy and Tourism Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

# Overview and Scrutiny Panels in Bournemouth

## Economy and Tourism

- BH Live
- Economic Regeneration
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Sport and Recreation
- Tourism

## Environment and Transport

- Environmental Sustainability
- Planning and Transport
- Technical Services

## Health

- Adult and Community Support
- Community Care
- The Panel will consider wide ranging issues on the delivery of health services affecting the residents of Bournemouth.

Panels normally meet 4 times a year

# How Scrutiny Can Effect Change in Bournemouth

- Performance monitoring
  - Service Plans, Budget Monitoring reports, Performance Indicator reports
- Holds the Executive to account
  - Questions/updates from Cabinet Members, 'Call-in' procedures
- Undertakes own Work Programme - investigating issues of particular interest or concern
- Makes recommendations to Cabinet and Council





# How Scrutiny Can Effect Change in Bournemouth

- Influencing policy making
- Receiving recommendations for reviews from different sources including from the Panels themselves, Council officers or anyone who uses Council services:
  - More in-depth reviews and short/sharp Task and Finish group reviews
- Collects evidence, holds workshops or seminars, invites witnesses and studies all information before reporting its findings.



# What Difference does Overview and Scrutiny make?

Successful overview and scrutiny leads to:

- Improved services and performance
- Better decision making
- Opportunity for communities/residents/business to get involved
- Strong policy development from consultation and community expertise
- Improved democracy, inclusiveness, community leadership and engagement
- Public confidence in the Council - adds transparency to the political workings of the Council
- A culture of self challenge

# What are Community Representatives?

- In 2011 a review of Overview and Scrutiny Co-opted representatives took place.
- The aim of the review was to ensure that the Council was making the best use of its external representatives.
- The outcome of the review was to develop a simple database of skills and interests within the community in order that we can call on those people when working on particular projects.
- This has been done by creating an opportunity for people to sign up via the Bournemouth 2026 Trust website - [www.bournemouth2026.org.uk](http://www.bournemouth2026.org.uk) to join the pool of community representatives.
- To sign up you will need to agree to the Overview and Scrutiny Charter

# Why Community Representatives are important to Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Community Representatives can:

- Bring a wide range of experience and skills to the Overview and Scrutiny Process.
- Provide another perspective to the issues being looked at by Overview and Scrutiny Panels.
- Add to the diversity of knowledge of the reviews undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Panels
- Provide additional channels of communication between Overview and Scrutiny Panels and partner organisations.
- Extend opportunities for community involvement in Overview and Scrutiny.

# How Community Representatives will be involved in Overview and Scrutiny

- When appropriate to topic or review, attend and actively contribute to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.
- Represent their own area of speciality interest or organisation and use their expertise and experience to assist the Overview and Scrutiny process to make a difference to the people of Bournemouth.
- Attend meetings of Task and Finish Groups or Reviews to contribute ideas and opinions. Providing a different perspective to the elected members.
- Be part of a community engagement process for Overview and Scrutiny Panels looking at issues aimed at improving services affecting the people of Bournemouth

# Carrying Out a Review or Task and Finish Group work

Stage 1 - Topic selection - A list of current topics can be found in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Stage 2 - Scoping the review:- The involvement from community representatives will normally be considered at this stage

Stage 3 - Collecting the evidence:- Community representatives may be able to provide useful information or links to partner organisations

Stage 4 - Considering the evidence:- Community representatives can provide their own opinions and perspectives on the issues

Stage 5 - Report:- The task and finish group will usually report back to an Overview and Scrutiny Panel

# Selecting Topics for Review

Topics for Task and Finish Groups will be sourced from a number of areas including:-

- Public and Member requests
- Officer suggestions
- Work which mirrors national/local agendas

Topics that form part of Task and Finish work will not include:

- Anything already being addressed or recently addressed
- Specific or individual cases
- Issues being addressed under the complaints procedure
- Anything unlikely to result in improvements for local people
- Matters outside of the Councils influence

# Examples of recent Task and Finish Group work

Parking in Parks - To look at ensuring parking spaces are available for park users

Proposed Cycle Hire Scheme - Looking at the different options for cycle hire in Bournemouth and their viability.

Merger of the Adult Learning Services across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole - preparation work prior to report being considered by panel

Young Carers Support Review - Considering the support and services available to young carers

School Admissions and School Places 2012-14 - Looking at the ongoing needs of school place provision



# The Overview and Scrutiny Charter

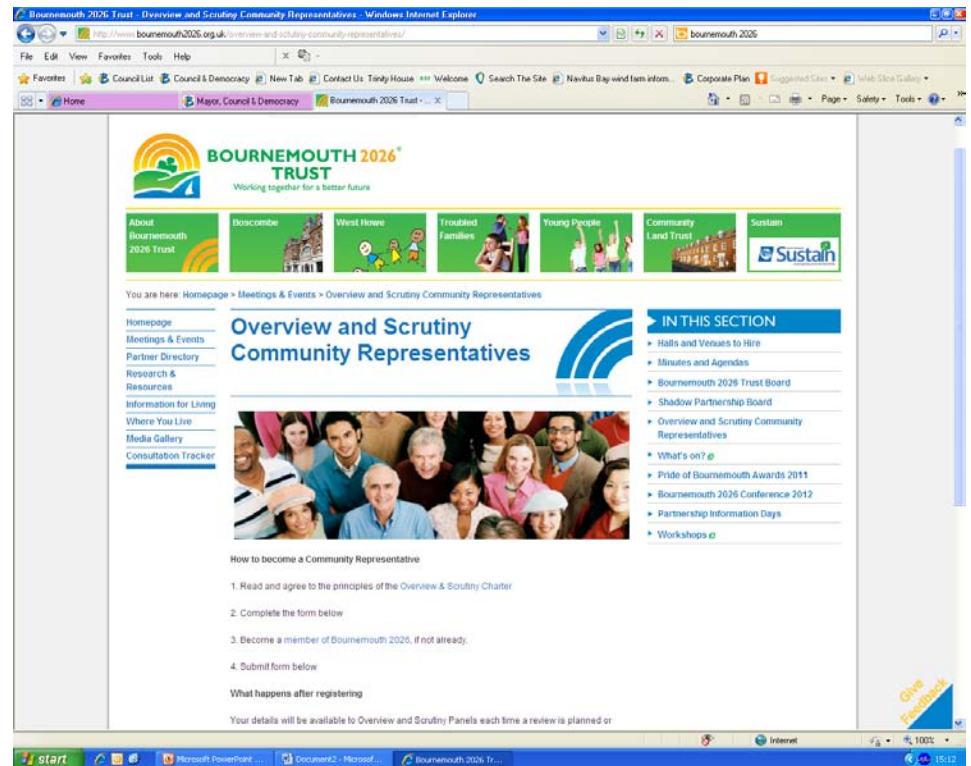
There are no special requirements that people have to meet in order to become a Community Representative but there are some basic values we ask Community Representatives to agree to.

- Uphold the general principles of the Council's Constitution, in particular the Code of Conduct.
- Openness - to operate in an open, accessible and inclusive manner so as to gain the genuine involvement of all .
- Promote equality and diversity.
- Continuous Improvement - to work towards continuous improvement within available resources.
- Be an advocate for disadvantaged and powerless people.
- Comply with the standards of participation and community engagement.
- Act on values of partnership and share results of consultation.

# How can people sign up to be a Community Rep

Overview & Scrutiny Representatives page on the Bournemouth 2026 Trust Website.

Here you will find a copy of the Overview & Scrutiny Charter & a Web Form to sign up as a Community Representative. The link to this page is:



<http://www.bournemouth2026.org.uk/overview-and-scrutiny-community-representatives/>

# The role of Community Representatives

Involvement with Overview and Scrutiny will help broaden the spectrum of involvement, create a more rewarding involvement experience and on-going meaningful engagement of interested people.

The role of Community Representatives is intended to be flexible and not too time consuming. Community Representatives can choose when and what issues they want to contribute to.

Community Representatives are welcome to attend all meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Panels but do not have to.

The aim of Overview and Scrutiny involvement is to enable people to really 'make a difference' and have a greater say in Council matters.

# And Finally ...

For Community Representatives to really be a success we need to create a pool of Representatives with a wide range of skills and interests.

In order to help us achieve this please could we ask that you raise awareness about Community Representatives within your organisation.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Community Representative or would like any further information please email: [scrutiny@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@bournemouth.gov.uk)

Or sign up at:

<http://www.bournemouth2026.org.uk/overview-and-sctutiny-community-representatives/>