

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 19 July 2023

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

As described in Section 8.6 of the Constitution of the Council, this report is an annual update presented to Council on activities and outcomes achieved in respect of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Recommendations

1. That the report be noted.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Background Papers

Agendas and minutes of Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), Health Select Commission (HSC), Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) and Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

1. Background

- 1.1 This report is submitted in accordance with Section 8.6 of the Constitution, which states, “The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will report annually to the full Council on the operation of overview and scrutiny select commissions and make recommendations where appropriate for future work programmes and amended working methods.”
- 1.2 The terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Select Commissions are set out in Appendix 9 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions. Details of the specific areas for scrutiny by each select commission are also set out in Appendix 9.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The appendix to the report displays the range of scrutiny activity and highlights key findings and recommendations. Selected outcomes resulting from work in response to recommendations are also reflected in the report where these have been delivered. Where future outcomes are expected, these are noted.
- 2.2 An explanation of how the overview and scrutiny function works and how this process adds value is also provided in the first two pages of Appendix 1.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The 2022/23 Annual Report provides an overview of activity undertaken by Scrutiny over the last year through key lines of inquiry, evidence gathering, and findings leading to recommendations. The report provides a selection of the year’s achievement of Scrutiny as a supplement to full agendas and minutes of Cabinet, OSMB and Select Commission meetings throughout the year. The recommendation to Council is to note the report.
- 3.2 It was agreed in 2021/22 that future Annual Reports would be organised by Council Plan theme. This approach reflects a fully joined up approach by Scrutiny to work programming, reducing overlap through efficient allocation of Scrutiny attention.
- 3.3 As noted above in 3.2 this year’s report is organised by Council Plan 22-25 themes. However, it should be further noted that the relevance of each agenda item, review, and recommendation may span multiple Council Plan themes, especially where improvements pertaining to wider determinants of health such as environmental and economic circumstances lead to cascading benefits. Therefore, the report should be considered as an indicative rather than definitive account of outcomes.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 As this is the report of the OSMB and Scrutiny commissions, consultation with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of these committees was undertaken and feedback incorporated in the final report. The first of these consultations was held in person on 22 February 2023, when the Chairs and Vice Chairs agreed the style of the report. Reports to and Minutes of various Committees and Boards of the Council including Cabinet were also consulted during the drafting process in order to compile the outcomes resulting from recommendations.
- 4.2 Where appropriate, specifics were confirmed with relevant lead officers and partners; however, as a principle, the report describes outcomes that are already in the public domain. This is because it is not the province of the report to speculate on possible future outcomes, except in terms of the agreed work programmes of OSMB and the Select Commissions and the Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 This report is submitted to the meeting of Council on 19 July 2023, which is the first Council meeting following the completion of the 2022/23 municipal year. This allows a retrospective on the year in full.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no Human Resources implications directly arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for children or young people or vulnerable adults directly arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no equalities and human rights implications directly arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no climate or carbon emissions implications directly arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partner organisations directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks arising directly from this report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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