

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 20 July 2022

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

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 2021/22 municipal year.

Recommendations

1. That the report be noted.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

Background Papers

Agendas and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), Health Select Commission (HSC), Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) and Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) during the 2021/22 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 2021/22

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 by scrutiny are also reflected in the report where these have been delivered. Where future outcomes are expected, estimated timescales have been provided.
- 2.2 An explanation of how the 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 Presented in condensed form, the style of the 2021/22 Overview and Scrutiny Annual report represents an exercise in selection rather than an exhaustive catalogue of a discursive process involving lines of inquiry, discussions of evidence, and findings leading finally to recommendations. The recommendation is to note the report The preferred option was to generate a reader-friendly version of the year’s accomplishments of scrutiny as a supplement to full agendas and minutes of OSMB and Select Commission meetings throughout the year.
- 3.2 Options were considered in respect of the organisational principle of the report which potentially shapes the profile of scrutiny activity depicted. The option to organise the outcomes by theme was considered and may be implemented in a future annual report to reflect a fully joined up approach to work programming, reducing overlap through efficient allocation of scrutiny attention.
- 3.3 Instead, the report is organised by committee, with acknowledgement of the Council Plan 22-25 themes and objectives relevant to the items considered and recommendations agreed. It is noteworthy 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 is recommended to be taken as an indicative

rather than definitive account of outcomes which are often multiplied beyond the scope of the report.

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 17 November 2021, 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.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This report is submitted to the meeting of Council on 20 July 2022, which is the first Council meeting following the completion of the 2021/22 municipal year, allowing 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.

10.2 With a view to creating a reader-friendly and inclusive report, images in the appendix to this report are accompanied by literal “Image Descriptions” (ID) designed for compatibility with a screen reader. Image Descriptions offer a summary of essential information depicted in an image and are considered usual user-experience (UX) practice within the dis/ability community. Image Descriptions are implemented in the appendix to this report to reflect the commitment of overview and scrutiny to inclusion. Readers will find additional surrounding text provides further explanation of the images’ context and significance.

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	12/07/22
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	12/07/22
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	12/07/22

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