

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 17 January 2024

**Report Title**

Overview and Scrutiny Update

**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**

Emma Hill

Head of Democratic Services

**Wards Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this report provides an update to Council of the activities and outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny activity at the Council. Appendix 2 and 3 of the report provides an update on the scrutiny work programme and the progress of implementing the agreed recommendations from scrutiny reviews, from May 2022 to the present day.

**Recommendations**

1. That the report be noted.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 - Update on the 2023-24 scrutiny work programme and implementation of scrutiny review recommendations (May 2022 – present day)

Appendix 2 - Scrutiny work programmes – December 2023

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny review recommendations - update

**Background Papers**

Agendas and Minutes of OSMB meetings, May 2022 – December 2023

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

OSMB – 13 December 2023

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Overview and Scrutiny Update

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require a regular update to Council on the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Annual report was presented to Council in July 2023 and provided an overview of the operation of the overview and scrutiny select commissions.

### 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report is intended as a summary of highlights and outcomes and is an indicative rather than definitive account of recent scrutiny work, which aims to hold the Council and key partners to account for decision-making, policy development, and performance. The report summarises information that is already in the public domain regarding progress, changes, or improvements resulting from recommendations and feedback provided by councillors on scrutiny committees. These include Health Select Commission, Improving Lives Select Commission, Improving Places Select Commission, and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.2 Although this report emphasises outcomes, it should be noted that scrutiny is chiefly a discursive process rather than a product. For further insight into the process of overview and scrutiny, the archive of public meetings webcasts, reports submitted for scrutiny, and minutes of discussions leading to recommendations are available on the Council's website.
- 2.3 The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to support the long/short listing of each of the commission's respective priorities:

#### **Establish as a starting point:**

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

#### **Agree principles for longlisting:**

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

#### **Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.**

- T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I: Interest – what is the interest to the public?
- C: Contribution to the Council plan

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 The report is submitted for information.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 The report is submitted for information.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 The report is submitted for information.

### **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 Resource implications directly arising from this report.

### **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, or Vulnerable Adults directly arising from this report.

### **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

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

### **11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

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

### **12. Implications for Partners**

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

### **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

#### **Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer  
Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	09/01/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	05/01/24
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	05/01/24
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive	03/01/24

*Report Author: Emma Hill*

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