

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 09 September 2026

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026

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

No

Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

As described in Section 8.6 of the Constitution of the Council, this report is the annual update to be presented to Council on activities and outcomes achieved in respect of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2025-2026 municipal year.

Recommendations

1. That Council notes the Report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026

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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026

1. Background

- 1.1 This report has been written 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 impact. 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 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the 2026-2027 municipal year are set out at the end of each of the overview and scrutiny select commissions sections within the Annual Report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The 2025-2026 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 is that Council acknowledges and considers the content of 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 and ensuring that Scrutiny is able to effectively contribute to the work of the Council. Each Commissions section of the Scrutiny Annual Report identifies the Council Plan themes that the highlighted Commission's work has addressed.
- 3.3 It should be noted that each area of activity undertaken by Scrutiny over the last year 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 during the course of the municipal year and feedback incorporated in the final report.
- 4.2 The report describes activities and outcomes that are already in the public domain.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 This report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in July 2026 where it was approved for submission to Council.

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	25/08/26

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