

## For publication

### Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

<b>Meeting:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	19.07.23
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Governance Scrutiny Chairs
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate
<b>For publication</b>	

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

1.1 To present to council the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report which details the work of the council's overview and scrutiny committees, and development of the overview and scrutiny function during 2022/23.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 be noted.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation**

3.1 To enable council oversight of the work and operation of its statutory overview and scrutiny function, the function's effectiveness and contribution to the work of the council.

#### **4.0 Report details**

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report is produced and presented to the Council each year. This is the council's 18th scrutiny annual report for submission to Council, following approval by the two Scrutiny Select Committees.

4.2 The provision of a scrutiny annual report is considered to be good practice and is a requirement of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance which is adopted to ensure effective operation of the council's functions.

- 4.3 The annual report, attached at Appendix 1, sets out the work, achievements and impact of the council's overview and scrutiny function during 2022/23. This includes:
- An overview of the overview and scrutiny function
  - Information on the working of overview and scrutiny during the year
  - Promoting the role and raising the profile of overview and scrutiny
  - Providing an outline of the changes being made for 2023/24.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

- 5.1 The alternative option is not to produce an annual report. This is not recommended for the purposes outlined in paragraph 4.2. The importance of the annual report was also highlighted in the statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny in local and combined authorities released in 2019.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

- 6.1 The Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum (future Scrutiny Select Committee – Resilient Council) undertake budget scrutiny for the council and is involved in the early stages of budget preparation in order to review and challenge the budget forecast outturn. Budget and value for money is a key area for questioning across all scrutiny topics.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 7.1 Overview and scrutiny is a legal requirement for local authorities under the Local Government Act 2000. The scrutiny function ensures that there is accountability to the public and that the needs and concerns of the community are reflected in executive decision making. The annual report helps to raise the profile of the work of scrutiny amongst the council and its communities.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

- 8.1 Support for the scrutiny function is provided within the Democratic and Elections Service. Scrutiny has the power to call senior officers and cabinet members to attend meetings and provide evidence, this is done in consultation with senior officers and cabinet members through discussions at pre-agenda meetings.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan**

- 9.1 The overview and scrutiny function supports the delivery of the council plan and delivery plans by aligning the scrutiny work programme to the key activities identified for delivery within the year. Scrutiny also receives regular reports on council plan performance and provides a valuable check and balance opportunity to support the council in achieving its targets.

## **10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change**

10.1 Climate change has been a key area of interest for overview and scrutiny as scrutiny members are keen to support the council in achieving the goals set out in the Climate Change Action Plan.

## **11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

11.1 Overview and scrutiny members bring experiences and skills from a wide range of different backgrounds, this enables our overview and scrutiny function to reflect and represent the needs of all our communities.

## **12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

12.1 Risk management is a key area for questioning across all scrutiny topics.

### **Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### **Document information**

<b>Report author</b>
Donna Reddish – Service Director Corporate
<b>Background documents</b>
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
None
<b>Appendices to the report</b>
Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23